Despite tremendous improvements in the 20th Century, Americans live shorter lives and suffer more health issues than people in other high-income countries.

More Americans age 65+ suffer 2 chronic conditions.

Our babies are 50 percent more likely to die before their first birthday.

And on average our lives are 3 years shorter.
Social, environmental and individual factors influence both our health and our ability to make healthy choices. Health care is only a small contributor to our health and wellness.
People live longer in countries that spend more on “social care” programs* that support health.

“Social care” includes programs like education, retirement benefits, housing assistance, employment programs, disability benefits, food security.

Social care spending (percentage of GDP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Social Care Spending (GDP%)</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The **United States** is the **only country** that **spends more** treating **health issues** vs social care programs.

And **prevention programs** get only **3 percent** of US health care dollars.
Together, we can create conditions where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy.

We all benefit by applying a health lens to decisions in our communities.

**SECTOR**

- **EDUCATION**
- **NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING**
- **INCOME MOBILITY**
- **ENVIRONMENT**

**EXAMPLE ACTIONS**

- Change discipline policies to keep kids in school and on track to graduate.
- Expand mass transit, bike lanes and safe sidewalks to increase active commuting.
- Support a living wage and expanded job training.
- Contact your member of congress – empower the EPA to regulate coal-fired power plants.
Let’s work together!

Generation Public Health is a growing movement of people, organizations and communities collaborating across sectors to create the **healthiest nation in one generation**.

- **Build a nation of safe, healthy communities**
  Make health a priority in designing our communities, from healthy housing and transportation to parks and playgrounds.

- **Help everyone achieve at least high school graduation**
  Education leads to being healthy adults with access to better jobs, resources and neighborhoods.

- **Increase economic mobility**
  Income inequality contributes to unhealthy stresses on adults and children. As a starting point our country needs to commit to a livable wage for all.

- **Ensure social justice and health equity**
  Everyone has the right to good health. We must remove barriers so everyone has the same opportunity to improve their lives and their health.

- **Give everyone a choice of safe, healthy food**
  Healthy food with nutritious ingredients free from harmful contaminants needs to be both affordable and widely accessible.

- **Create healthy environments**
  Support policies for clean air and water, safe housing and products, and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.

- **Provide quality health care for everyone**
  Health reform was just a start. To fulfill its potential, we need to shift the focus of our health system from treating illness and emphasize prevention.

- **Strengthen public health infrastructure and capacity**
  Strong and consistent funding levels are necessary for the public health system to respond to both everyday health threats and unexpected emergencies.

**Join Generation Public Health at**
apha.org/2030

**SOURCES**