

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Hard proof that humans are winning the race

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Free-floating pessimism, frequently untethered from reality, seems to infect us all. It's a feature of the human condition, and it shows no signs of withering even as life on Earth continues its march in the right direction. Maybe it's evolution's fault. Through most of humanity's brutal history, paranoia paid off — and so was passed down from generation to generation.

Of course, life remains full of peril — and we all know how it ends, if not when and by what means. So that can be understandably worrisome. But the plain fact is, the human race boasts a very long winning streak that seems to accelerate almost daily.

HumanProgress.org is one of the world's smartest — and wisest — websites. As its name suggests, it is devoted to clear-eyed, reason-based revelations about how we live today. We highly recommend it to anyone who needs a cheerful dose of reality. A recent posting, for example, presents convincing evidence that the percentage of people living in extreme poverty has never been lower, youth literacy has reached an all-time high, cancer rates are declining, fewer people are undernourished than ever before, U.S. energy consumption has decreased, and the amount of time women spend doing laundry has dropped significantly. Best of all, this is only the beginning.