

08.22.2014 | METHODS

### How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?

Life expectancy data were obtained from the health status file in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Health Statistics database. OECD data were accessed in June 25, 2014.

Comparable countries for comparison were identified based on economic similarity because national health spending strongly correlates with GDP. Comparable countries met the following criteria:

- Above median total GDP among all OECD countries
- Above median GDP per capita among all OECD countries for at least 1 of the past 10 years

The comparable country averages were calculated using the simple (unweighted) average of comparable OECD countries (not including the U.S.), for which data are available.