

Deaths of despair

The U.S. suicide rate has risen by a third since 1999; there are now more suicides than deaths on the roads each year, and there are two and a half times as many suicides as murders.

In 2017 alone, there were 158,000 deaths of despair [deaths from suicide, drug overdoses and alcoholic liver disease], the equivalent of three fully loaded Boeing 737 MAX jets falling from the sky every day for a year.

**Anne Case and Angus Deaton,
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