

2016 Presidential election

What the geographic numbers do show is that the specific subset of Mr Trump's voters that won him the election – those in counties where he outperformed Mr Romney by large margins – live in communities that are literally dying. Even if Mr Trump's policies are unlikely to alleviate their plight, it is not hard to understand why they voted for change.

Economist, November 19, 2016, commenting on the fact that an index of public-health statistics pertaining to life expectancy and the prevalence of diabetes, heavy drinking and obesity is an even better predictor of a county's change from 2012 to 2016 in the share of eligible voters that voted Republican than the % of non-college whites