



1237 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310-1731  
Tel: 404.756.2680  
Fax: 404.756.2684  
Email: [info@SisterSong.net](mailto:info@SisterSong.net)  
Website: [www.SisterSong.net](http://www.SisterSong.net)

## **Harvard University Discovers Life Expectancy among Eight Americas**

© SisterSong

Published in *Collective Voices*, Vol. 2 Issue 7, Spring 2007

**According to researchers at Harvard University, there are Eight Americas in terms of life expectancy:**

- 84.9 years for Asian Americans with a per capita income of \$21,566 (*Neergaard, AP/Detroit Free Press*, 9/12);
- 79 years for low-income rural whites in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska with a per capita income of \$17,758 (*USA Today*, 9/12);
- 77.9 years for middle Americans with a per capita income of \$24,640;
- 75 years for low-income whites in Appalachia and the Mississippi Valley with a per capita income of \$16,390;
- 72.9 for Black middle Americans with a per capita income of \$15,412;
- 72.7 years for western American Indians with a per capita income of \$10,029;
- 71.1 years for southern, low-income, rural blacks with a per capita income of \$10,463 (*AP/Detroit Free Press*, 9/12); and
- 71 years for urban blacks in counties with homicide rates that exceed the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile and a per capita income of \$14,800 (*USA Today*, 9/12).

Among the eight groups, there is a “life expectancy gap of almost 14 years, similar to gaps between economically developed and emerging countries, note the researchers.” This article also includes a summary of ratings according to state:

23. North Carolina: 75.8 years
24. Georgia: 75.3 years
25. Arkansas: 75.2 years
25. Kentucky: 75.2 years
25. Oklahoma: 75.2 years
26. Tennessee: 75.1 years
26. West Virginia: 75.1 years
27. South Carolina: 74.8 years
28. Alabama: 74.4 years
29. Louisiana: 74.2 years
30. Mississippi: 73.6 years
31. Washington, D.C.: 72 years