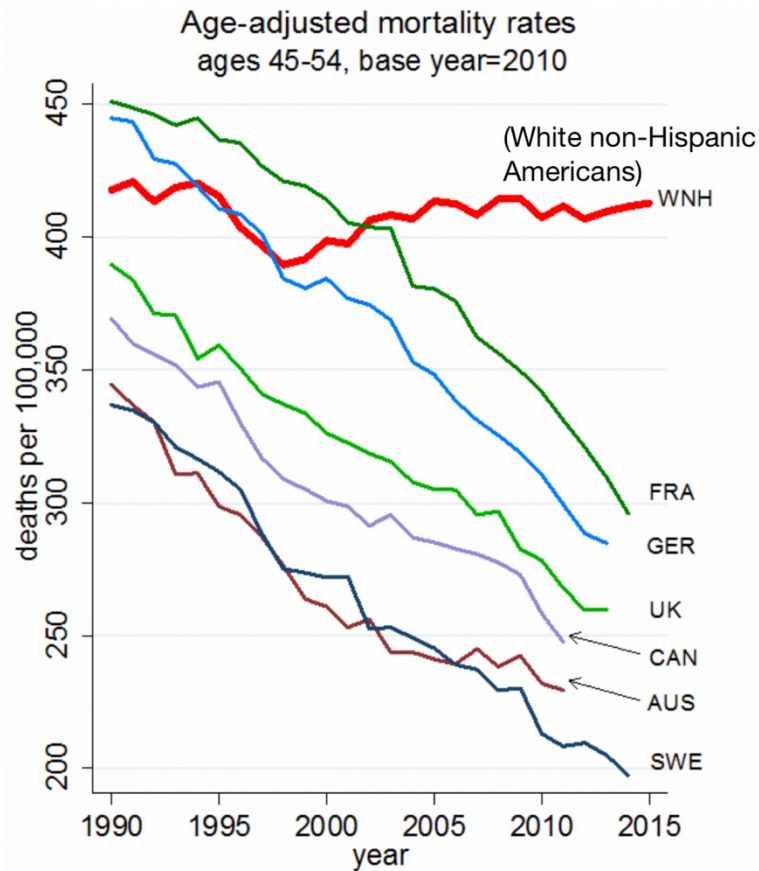


## Lincoln County, Maine, among areas with high death rates among middle-aged white, non-Hispanics

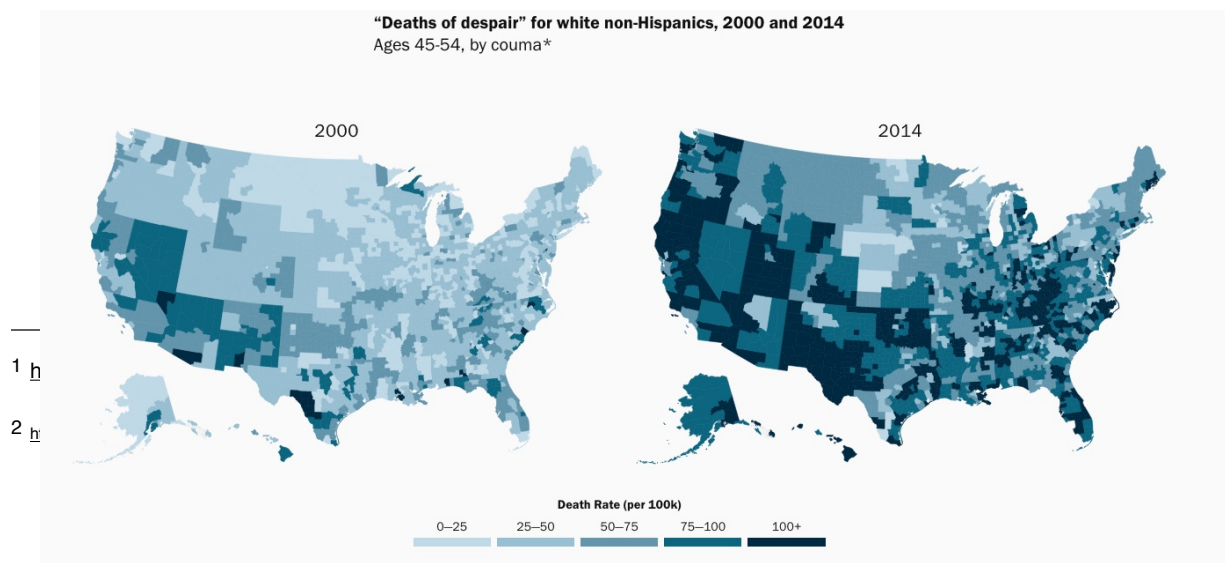
In a 2015 study, Brookings Institute researchers Ann Case and Angus Deaton discovered that since 1999 death rates have been dramatically rising among middle-aged (45-54) white Americans, reversing decades of improving life expectancy and running contrary to trends in other developed countries. Now, as part of the Spring 2017 edition of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, these economists say they have a better understanding of what is causing these “deaths of despair” by suicide, drug overdose, and alcoholism.



Listen to a National Public Radio segment on the forces driving middle-aged white people to “death of despair”. Click [here](#) <sup>1</sup>.

Or read [this](#) <sup>2</sup>.

Take particular notice that Lincoln County, Maine, and the adjacent area of Mid-coast Maine appear on the 2014 map with a high (greater than 100 per 100,000 population) death rate among white non-Hispanics.



## **Lincoln County, Maine, among areas with high death rates among middle-aged white, non-Hispanics**

This research suggests that we will not solve the substance abuse problem, that is killing our friends and neighbors at an alarming and increasing rate, until we solve the underlying economic problem.

Another article about this research appeared in the Washington Post on March 24th. <sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/03/24/the-disease-killing-white-americans-goes-way-deeper-than-opioids/?utm\\_term=.9002a8421044](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/03/24/the-disease-killing-white-americans-goes-way-deeper-than-opioids/?utm_term=.9002a8421044)