Nigeria's life expectancy rises to 54.6 years

A child born in Nigeria in 2024 could expect to live 54.6 years, up from 47.1 in 2000 but still among the lowest in the world.

54.6 yrs
Life expectancy at birth, 2024
World Bank; Health Ministry report

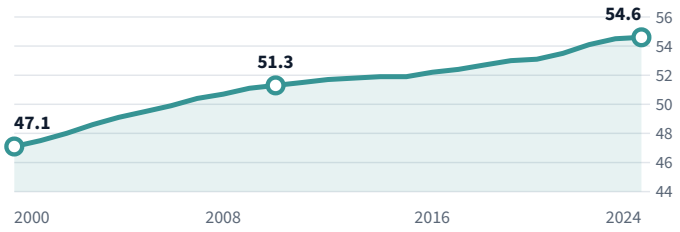
+0.2 yrs
Change from 2023
+7.5 years since 2000 (47.1)

62.8 yrs
Sub-Saharan Africa average
Nigeria is 8.2 years below

73.5 yrs
World average, 2024
Nigeria is 18.8 years below

Slow, steady gains

Life expectancy at birth in Nigeria, years, 2000 to 2024



Why it stays low

What the reports point to

69.8

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024. Deaths of babies and mothers, malaria and weak access to care hold the average down.

What changed

Nigeria, 2000 and 2024

MEASURE	2024	2000
Life expectancy at birth	**54.6 yrs**	**47.1 yrs**
Sub-Saharan Africa average	62.8 yrs	51.6 yrs
Gap to the regional average	8.2 yrs	4.5 yrs
Infant deaths per 1,000 births	69.8	94.9

How Nigeria compares

Life expectancy at birth, years, 2024



WHAT IT MEANS For the economy, households and businesses

1 The economy

- Shorter lives mean fewer working years and lower returns on education and skills.
- The 18.8-year gap to the world shows how much better health care could add to growth.

2 Households

- Illness and early deaths of earners could push families into debt or poverty.
- With 69.8 infant deaths per 1,000 births, child health remains a major household risk.

3 Businesses

- Ill health may raise absence and staff turnover and weigh on productivity.
- Steady gains could widen demand for health care, insurance and medicines.

ECODATA

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators (life expectancy and infant mortality, 2000–2024, updated 2026); Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2024 State of the Nation Health Report, via Nairametrics; ICIR.

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