

## Romania and Botswana

Life expectancies vary around the world, from high in developed, industrialized countries, to low in unindustrialized third world countries. Romania has a high life expectancy rate, as it is a well-developed country. Other factors such as the type of government, and way of life in a country can influence life expectancy. Although both Romania and Botswana are similar in the fact that both of their governments are stable, the two differ more greatly in other factors such as health care and employment, resulting in lower life expectancies in Botswana.

**Comment [AU1]:** This intro nicely demonstrates a simple, inverted pyramid model. The big to little intro style isn't terribly sophisticated nor developed, but the context and thesis statement help us overlook any shortcomings this might represent.

All over the world, people's lives are influenced by the type of governments they live under. For years, tyranny and dictatorship have ruled over Africa, devastating many people's lives. Even though Botswana's government is very stable as the land is prosperous in diamonds, and is also the oldest democracy in the continent. Given that the country gained its independence from Britain in 1966, it is considerably new to the ways of a democratic government. The rest of Africa has only been working on changing to a democracy for the past decade. In Botswana, problems such as economic uncertainties pull back the country from being successful, manipulating the life expectancy of the country, which, as of now, ranges from 41-42 years.

**Comment [AU2]:** Topic sentence that broadly introduces the focus of the paragraph: governmental rule.

**Comment [AU3]:** Simple but effective background context for what rule has been like in background. This sets up the use of specific, concrete details that come next.

However, in Europe, the republic form of government has been around for hundreds of years, so when Romania was declared a people's republic in the year 1947, they did not have as many issues to deal with as Botswana did. Currently, Romania is headed by a prime minister, and has the lowest financial burden in the European Union. It was also the world's second-fastest economic reformer as of 2006. As a result, Romania's life expectancy ranges from 68-76 years, therefore creating a gap of 40 year's difference in life expectancy between the two countries.

**Comment [AU4]:** Sets up the comparative relationship with the use of the transition word/phrase "however".

**Comment [AU5]:** Cx: basic analysis WHY they are different.

Another factor that influences life expectancies in different countries is the employment rate. Employment rates affect the way of life for some people. Botswana may be well off in the

stability of their government, but the country has a high unemployment rate of 23.8% of the population as of 2004. This leads to having a higher percentage of people under the poverty line: 30.3%. Romania, on the other hand, is a more successful country when compared to Botswana in employment rates, having only a 6.1% unemployment rate as of 2006. The Romanian Constitution has set the maximum work hours to eight, so people in the country are not overworked. The percentage of poverty is also lower, since only 25% of the population is under the poverty line. All this ties into the life expectancies in both countries. A higher unemployment rate causes more poverty, so that may put more stress on those people living there, as many of them cannot provide for themselves. Stressful lives can result in health problems, lowering life expectancy rates. With more jobs available to people in Romania, it is easier for most people to earn money and support their families, so the stress is lessened, thus leading to a higher life expectancy there.

**Comment [AU6]:** This is excellent, multi-sentence Cm on how and why unemployment rates in these countries ties to life expectancy. Many of the lower scoring papers give only one sentence of Cm, when it really needs/wants multiple sentences.

Despite having high unemployment rates, countries that provide low health care and suffer from poor living conditions also affect life expectancies there. Botswana is very limited in water supply, as 68% of the land is part of the Kalahari Desert. One major health problem in Botswana is malnutrition. 17% of children under the age of five, as of the year 2000, were considered malnourished. Another major issue in the country is HIV/AIDS. Botswana had the highest rate of HIV infection in the world in 2001, with 350,000 of its 1.6 million people infected. In 2004, the infection rate decreased greatly with the availability of antiviral drugs, but 37.5% of the population still remains infected. The government stresses the importance of health care, but even so, there was an estimate of about 0.2 physicians and 1.6 hospital beds per 1,000 people as of 1999. Romania, on the other hand, has its differences in health care. In the 1990's, Romania was transformed from a centralized, tax-based system to a pluralistic system as part of

**Comment [AU7]:** Yet another good use of transition phrase to set up comparative analysis.

a broader economic transition. It was based on contractual relationships between health care providers and insurance funds, and since then, primary care has been available to most people.

As opposed to Botswana, there is about one doctor per every 553 people in Romania, and as of 1999, it is estimated that there are 1.8 physicians and 7.6 hospital beds per 1,000 people. Also, deaths from HIV/AIDS are considerably lower in this country, with about 7,000 HIV deaths and 350 AIDS deaths each year. Although tobacco consumption in Romania has increased over the years, the life expectancy there is still greater than Botswana's, showing that health care plays a huge role in determining a country's life expectancy rate.

**Comment [AU8]:** Nice comparative transition phrase to link the analysis together.

**Comment [AU9]:** Great Cm. This point is skillfully articulated ... and it's a point that could've easily been glossed over and missed.

In conclusion, the differences between Botswana and Romania can be clearly seen, and those factors greatly affect the life expectancies of both. Botswana's high unemployment rate and government type undoubtedly affect how the people live, therefore having the lower life expectancy rate of the two. Romania has a smaller percentage of people in poverty, and it has an experienced government, which is why its life expectancy is higher. Better quality of living for people around the world so that life expectancy rates can be increased is important for society, and hopefully that is what governments focus on and strive to do in the future for the world.

**Comment [AU10]:** Strong, assertive analysis and "findings" revealed. Instead of just summarizing main points, they're summarizing and expanding upon their findings. A world of difference, really. The author is reiterating how they've "proved" their thesis.

**Comment [AU11]:** I'd like to see them go a step beyond here in their conclusion. I'd like to know why it's important and what steps, perhaps could be taken to assure this. Furthermore, will longer life worldwide complicate things and bring up new problems?? Many people stopped here and didn't connect this to a larger context.

I'd say the author's main focus is to revise and add on to the intro/conclusion. The body sections are strong. This is an A- paper that will certainly be revised for an A grade.

## References

**Comment [AU12]:** Not sure why this header is here. Doesn't show up anywhere else in the paper. Consistency and attention to format is a must.

**Comment [AU13]:** Excellent formatting ... and excellent depth/variety of resources. APA format looks pretty clean. No need to italicize titles, nor do we capitalize words in the title beyond the first.

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*The Government of Botswana*. (2007) Retrieved September 18, 2007, from <http://www.gov.bw/>

**Comment [AU14]:** Disregard the word "The" when alphabetizing. For this entry, alphabetize by G.

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<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bc.html>

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