

Building Up Communities and Breaking the COVID-19 Divide: Social determinants of health and the “rules of the game”

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24 June 2020



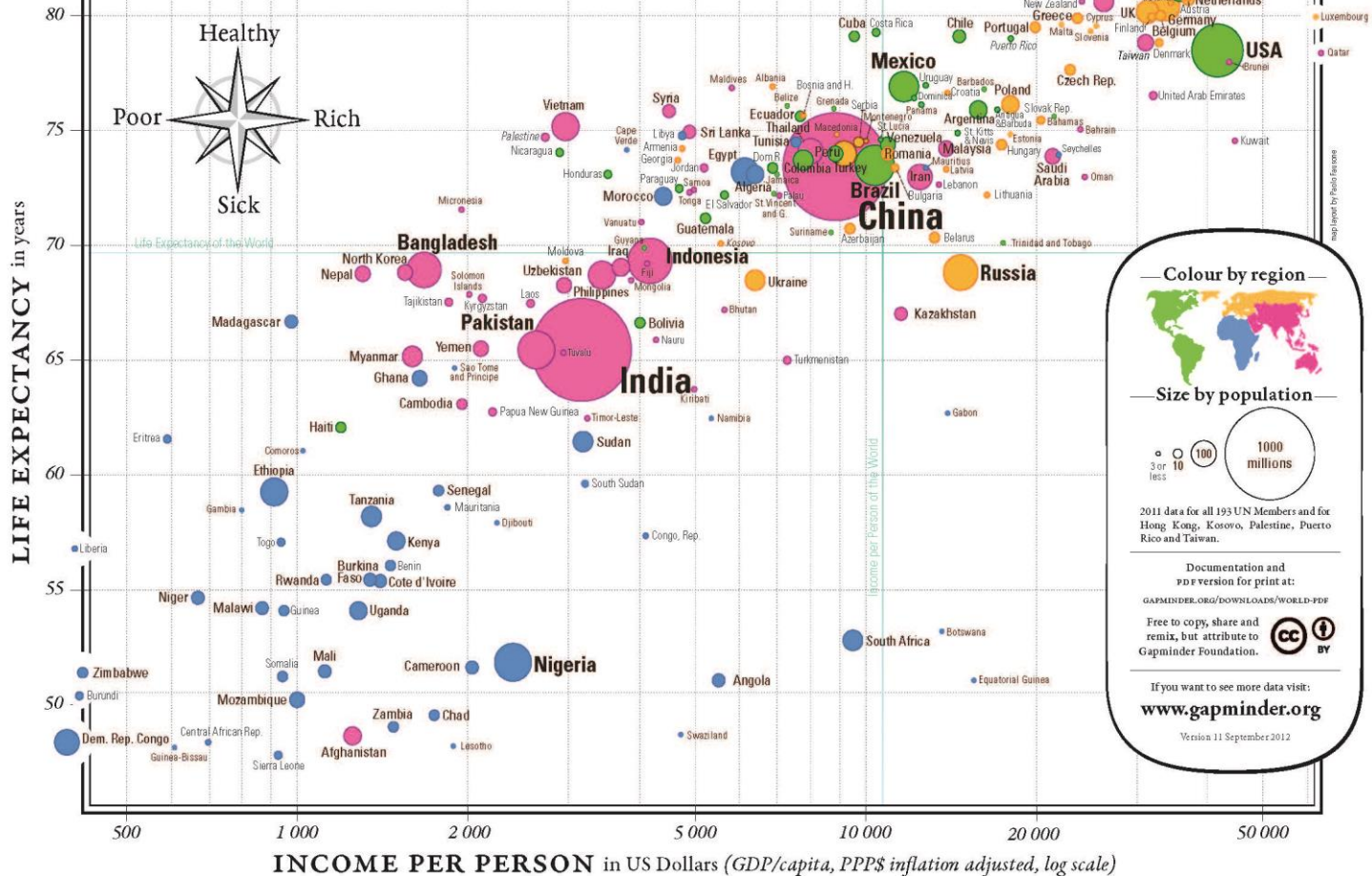


“If a factory is torn down but the rationality which produced it is left standing, then that rationality will simply produce another factory. If a revolution destroys a government, but the systematic patterns of thought that produced that government are left intact, then those patterns will repeat themselves.... There’s so much talk about the system. And so little understanding.”

-- Robert Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
(epigraph to *Thinking in Systems* by Donella Meadows)

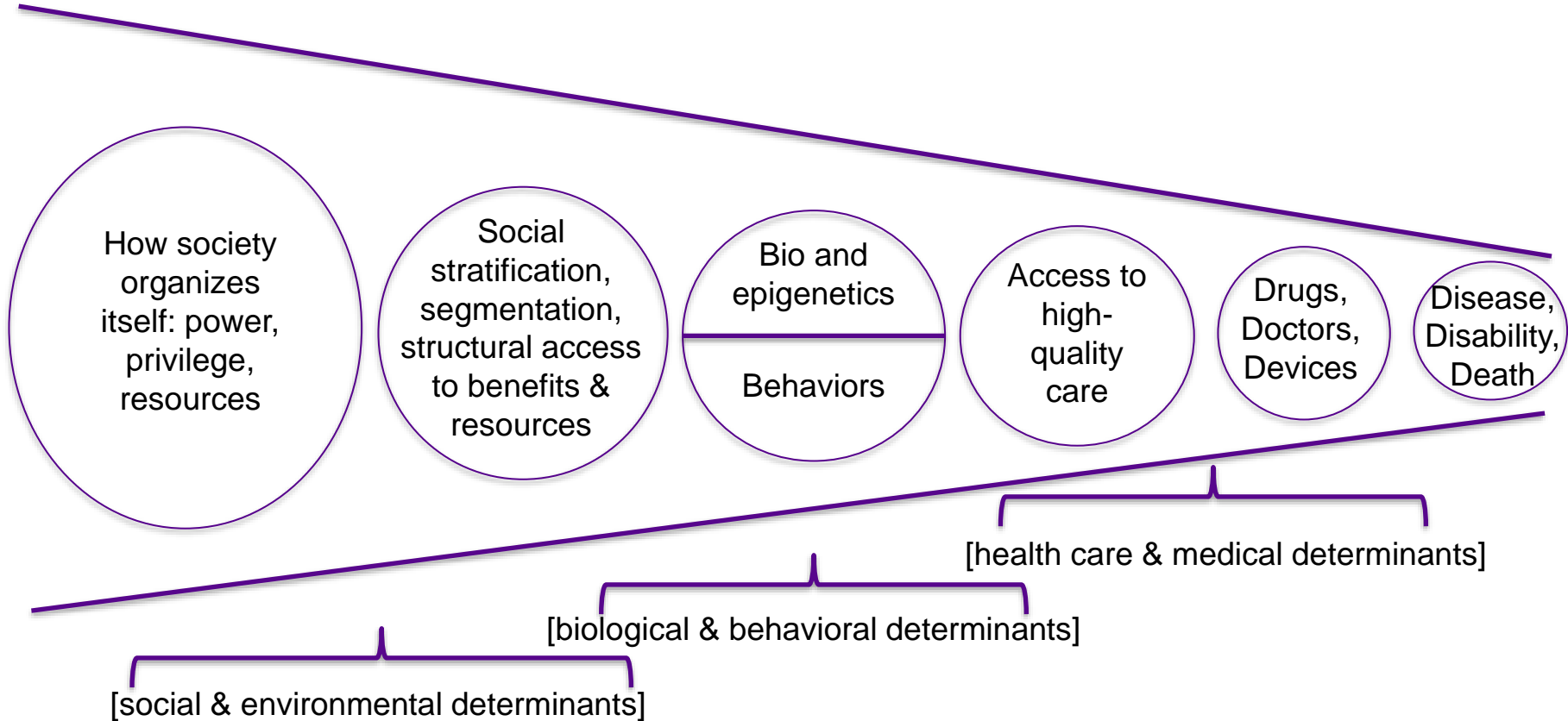
GAPMINDER WORLD 2012

Mapping the Wealth and Health of Nations





How does a social system “produce” health?



**Table 1. Leading Causes of Death in the United States in 2000***

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 100 000 Population
Heart disease	710 760	258.2
Malignant neoplasm	553 091	200.9
Cerebrovascular disease	167 661	60.9
Chronic lower respiratory tract disease	122 009	44.3
Unintentional injuries	97 900	35.6
Diabetes mellitus	69 301	25.2
Influenza and pneumonia	65 313	23.7
Alzheimer disease	49 558	18
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	37 251	13.5
Septicemia	31 224	11.3
Other	499 283	181.4
Total	2 403 351	873.1

*Data are from Minino et al.⁴**Table 2. Actual Causes of Death in the United States in 1990 and 2000**

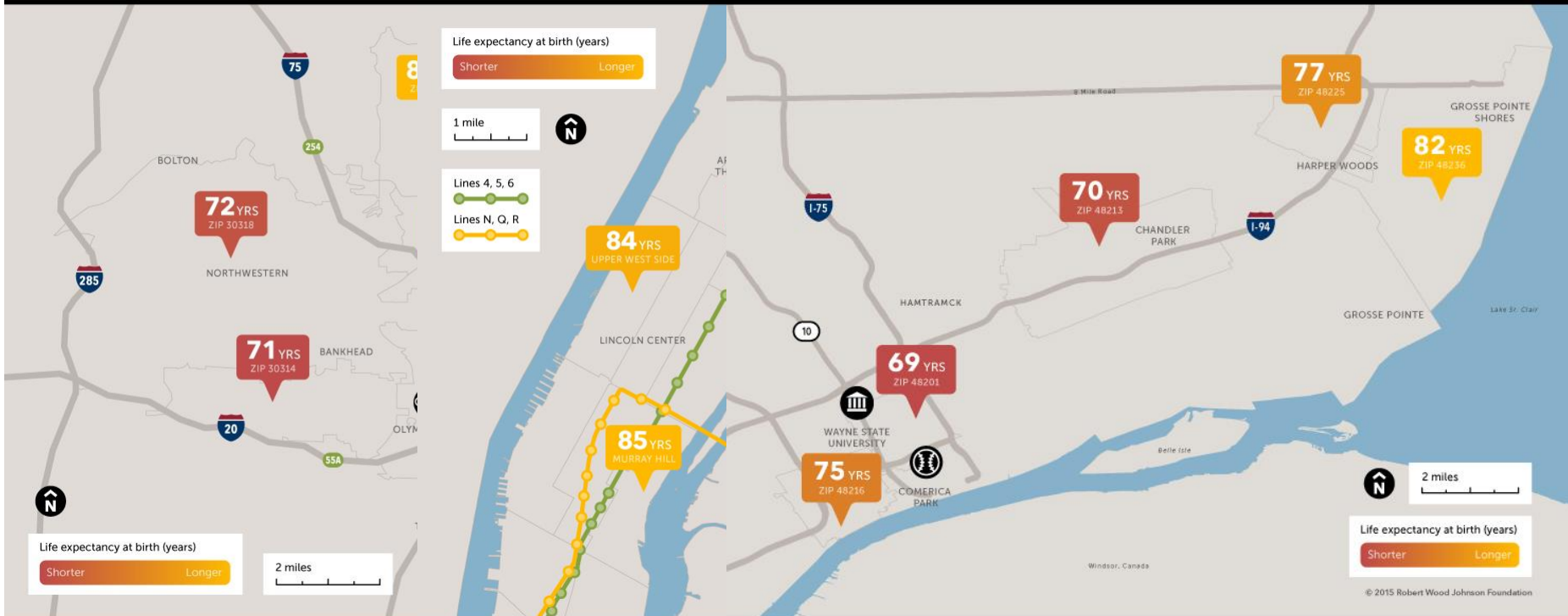
Actual Cause	No. (%) in 1990*	No. (%) in 2000
Tobacco	400 000 (19)	435 000 (18.1)
Poor diet and physical inactivity	300 000 (14)	400 000 (16.6)
Alcohol consumption	100 000 (5)	85 000 (3.5)
Microbial agents	90 000 (4)	75 000 (3.1)
Toxic agents	60 000 (3)	55 000 (2.3)
Motor vehicle	25 000 (1)	43 000 (1.8)
Firearms	35 000 (2)	29 000 (1.2)
Sexual behavior	30 000 (1)	20 000 (0.8)
Illicit drug use	20 000 (<1)	17 000 (0.7)
Total	1 060 000 (50)	1 159 000 (48.2)

*Data are from McGinnis and Foege.¹ The percentages are for all deaths.Mokdad et al (2004). Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000. *JAMA*. 291(10):1238-1245

Short Distances to Large Gaps in

Short Distances to Large

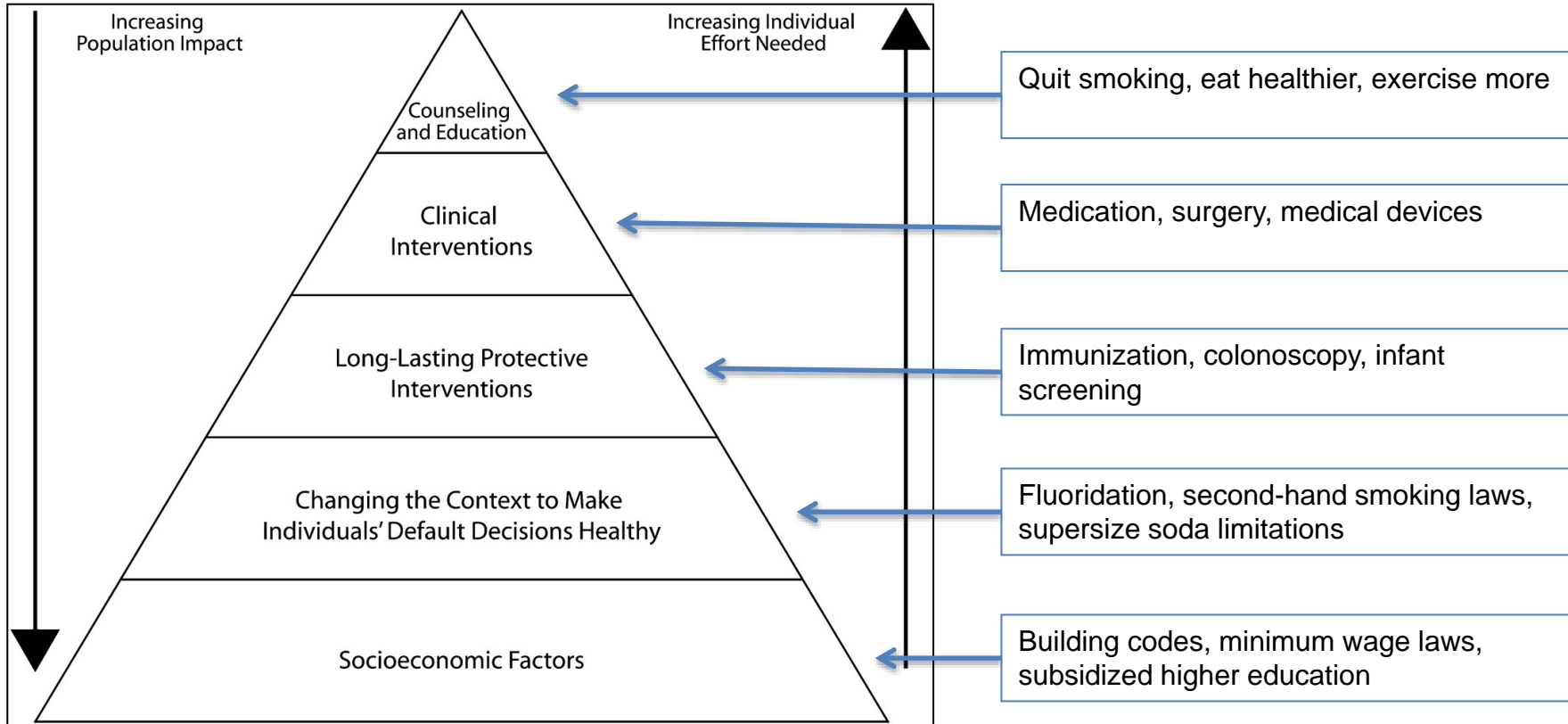
Short Distances to Large Gaps in Health



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Frieden's Health Impact Pyramid











Frieden TR (2010). "A framework for public health action: The health impact pyramid." *AJPH*. 100(4): 590-595



States and health systems beginning to measure and collect data on Social Determinants of Health

- **as population measures**
- **as clinical measures (part of electronic health records)**

Exhibit 2: Current Data Collection on Common SDOH Domains in Select States*†

SDOH Domains	KS	MA	MI	NY	OR	TN	VT	WA
 Housing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Family and Social Support	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
 Education and/or Literacy	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
 Food Security		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
 Employment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Transportation		✓	✓				✓	✓
 Criminal Justice Involvement	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
 Intimate Partner Violence		✓		✓	✓			

*Data collected from Medicaid beneficiaries at the individual and/or population level.

† Data not systematically collected on the entire Medicaid population.



Focus	
Organizational	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inform provider quality improvement2. Provide data for risk adjustment and reimbursement rates3. Inform program evaluation (e.g., Health homes)
Population	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess impact of SDOH on population health2. Inform community health promotion programs
Individual	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop care coordination strategies2. Expand access and availability of ancillary services



...money,
knowledge,
prestige, power,
and beneficial
social
connections that
protect health no
matter what
mechanisms are
relevant at any
given time-

(Link & Phelan
on Fundamental
Causes of
Health)