

Deaths of despair

These trends among less educated Americans — declines in wages, the quality and number of jobs, marriage, and community life — are central in instilling despair, spurring suicide and other self-inflicted harms, such as alcohol and drug abuse.

...

The real roots of the epidemic lie in the long-term malaise that began around 1970, when economic growth in the United States slowed, inequality began to rise, younger workers realized that they would never do as well as their parents had done, and those without high-level skills fell further behind.

Anne Case and Angus Deaton