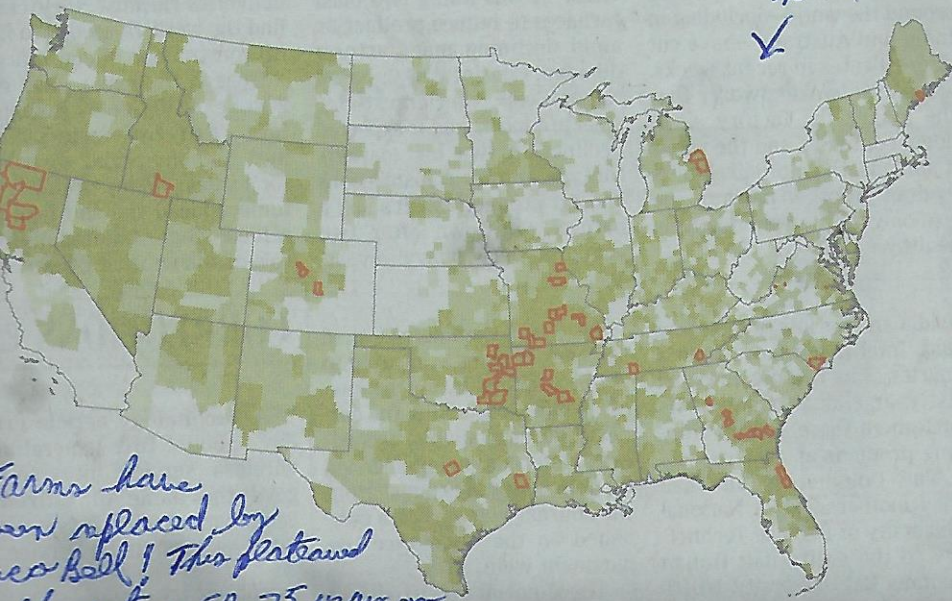


Where Death Rates Are Rising

After a half-century of improvements, middle-aged people are now more likely to die of cardiovascular disease than they were in 2011. Heart disease death rates for people aged 55-64 are especially increasing in the South, where they are already high, and in rural and smaller metro areas.

Percentage increase in heart disease death rates ages 55-64, 2010-15

2% 10%
Decrease/no change 50 highest increases



*Arms have been replaced by sea bell! This plateaued the cities 50-75 years ago
It started in SUBURBS 50 years ago*

America has a broken heart



Heart Disease Roars Back

Younger people and women are more often stricken; obesity and diabetes stall the decline

By BETSY MCKAY

One of America's greatest achievements over much of the past century has been a huge decline in death rates from heart disease and strokes. Anti-smoking campaigns, medications to control blood pressure and cholesterol, and surgical advances have extended millions of lives, fundamentally reshaping the U.S. population.

Now, progress has stalled. That's helping drive down life expectancy in the U.S. after decades in which each generation of Americans could expect to live longer than the one that came before.

The death rate for cardiovascular disease—which includes heart disease and strokes—has fallen just 4% since 2011 after dropping more than 70% over six decades, according to mortality statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Particularly alarming is that the death rate is actually rising for middle-aged Americans.

The overall cardiovascular-disease death rate is an under-recognized contributor to the recent decline in U.S. life expectancy. While that has been driven mostly by deaths

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