

Death

**Falling life expectancy is the last thing
you would expect on a worry list
about US national security.**

**Yet when it is dropping as fast as it is in the US
— Americans live almost five years less than the
wealthy country average — even the Pentagon
has to sit up. At 76, Americans now live shorter
lives than their peers in China and only a year
longer than the citizens of supposedly benighted
Mexico. People in Japan, Italy and Spain, on
the other hand, can expect to live to around 84.
Your people's longevity is the ultimate test
of a system's ability to deliver.**

**Yet neither Democrats nor Republicans,
presidents or legislators,
seem too bothered.**

**Edward Luce,
Financial Times, September 8, 2022**