

US emissions of lead (1,000s of tons)

1961

221

2011

US emissions of carbon monoxide (millions of tons)

Cost of a 1 min overseas phone call (1973)

100

100

US life expectancy, years

70

70

US death rate by accidents, per 100,000 population

60

60

US persons executed

US deaths by heart disease per 1 mil population

50

50

US deaths by flu and pneumonia per 1 mil population

Global battle deaths/year/million population

50

50

US high school completion

40

40

World's hungry as % of world population

30

30

Number of electoral democracies in the world

Global middle-class as % of world population

30

30

4 year college degrees earned, males, 10,000s

Energy use (tons of oil equiv) for \$100,000 of gdp

20

20

US infant mortality, per 1000 births

US auto deaths, per 10,000,000 pop

20

20

US GDP per capita, \$1,000s (2005 dollars)

10

10

4 year college degrees earned, females, 10,000s

US disposable income per person, \$1,000s (2005 \$)

US defense spending as % of GDP

Global number of wars with over 1000 deaths

10

10

Average SS benefits, per month (2011 \$)

Global average no. of international conflicts

10

10

non-profit grantmaking foundations per 100,000 population

UN peacekeeping operations

0

0

additional sovereign nation-states

CRIME  
HEALTH  
WAR  
ENVIRONMENT\*  
WEALTH & WELL-BEING  
EDUCATION

\* 'Environment' didn't really become a conscious idea until 1962 when Rachel Carson published 'Silent Spring'

ephemera 04:  
better all the time (1961 to 2011)

a random and impressionistic  
celebration of 50 years of  
improvement in the human  
condition

loren madsen, 2012