It’s a bit of a tangent, but while we are on the subject of mortality what does the US government think a life is worth?

Every time the EPA sets a regulation it is required to estimate its costs (such as for emission controls) vs. the benefits to human health.

To get health benefits the agency sums the aggregate small reduction in risks to many individuals to get “STATISTICAL LIVES”.

The Bush administration reduced the value of a statistical life to $7 million, which lowered the benefits of EPA regulations. The Obama administration reset the value to $7.9 million.

Now new terminology is proposed: “VALUE OF MORTALITY RISK REDUCTION” to make it clear people are trading money for reducing health risks, and that a value is not being set on life.