Americans are dying at a greater rate

Over the last couple of months we've brought you grim news from the USA. First there was the story of the rapid rise in the mortality rate of middle aged white Americans mainly driven by suicide, drugs and alcohol. Secondly, there was last month's report on the rise by 24% in the suicide rate of all Americans from 1999 to 2014.

Now, linked to those pieces of news, is this report from the New York Times that the mortality rate for the entire population of the USA grew from 723.2 deaths per 100,000 people in 2014 to 729.5 deaths per 100,000 people last year. While this is not the first such rise ever, it is the first rise in a decade. As the Times notes:

> *"A bad flu season pushed it up in 2005, and AIDS and the flu contributed to a sharp increase in 1993. In 1999, there was a tiny increase."*

So perhaps this will be another once-off event, explicable by some specific reason. However, it is enough of a rise to have federal researchers worried:

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