



**BlackEconomics.org®**

**“A Black American Health Bulletin: An Updated Forecast”**

In 2011, BlackEconomics.org analyzed and forecasted out to 2050 seven important Black American socioeconomic variables in a monograph entitled [53](#): Population, employment, income, entrepreneurship, educational attainment, criminal justice, and health. This bulletin on Health as signaled by Life Expectancy follows up that analysis in consideration of Black America’s future.

“Do Nothing” forecasts for life expectancy from 53 were:<sup>1</sup>

	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Life expectancy at Birth – Males (years)	70.2	72.7	75.2	77.8	80.5
Life expectancy at Birth – Females (years)	77.2	78.9	80.6	82.3	84.1

The above forecasts were based mainly on source data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) from 1980 to 2007. To prepare the revised forecasts, we updated the NVSS source data through 2019 and developed annual forecast/extrapolation factors (0.0029 for males and 0.0019 for females).<sup>2</sup> We chose to ignore the latest available provisional estimates for 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on life expectancy. While we include the 2020 provisional estimates of life expectancy in the table below, we ignored the 2020 estimates when developing extrapolation factors and the actual forecasts. Life expectancy statistics for 2019 and 2020, and revised decadal forecast for 2030 to 2050 appear below.

	2019	2020	2030	2040	2050
Life expectancy at Birth – Males (years)	71.3	68.0	73.6	75.7	77.9
Life expectancy at Birth – Females (years)	78.1	75.7	79.8	81.3	82.9

The 2020 provisional estimates show the drop-off in life expectancy due to the pandemic. The 2030-2050 forecasts reflect a 2019 take-off point and exclude the pandemic effect. The revised forecasts indicate that the pace of increase in life expectancy has slowed for Black Americans when compared with the forecasts that were prepared in 2011. Notably, although not directly comparable, the US Census Bureau predicts that US life expectancy will be 83.9 years for males and 87.3 years for females by 2060.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The “Do Nothing” forecasts assumed that Black Americans would not adopt any policies or actions to modify our 2010 modus operandi through 2050.

<sup>2</sup> The NVSS source data are available at the following website: [Products - Life Tables - Homepage \(cdc.gov\)](#) (Ret. 011122). Our forecasting method relies on “period life” not “cohort life” life expectancy estimates.

<sup>3</sup> See Lauren Madison, Shannon Sabo, and Jonathan Vespa (2020), “Living Longer: Historical and Projected Life Expectancy in the United States, 1960 to 2060;” [Living Longer: Historical and Projected Life Expectancy in the United States, 1960 to 2060 \(census.gov\)](#) (Ret. 011122).