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# **COVID-19 AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR: UNJUST AND PREDICTABLY DISPARATE IMPACTS**

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Episcopal Health Foundation



## Episcopal Health Foundation

### HISTORY



Created in 2013  
upon transfer of  
St. Luke's  
Episcopal Health  
System

### MISSION



To improve the  
**health and  
well-being** of  
the 11+ million  
residents of the  
57 EDOT  
counties

### APPROACH



Upstream,  
**systems-  
oriented**  
approach and  
root cause  
analyses

### OUTCOMES



Health System  
Reform  
Primary Care  
Active Communities  
Early Childhood  
Development



## COVID-19 total cases and deaths: U.S., Texas, Harris County



Total Cases in **U.S.**

**6,087,403**

Total Deaths in **U.S.**

**185,092**



Total Cases in **Texas**

**625,347**

Total Deaths in **Texas**

**13,091**



Total Cases in  
**Harris County**

**108,085**

Total Deaths in  
**Harris County**

**2,281**

Source: CDC, [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#), data retrieved 9/4/2020

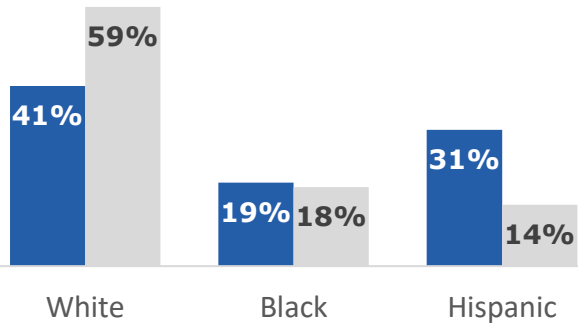
Source: TX DSHS, [Texas Case Counts COVID-19](#), data retrieved 9/4/2020



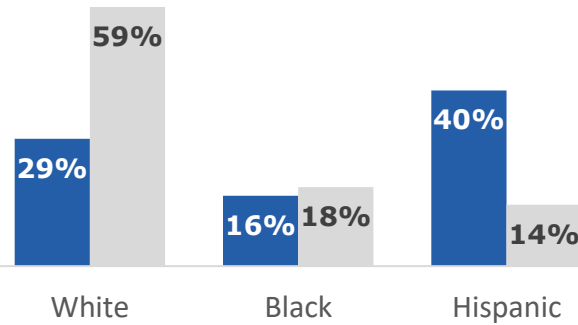
# COVID-19 cases and deaths by race/ethnicity: U.S., Texas, Harris County

■ % of Cases  
■ % of Deaths  
■ % of Total Population

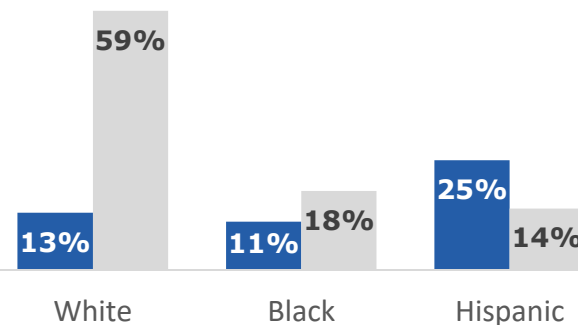
## Total Cases in U.S.



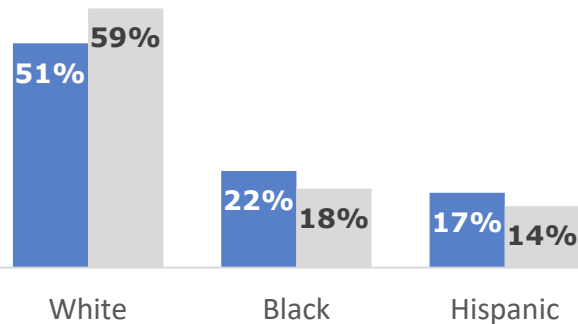
## Total Cases in Texas



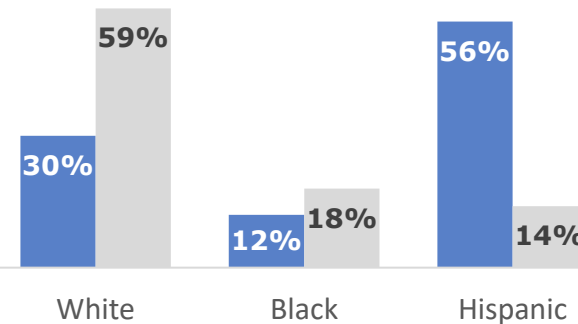
## Total Cases in Harris County



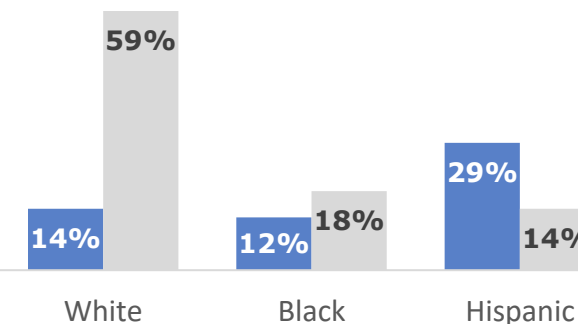
## Total Deaths in U.S.



## Total Deaths in Texas



## Total Deaths in Harris County



Source: CDC, [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#), data retrieved 9/4/2020

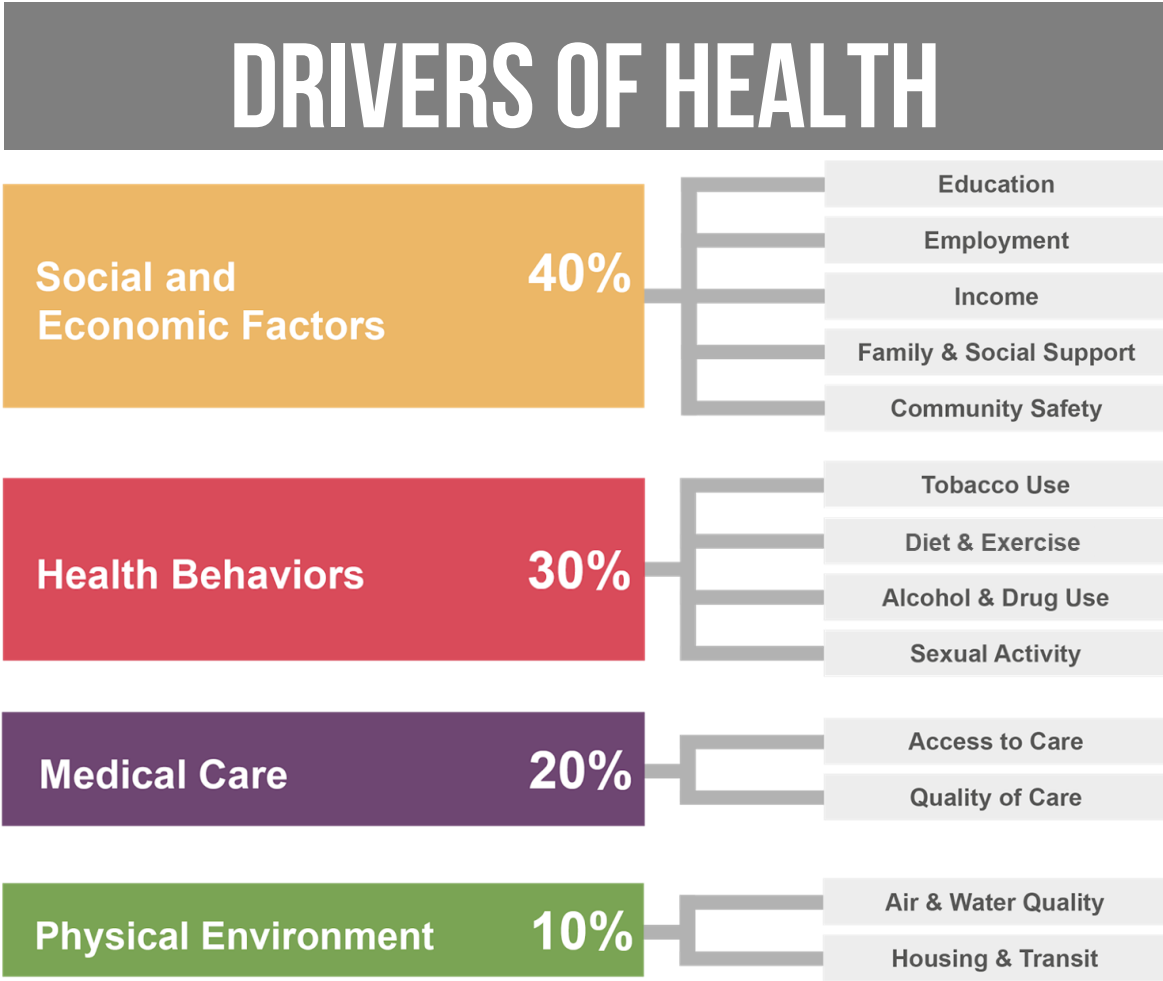
Source: TX DSHS, [Texas Case Counts COVID-19](#), data retrieved 9/4/2020

Source: Harris County, [Harris County/Houston COVID-19 Cases](#), data retrieved 9/4/2020



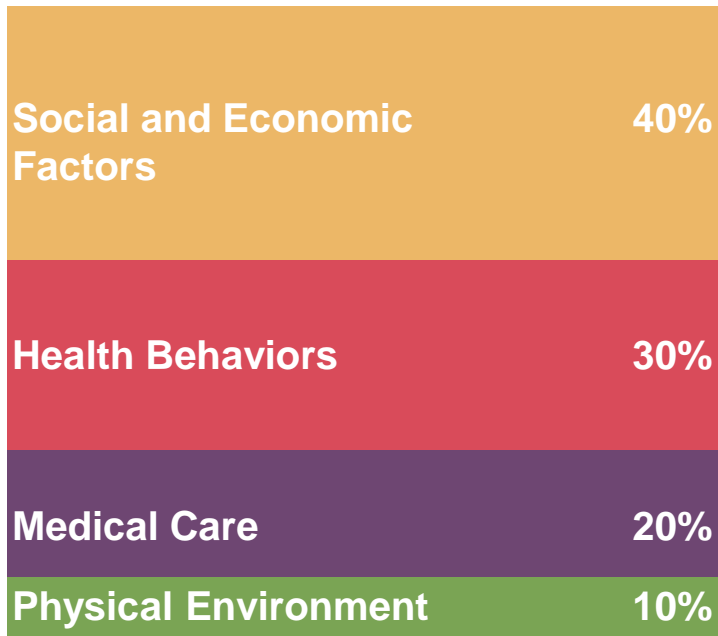
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**These disparate health outcomes were predictable because social, economic, and behavioral factors—not healthcare—determine 80% of health outcomes**

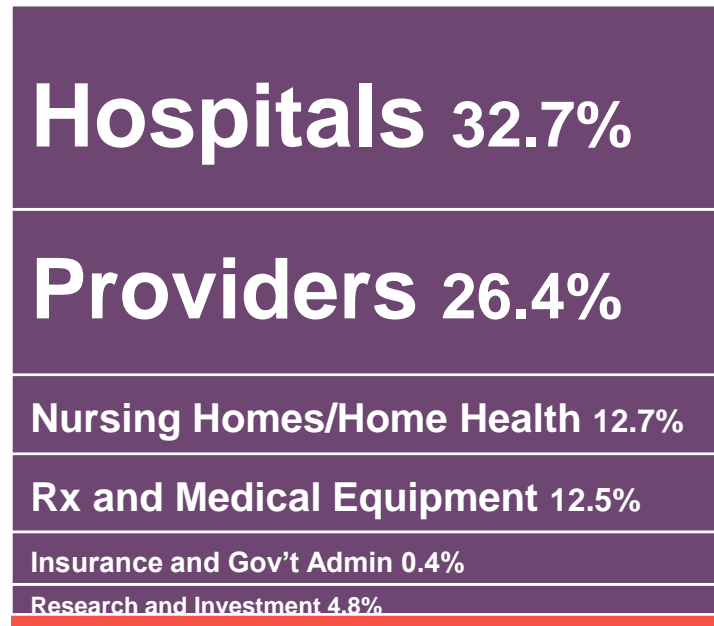




## DRIVERS



## EXPENDITURES

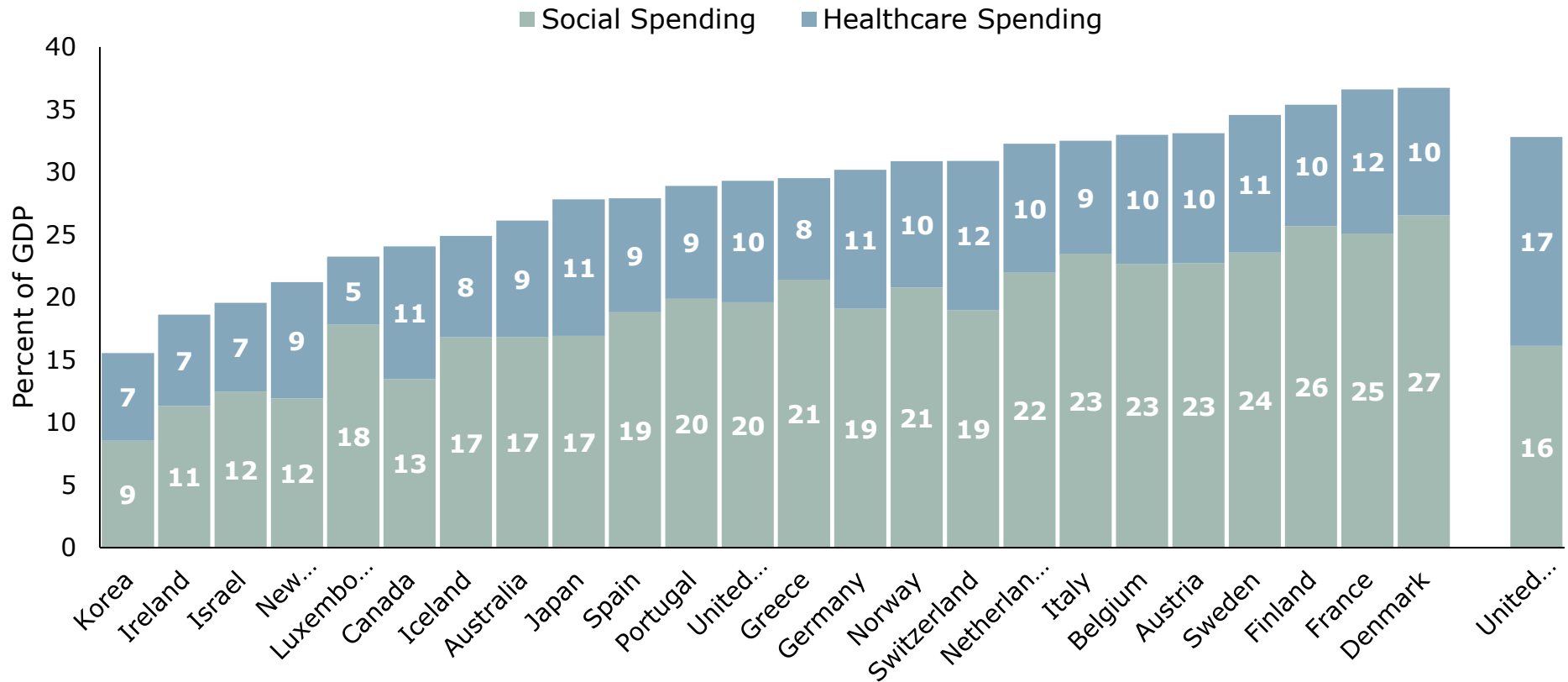


**Medical Services**  
**\$3.65 T**  
**97.4%**

**Public Health**  
**\$93.5 B**  
**2.6%**

**2018**

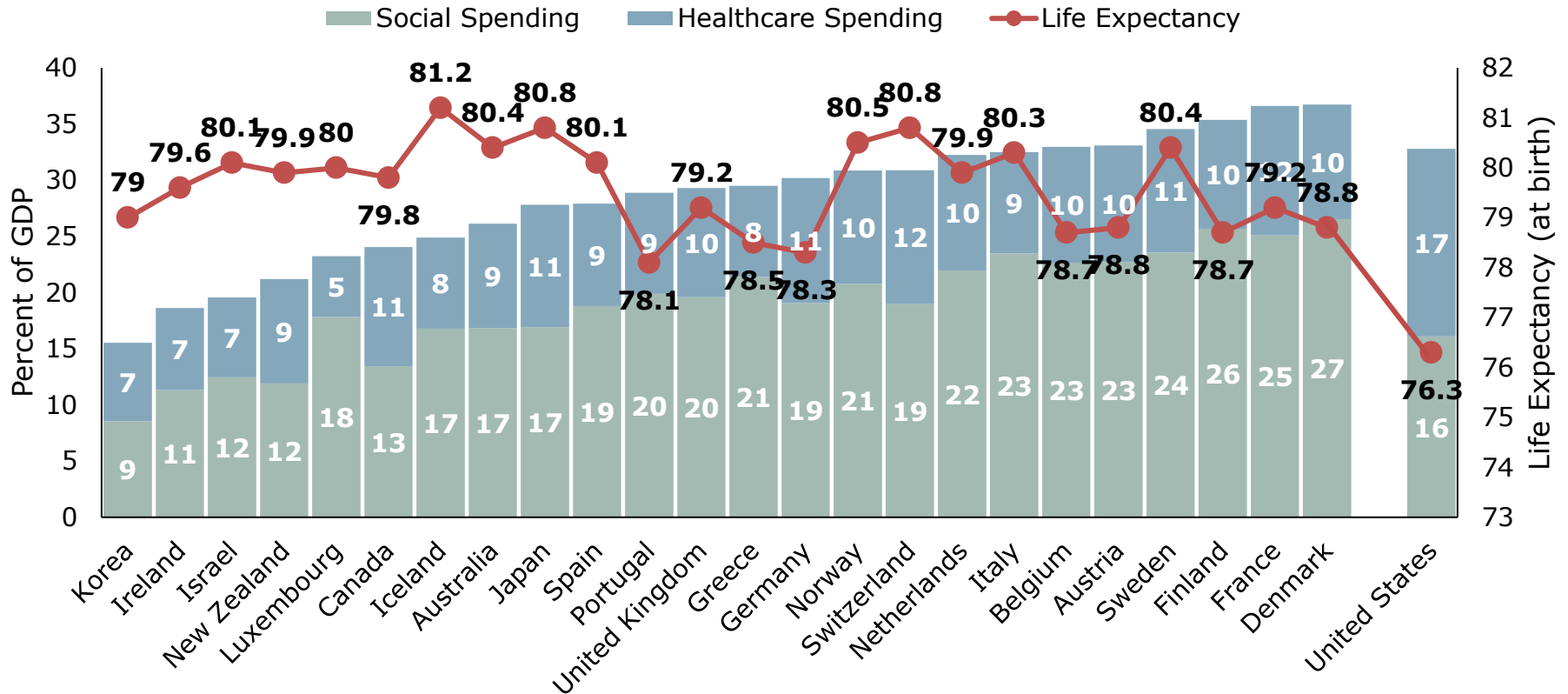
# Health care vs social services spending in OECD nations



Source: Rubin, Jennifer, et al. "Are better health outcomes related to social expenditure." Cambridge (UK): RAND Europe (2016).



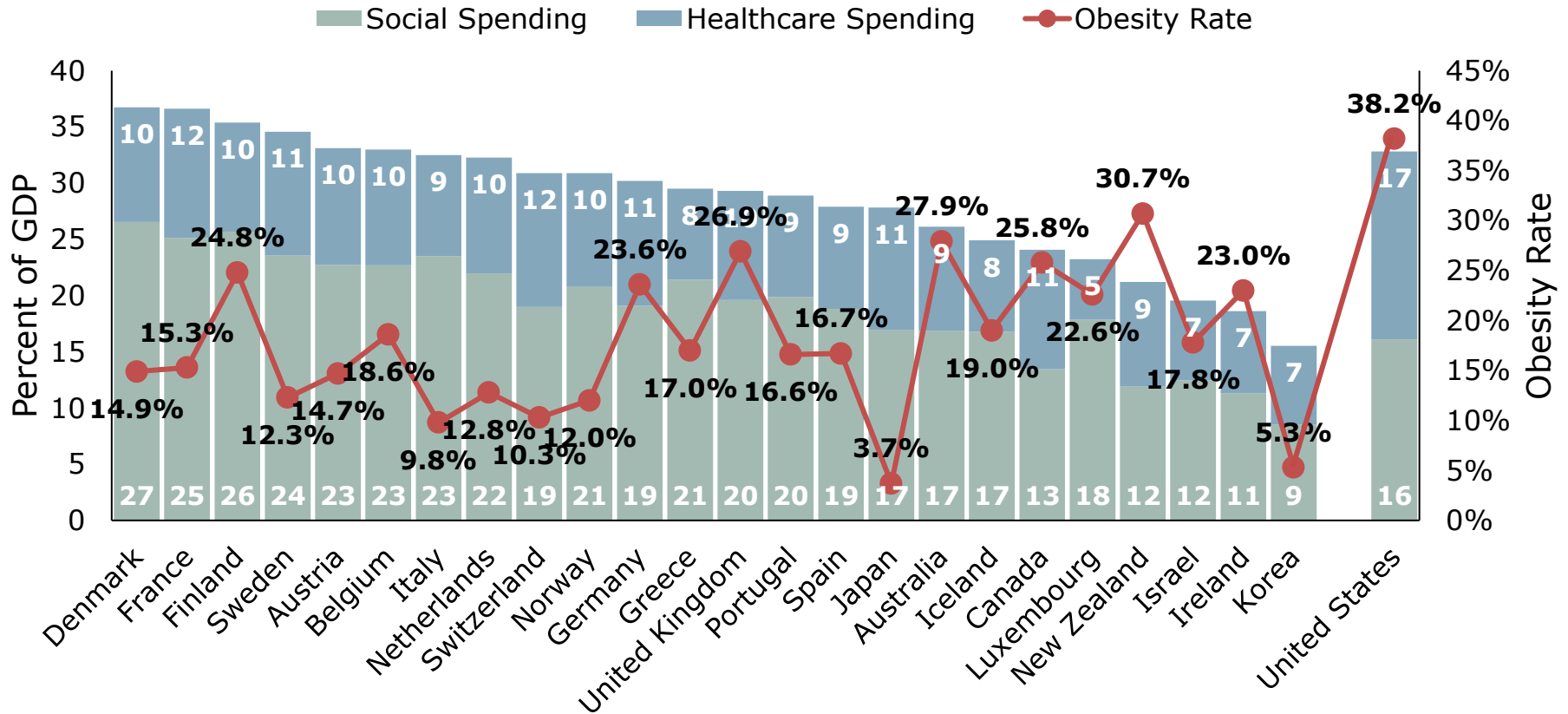
# U.S. life expectancy trails behind OECD nations



Source: Rubin, Jennifer, et al. "Are better health outcomes related to social expenditure." Cambridge (UK): RAND Europe (2016).

Source: OECD (2020), Life expectancy at birth (indicator). doi: 10.1787/27e0fc9d-en (Accessed on 09 January 2020)

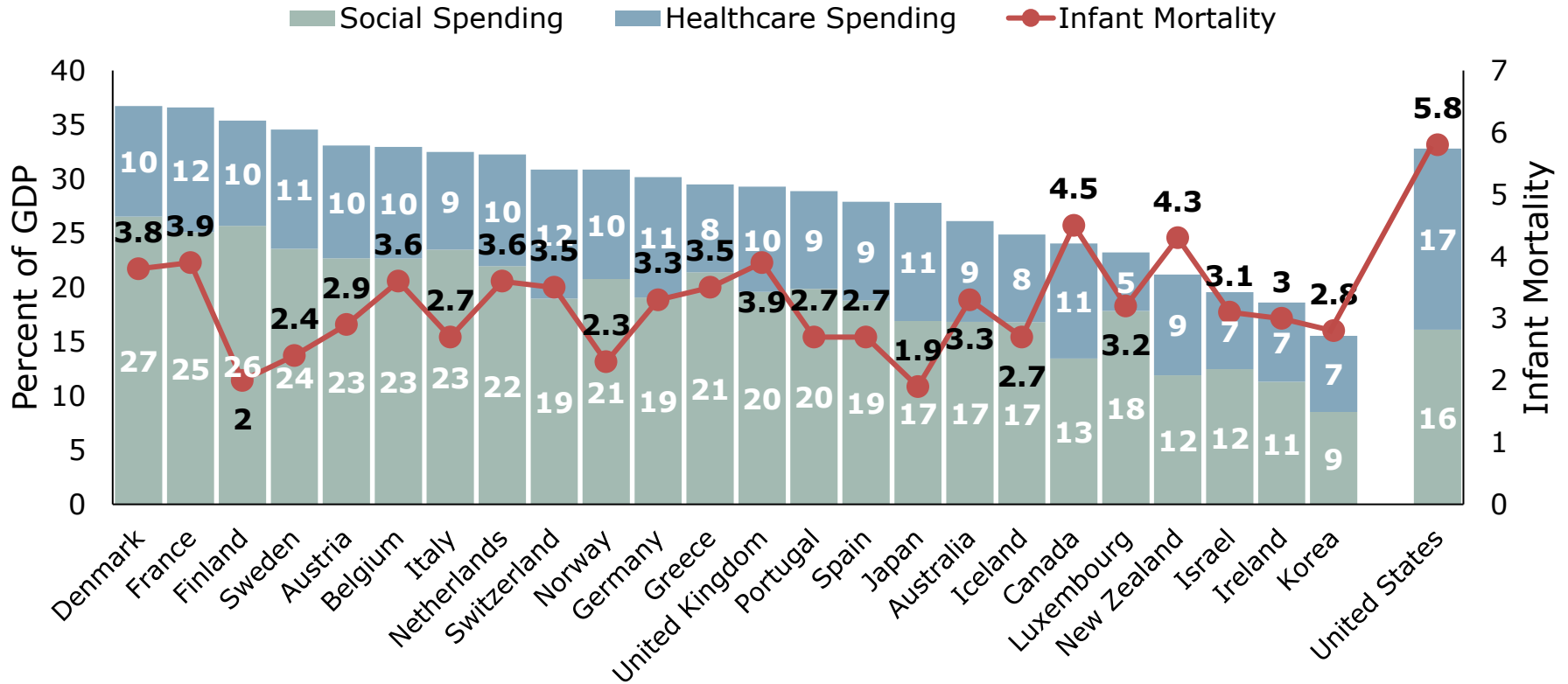
# U.S. obesity rate higher among OECD nations



Source: Rubin, Jennifer, et al. "Are better health outcomes related to social expenditure." Cambridge (UK): RAND Europe (2016).

Source: OECD (2017), OECD Health Statistics 2017. <http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data>.

# U.S. infant mortality highest among OECD nations



Source: Rubin, Jennifer, et al. "Are better health outcomes related to social expenditure." Cambridge (UK): RAND Europe (2016).

Source: OECD (2020), Infant mortality rates (indicator). doi: 10.1787/83dea506-en

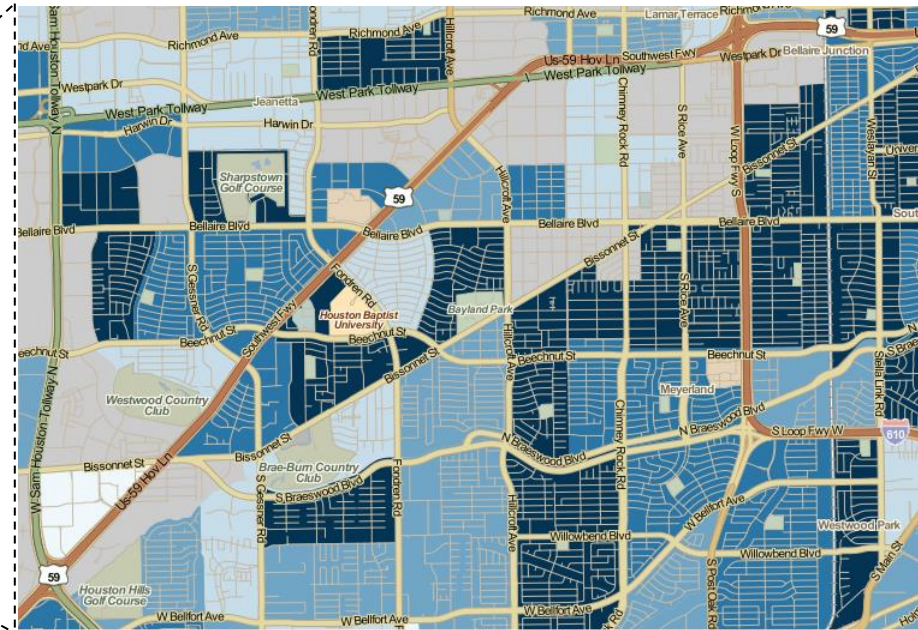
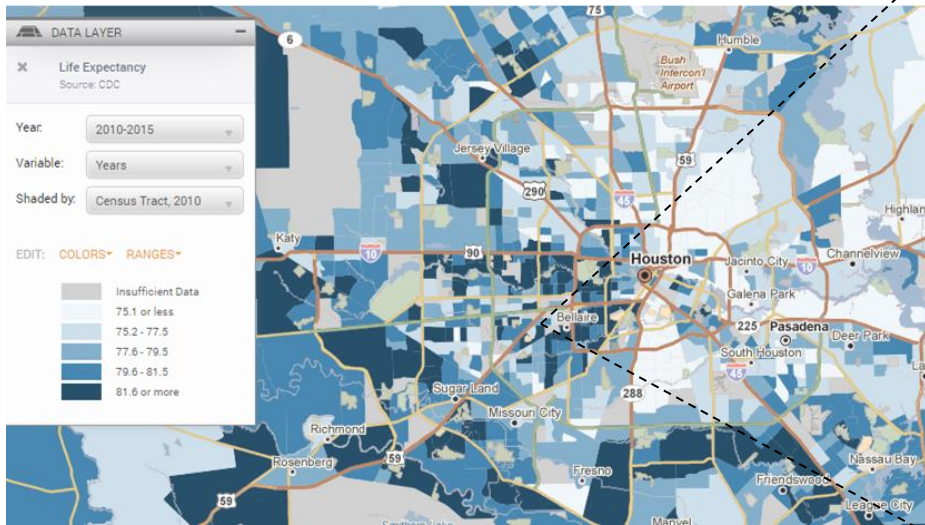


# Social, economic, and behavioral factors exacerbate the effects of COVID-19





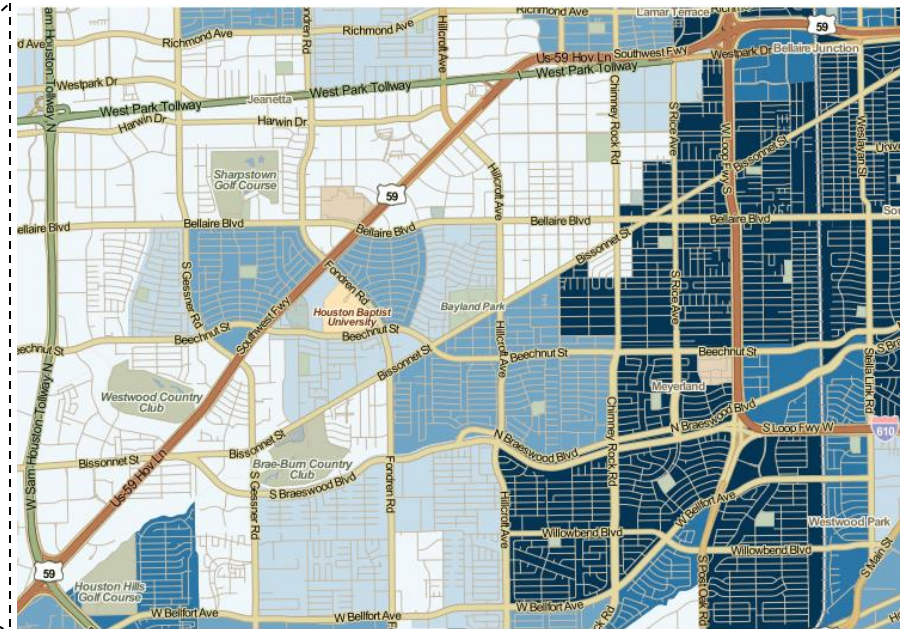
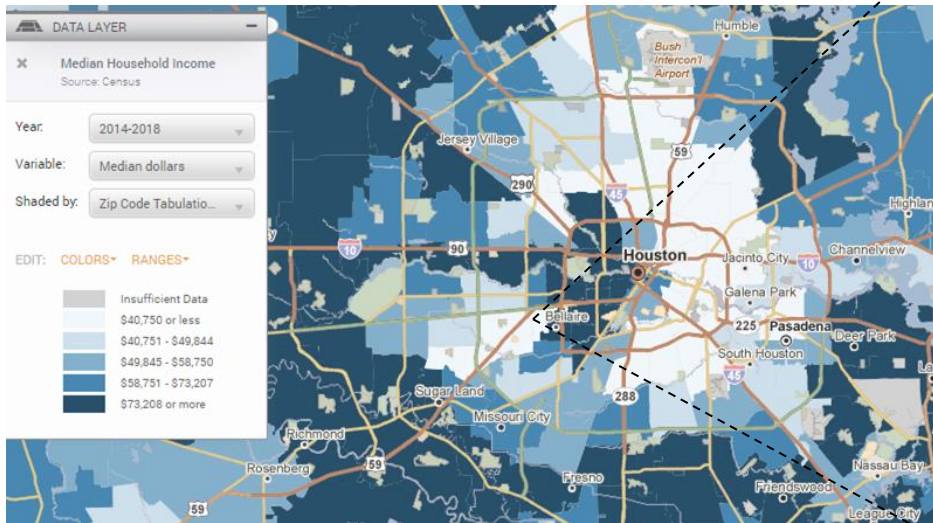
# Life expectancy in Harris County



Source: PolicyMap, [Life Expectancy at Birth](#)



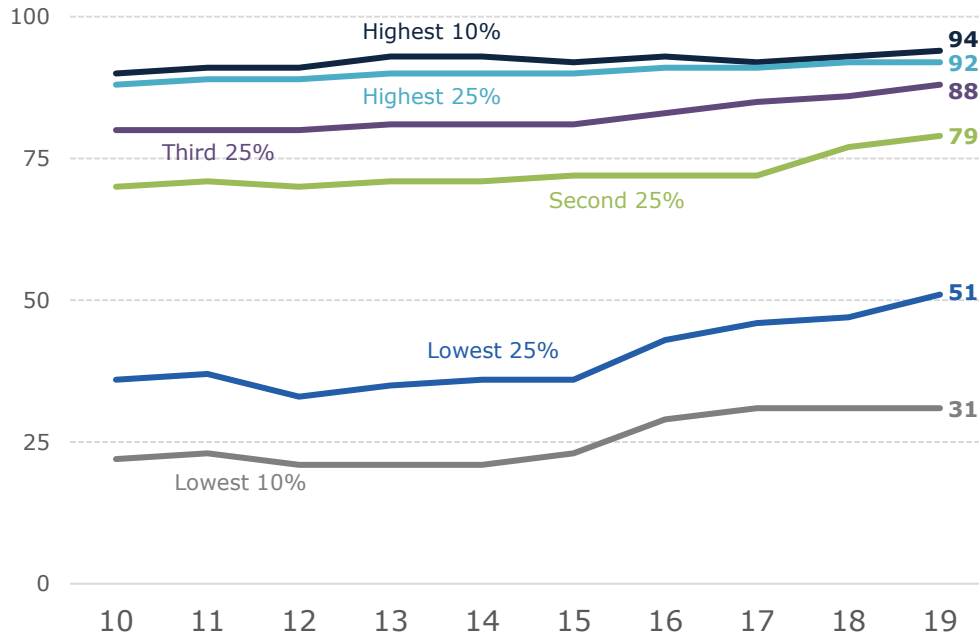
# Median household income in Harris County



Source: PolicyMap, [Median Household Income](#)

# Case vulnerability: Low-income workers face trade-off going to work or losing their livelihood

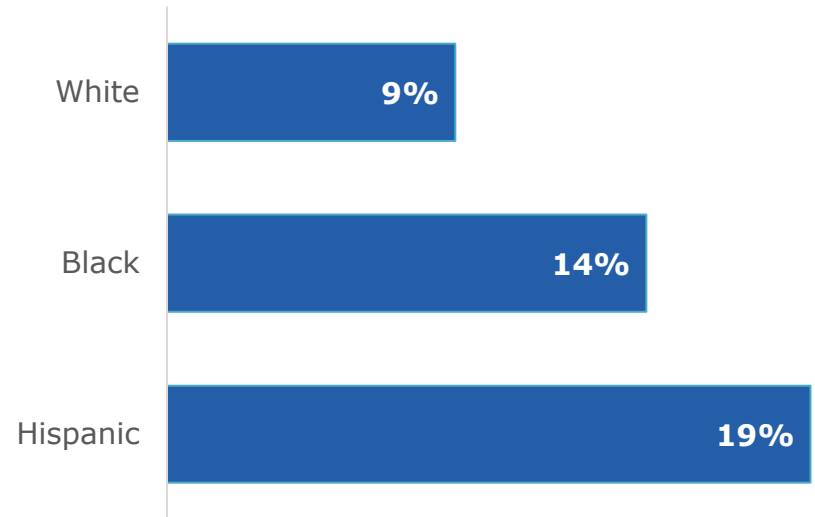
Low-income workers are far less likely to have **paid sick leave**



Source: U.S. BLS, 2019 National Compensation Survey

Workers of color are more likely to earn **poverty-level wages**

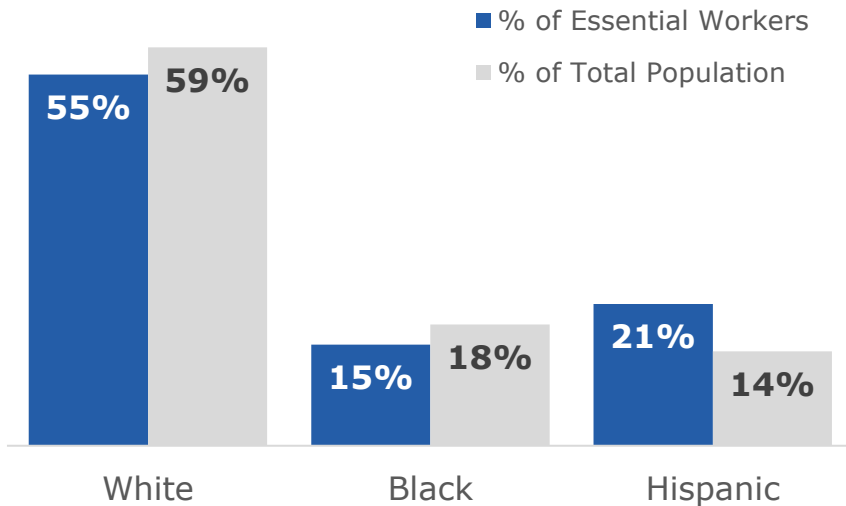
*share of workers earning poverty-level wages in 2017*



Source: Economic Policy Institute, [Workers of Color are Far More Likely to be Paid Poverty-Level Wages than White Workers](#)

# Case vulnerability: People of color face higher exposure as they represent a large share of frontline, essential workers

Hispanics account for a disproportionate number of **frontline essential workers**



Source: Economic Policy Institute, [Who Are Essential Workers?](#)

The pandemic's hardest hit population consists of **12 million** foreign-born workers



...yet many relief efforts exclude **immigrants**

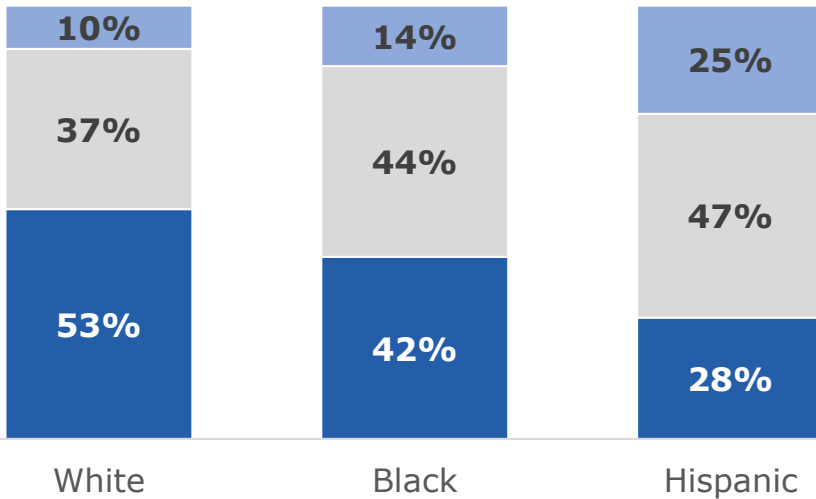
Source: Migration Policy Institute, [Immigrant Workers: Vital to the U.S. COVID-19 Response, Disproportionately Vulnerable](#)



# Case vulnerability: Crowded living conditions interfere with social distancing and self-isolation efforts

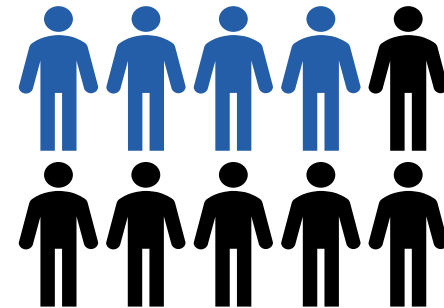
People of color have **larger households** than their white counterparts

■ Two-Person ■ Three or Four-Person ■ Five-Person or More



Source: Statista, [Race and Ethnicity of U.S. Households in 2015, by Size](#)

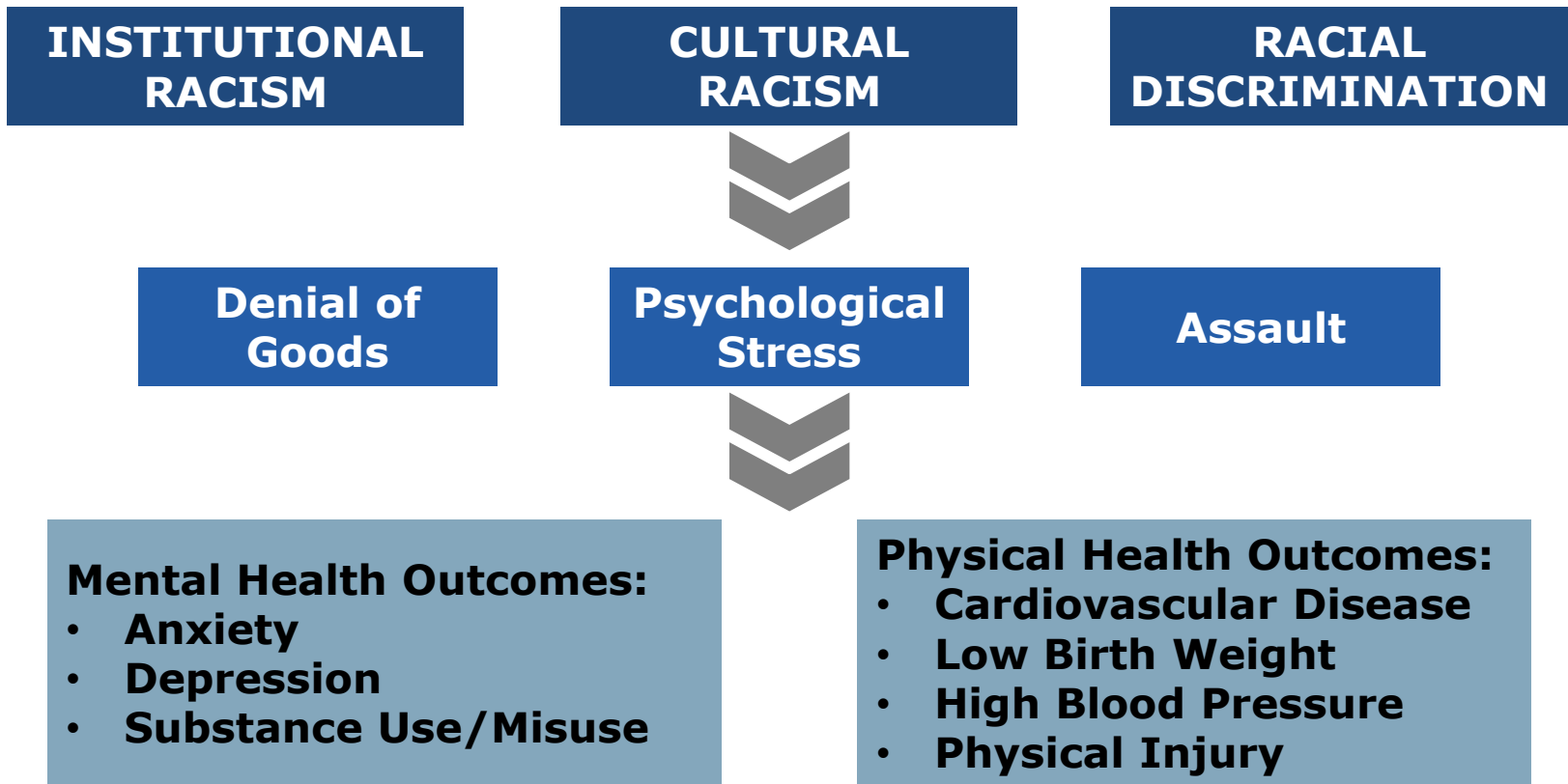
**41%** of African Americans live in areas with multiunit residential buildings



...compared to **23%** of whites

Source: KFF, [Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges Due to COVID-19](#)

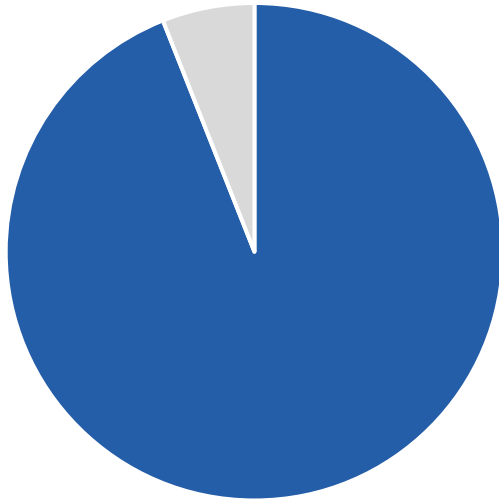
# Case vulnerability: Racism and racial discrimination are linked to adverse health outcomes



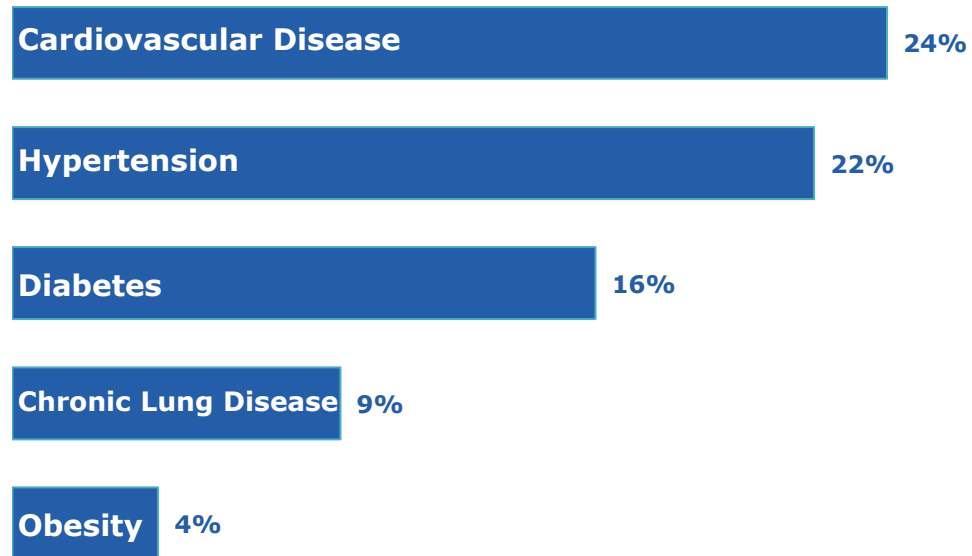
Source: Paradies, Y, et al. Racism as a determinant of health: a protocol for conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis. Systematic Reviews. 2013.

# Outcome vulnerability: COVID-19 is more severe for those with underlying chronic conditions

**94%** of COVID-19 deaths had one or more **underlying chronic conditions**



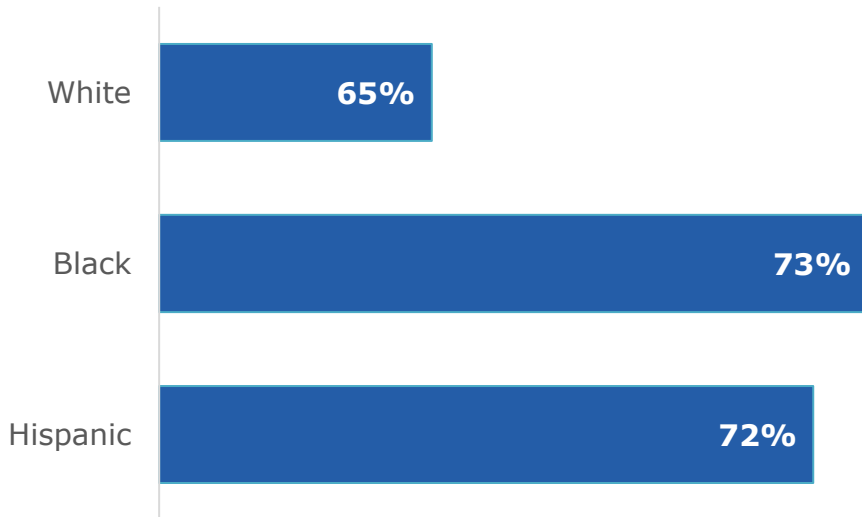
Most reported **underlying chronic conditions** among deaths due to COVID-19



Source: CDC, [Daily Updates of Totals by Week and State](#)

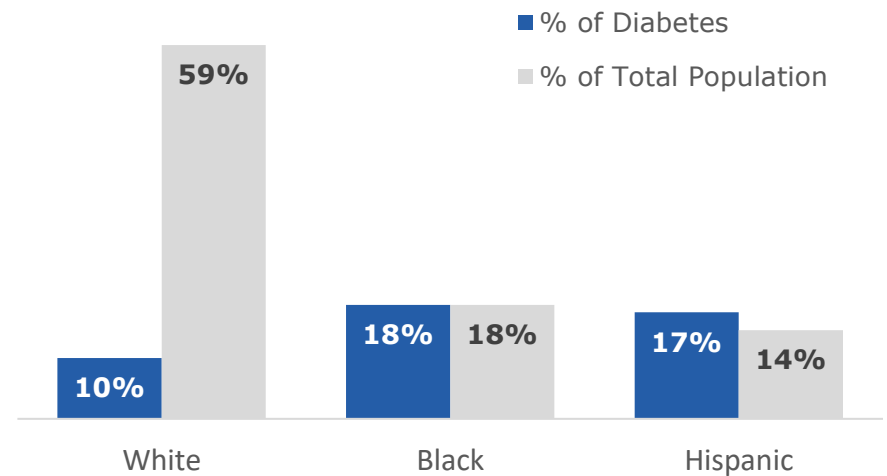
# Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately burdened with chronic disease

People of color are more likely to report being **overweight or obese** than their white counterparts



Source: KFF, [Adults Who Report They Are Overweight or Obese by Race/Ethnicity](#)

**Diabetes prevalence** is higher among minority populations

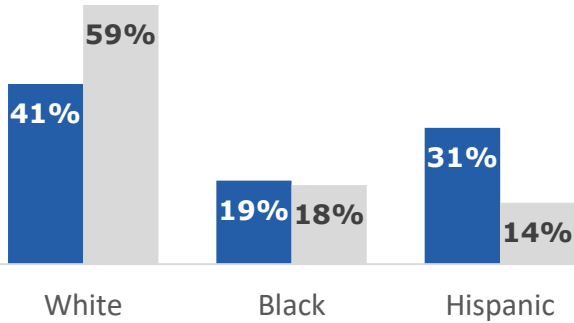


Source: CDC, [Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health](#)

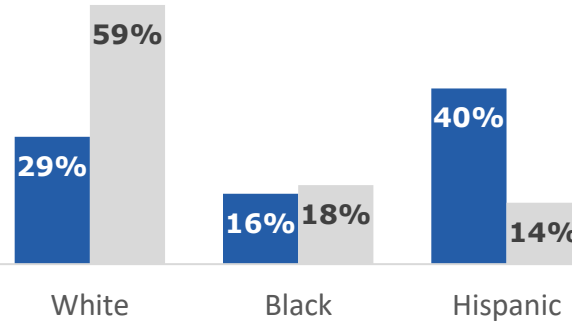
# COVID-19 cases and deaths by race/ethnicity: U.S., Texas, Harris County

■ % of Cases  
■ % of Deaths  
■ % of Total Population

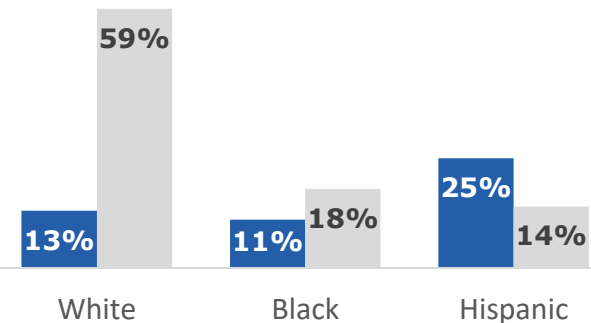
## Total Cases in U.S.



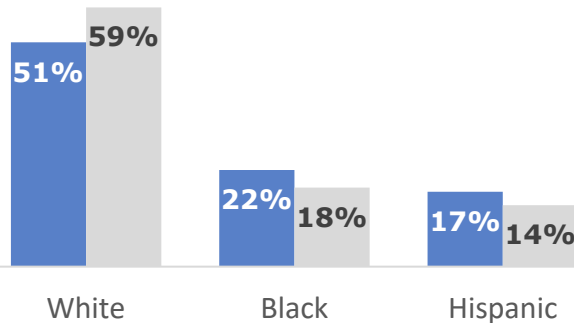
## Total Cases in Texas



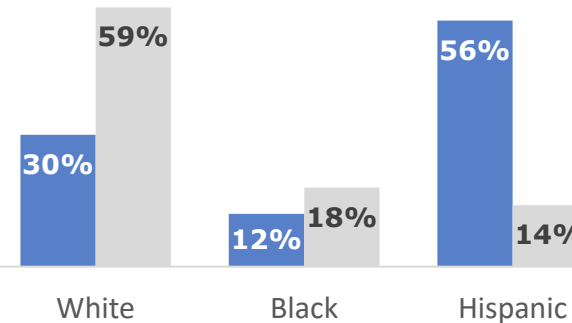
## Total Cases in Harris County



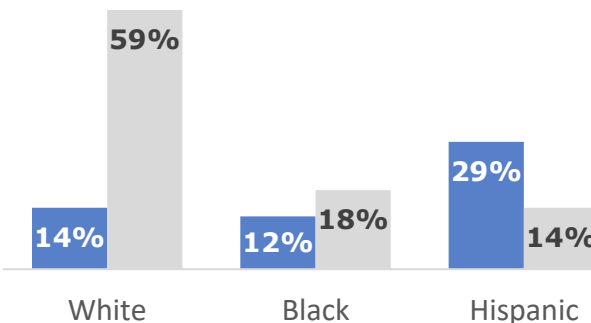
## Total Deaths in U.S.



## Total Deaths in Texas



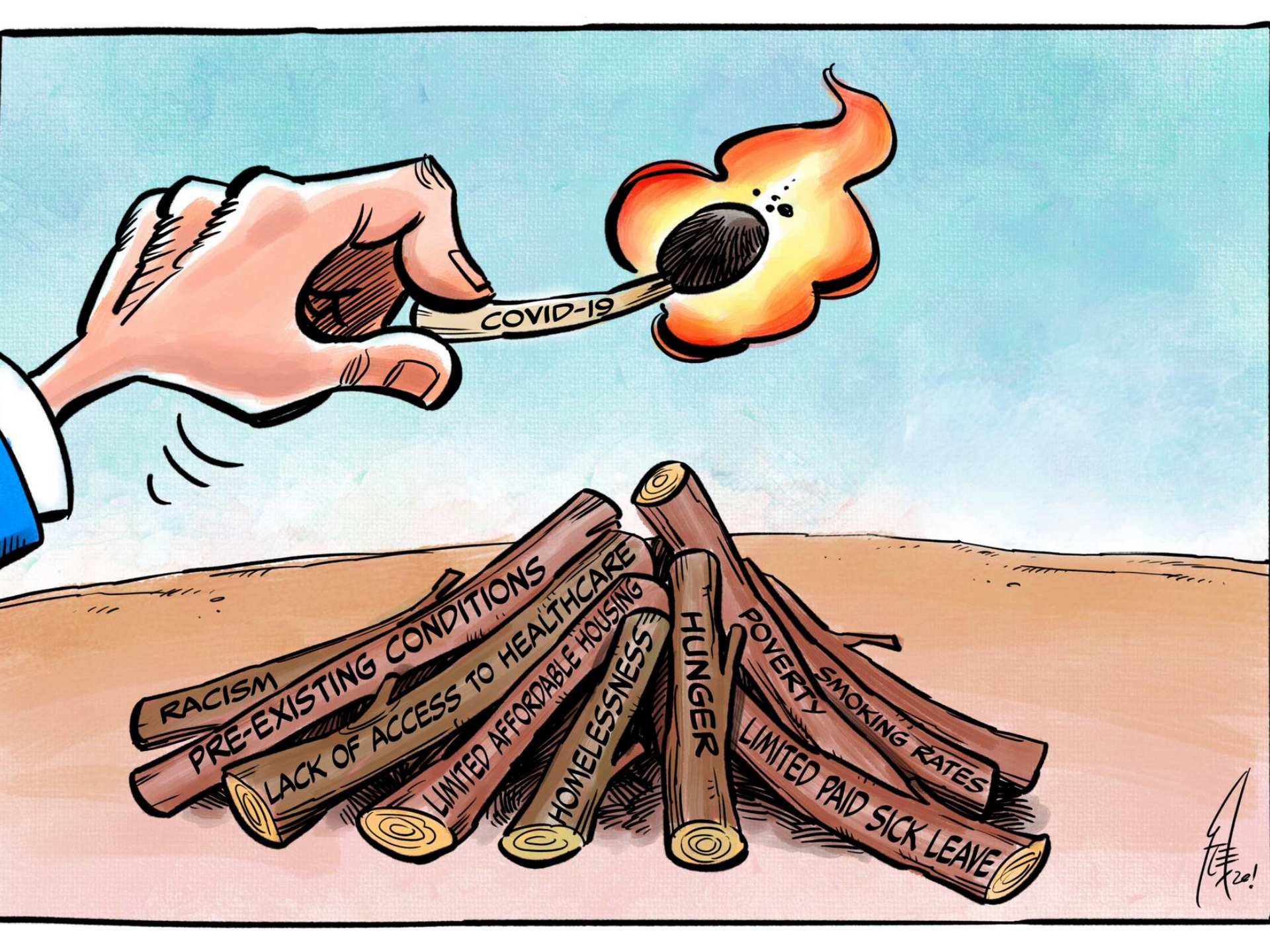
## Total Deaths in Harris County



Source: CDC, [CDC COVID Data Tracker](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/data-tracker/), data retrieved 9/4/2020

Source: TX DSHS, [Texas Case Counts COVID-19](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/covid19/covid19-cases), data retrieved 9/4/2020

Source: Harris County, [Harris County/Houston COVID-19 Cases](https://www.harriscounty-houston.gov/covid19/cases), data retrieved 9/4/2020



COVID-19

RACISM

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

LIMITED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HOMELESSNESS

HUNGER

POVERTY

SMOKING RATES

LIMITED PAID SICK LEAVE

2020

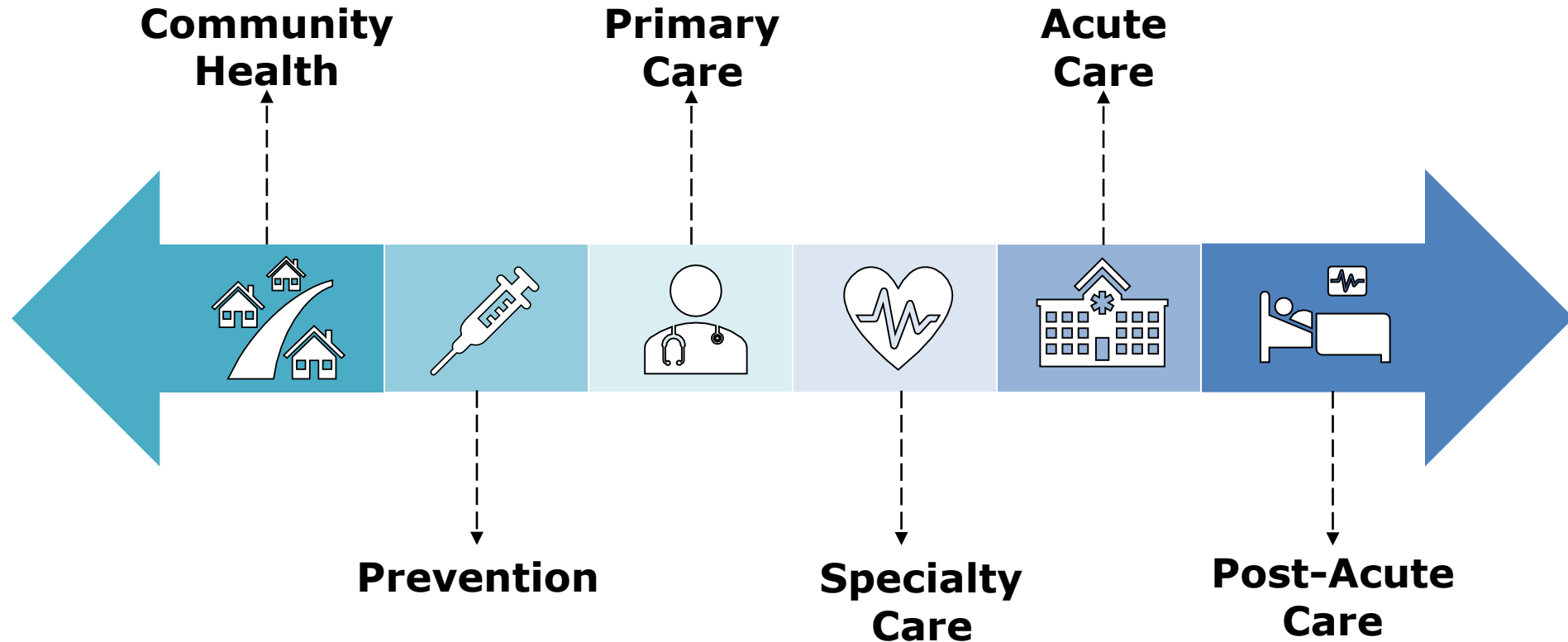


**As we rebuild the system post-COVID, our strategy must be different**

**We must move upstream**



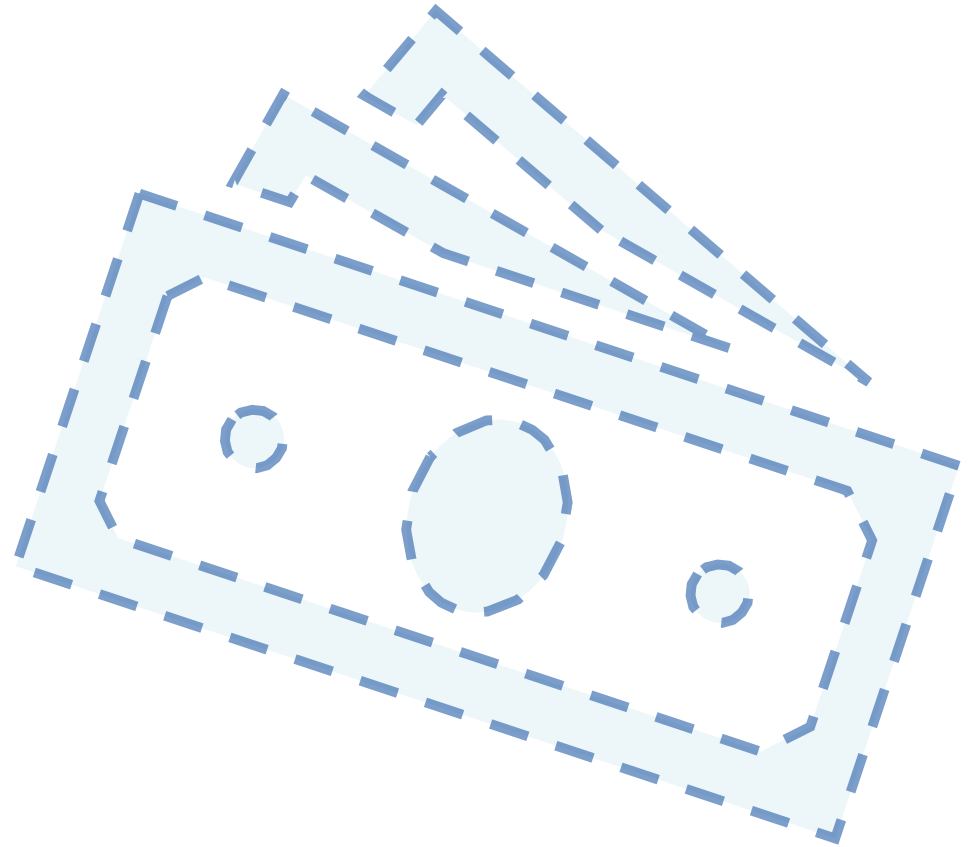
# The healthy system continuum







# What will it take?





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# THANK YOU!

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