

Report: Life expectancy dipped a bit for white women in US

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In this Feb. 23, 2016, file photo, women run as the sun sets in San Diego. Life expectancy for white women has fallen a little, according to a new government report. The dip is small - white women lost about five weeks from their predicted lifespan in 2014, compared to 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Wednesday, April 20, 2016. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

Life expectancy for white women has fallen a little, according to a new government report.

White women lost about five weeks from their predicted lifespan in 2014, compared to 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Wednesday.

Life expectancy held steady for black women and white men, and increased for black men, Hispanic men and Hispanic women.

The CDC previously reported that the life expectancy for all Americans born in 2014 was 78 years and 9½ months— the same prediction made for the previous two years.

Wednesday's report gives a breakdown by race or gender. It predicts that a white girl born in 2014 could expect to live about 81 years and 1 month, about five weeks fewer than the previous year's prediction.

The last time there was a one-year drop for [white women](#) was in 2008. That was considered a statistical blip, said Robert Anderson of the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

That could also be the case for the 2014 decline "or it could be a harbinger of things to come," Anderson said. That won't be known until data from more years comes in, he added.

Some recent reports have shown rising suicide and drug overdose death rates for white women—particularly middle-aged ones.

U.S. health officials come up with life expectancy figures each year by looking at how old people were when they died and the cause of death. They use statistical modeling to predict how long people born today will live if current trends continue.

Hispanics had the highest life expectancy in 2014—at 84 for Hispanic women and more than 79 for men. Black Americans were lowest, at

about 78 for women about and 72 for men. For white men, it was 76½ years.

Life expectancies generally have been climbing, but they do sometimes dip. The estimates for [white men](#) and Hispanic women dropped slightly in 2013.

More information: CDC report: www.cdc.gov/nchs/

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