



## Despite dour campaigns, American life is getting better

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If you only listened to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump all year long, you might not think American life is going very well.

Clinton focuses on all the problems with growing inequality and how that's tearing apart the nation. Trump says "the American Dream is dead," that all our jobs are going overseas and that cities are descending into orderless crime havens. (And crime is up, but only slightly and concentrated mostly in certain cities.)

To provide a much-needed injection of good news, HumanProgress, a project of the libertarian Cato Institute, launched "[Your Life in Numbers](#)."

The website is fairly simple. You enter your country and year of birth and it tells you how much six important ways life in that country has changed since your birth.

For example, I plugged in my birth year and found that life expectancy in the United States improved by 5 percent since I was born. Income per person is up 45 percent. Average years of schooling is up 7 percent. Infant survival is up by 38 percent.

The median age in the U.S. now is 38. Since someone born in 1978 in the U.S. entered the world, income per person is up 81 percent, infant survival is up 59 percent and life expectancy is up 8 percent. Food supply per person is up 15 percent and average years of schooling are up 12 percent.

If you need a reason to smile this weekend, or at any other point for the rest of election season, just remember that. And check out [Your Life in Numbers](#) to find out what your own numbers are.