

STORIES FROM 2019 YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT – ([Original Facebook Post](#))

by Kevin Ryan

- Poverty in the United States reached its lowest rate since 2007, with 1.4 million people leaving poverty in a single year. <https://www.census.gov/.../publications/2019/demo/p60-266.html>
- The number of people killed in wars around the world reached its lowest level in seven years, and battle fatalities have fallen by 43% since 2014. <https://www.prio.org/News/Item/?x=2419>
- The number of people incarcerated in American prisons declined again, to 1.48 million people (down from 1.61 million in 2009). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../7a678c7a-6779-11e9-8985-4c...>
- The 2019 Global Terrorism Index revealed that deaths from terrorism decreased by 15.2% last year, the fourth consecutive year of improvement. The overall number of terror attacks fell by a third, deaths halved, and attacks by ISIS fell by 71%. <https://reliefweb.int/rep.../world/global-terrorism-index-2019>
- A new study covering 90% of the world's population showed that the international homicide rate has dropped by 20% since 1990. https://eurekalert.org/pub_relea.../2019-10/uosf-psr100919.php
- The FBI said that the United States' violent crime rate fell again last year, and is now half as high as it was in 1991. <https://www.childtrends.org/ind.../violent-crime-victimization>
- Since 2000, the number of democracies has risen from 90 to 97, including 11 countries that became democratic for the first time ever, and in 2019, 2 billion people in 50 countries voted, the largest number in history. <https://interactive.aljazeera.com/.../how-the-worl.../index.html>
- In the biggest breakthrough for cystic fibrosis in decades, a new drug that targets the genetic roots of the disease has been developed and approved in the U.S. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../long-awaited-cystic-fibro.../>
- Algeria and Argentina officially eliminated malaria this year, and the WHO said that in the last eight years, malaria infections in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam dropped by 76%, and deaths fell by 95%. India also reported a huge reduction in malaria, with 2.6 million fewer cases in 2018 than in 2017. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03746-3>
- The Global Burden of Disease Report said that between 1990 and 2017, the number of kids and teenagers dying around the world decreased by more than half, from 13.77 million to 6.64 million. <https://edition.cnn.com/.../global-childhood-death.../index.html>
- Remember bird flu, the disease that was going to be the next global pandemic? There hasn't been a single H5N1 human infection since February 2017. <https://www.statnews.com/.../02/13/bird-flu-mutations-outlook/>
- According to the United Nations, global HIV-related deaths have fallen to 770,000, a third lower than in 2010 when 1.2 million deaths were recorded. <https://www.dw.com/.../unaids-report-hiv-related-d.../a-49605119>
- The UN released its latest figures on pneumonia, showing that the number of children dying from "the ultimate disease of poverty," has decreased from 6,410 per day in 1990 to 2,216 per day in 2017. <https://ourworldindata.org/child-deaths-from-pneumonia>

- The CDC announced that cigarette smoking among US adults has reached an all-time low of 13.7% (a decline of two-thirds in the last 50 years). <https://www.cdc.gov/me.../releases/2019/p1114-smoking-low.html>
- Stroke rates for US adults over the age of 65 have decreased by one third each decade for the last 30 years. <https://www.reuters.com/.../stroke-rates-continue-decline-in-...>
- New diabetes cases have declined by 35% since 2009, the longest decline since the government started tracking the statistic. <https://www.statnews.com/.../obesity-rates-climb-new-diabete.../>
- Between 2000 and 2018, the global incidence of measles fell by two-thirds, and more than 23 million lives were saved by the measles vaccine. <https://www.acsh.org/.../measles-cases-1100-americas-2000-dow...>
- A new Ebola vaccine was cleared for distribution in 2019, and is working miracles, reducing mortality rates from 70% to as low as 6%. <http://www.bu.edu/articl.../2019/powerful-new-ebola-treatments>
- Type 3 polio officially became the second species of poliovirus to be eliminated in 2019. Only Type 1 now remains - and only in Pakistan and Afghanistan. <https://www.statnews.com/.../decades-long-campaign-type-3-po.../>
- New research showed that the proportion of people in extreme poverty around the world fell from 36% in 1990 to 8.6% in 2018. Absolute numbers were down from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 610 million in 2018. <https://www.odi.org/.../10688-new-projections-show-extreme-po...>
- Save the Children's 2019 Global Childhood Report showed that in the last 20 years, children's lives have improved in 173 out of 176 countries. Compared to 2000, today there are:
 - 4.4 million fewer child deaths per year
 - 49 million fewer stunted children
 - 130 million more children in school
 - 94 million fewer child labourers
 - 11 million fewer girls forced into marriage or married early
 - 3 million fewer teen births per year
 - 12,000 fewer child homicides per year<https://reliefweb.int/re.../world/global-childhood-report-2019>
- New surveys revealed that the population of humpback whales in the South Atlantic region now number 24,900 — almost 93% of their population size before they were hunted to the brink of extinction. BBC
- Dolphins are breeding in the Potomac River in Washington for the first time since the 1880s. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/.../dolphins-are-living-and-b.../>
- Whale populations are exploding off the shores of New York. <https://www.newsweek.com/nyc-shores-flooded-whales-experts-...>
- In Kenya, poaching rates have dropped by 85% for rhinos and 78% for elephants in the last five years.

- In South Africa, the number of rhinos killed by poachers fell by 25%, the fifth annual decrease in a row. <https://www.bloomberg.com/.../rhino-deaths-plunge-in-south-af...>
- India reported that its population of tigers has risen by over a third since 2014. <https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/world-asia-india-49148174>

HAPPY NEW YEAR!