

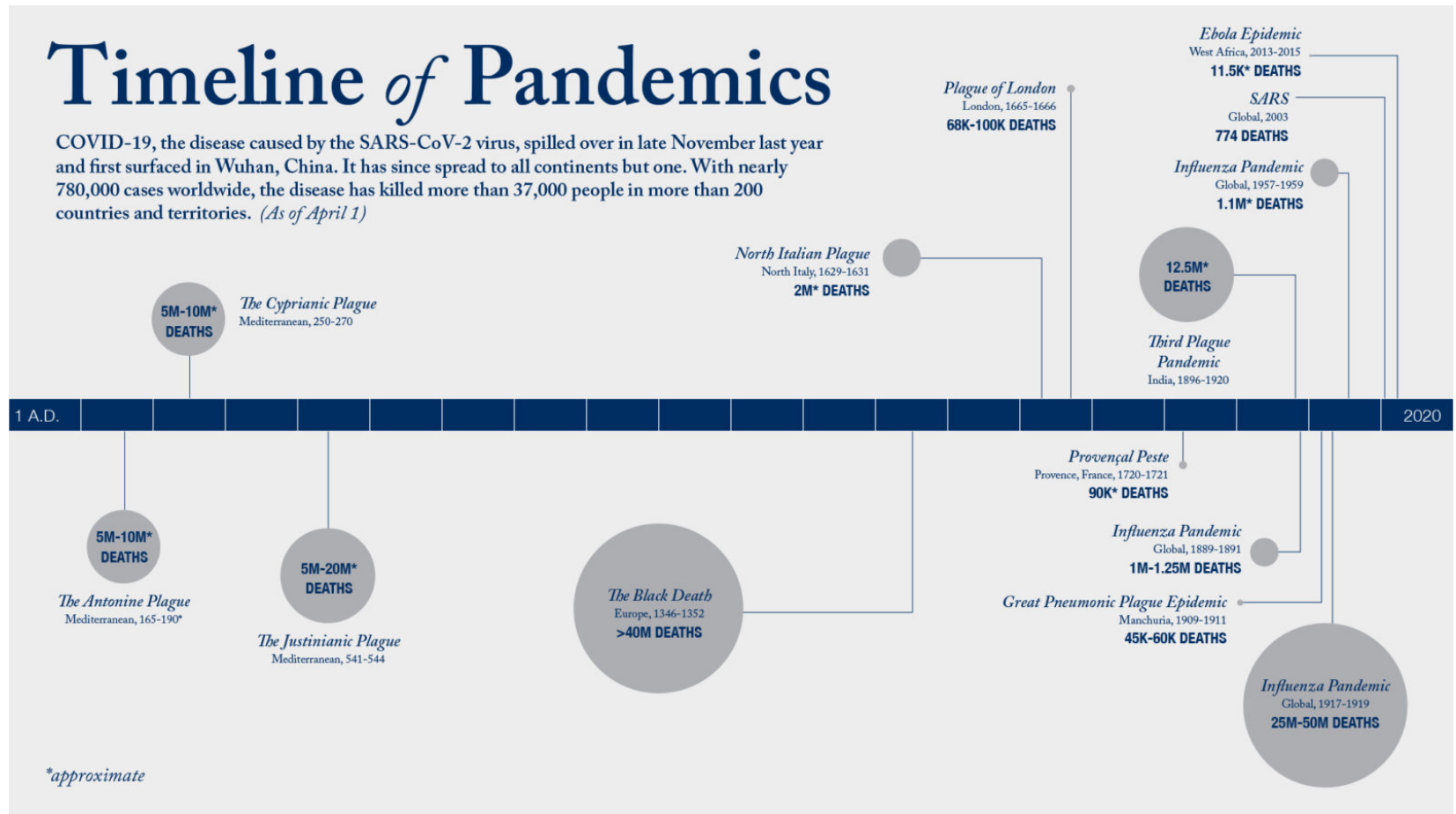
Medical System Reform to Reduce Pandemic Disease

David M. Cutler

Department of Economics, Harvard University

September 23, 2021

Outbreaks Have Become More Common in Recent Years



The Cost of COVID-19 in the US

Table. Estimated Economic Cost of the COVID-19 Crisis

Category	Cost (billions), US\$
Lost GDP	7592
Health loss	
Premature death	4375
Long-term health impairment	2572
Mental health impairment	1581
Total	16 121
Total for a family of 4	196 475
% of annual GDP	90

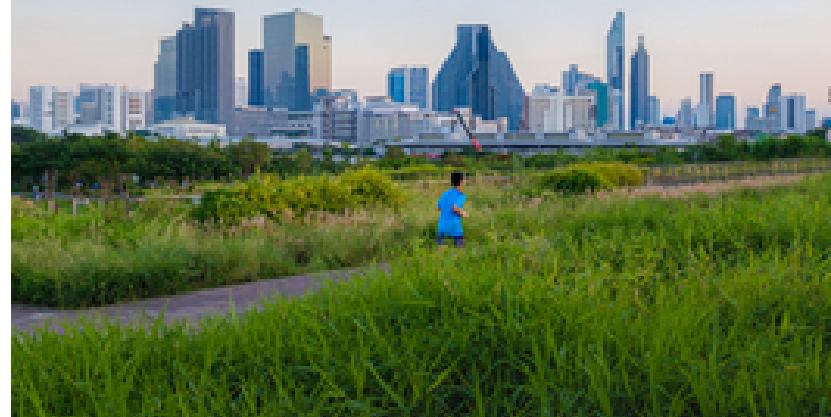
Abbreviation: GDP, gross domestic product.

Three
policies to
reduce the
risk of
pandemic
disease

SURVIVAL OF THE CITY

LIVING AND THRIVING
IN AN AGE OF ISOLATION

EDWARD GLAESER AND
DAVID CUTLER



Which is the bigger threat?



Lesson 1 - Global

1. We need an international, scientific organization to reduce the spread of pandemic disease
 - Police countries
 - Promote sanitary interventions
 - Regulate human-animal interactions
 - Monitor outbreaks
 - Foster containment

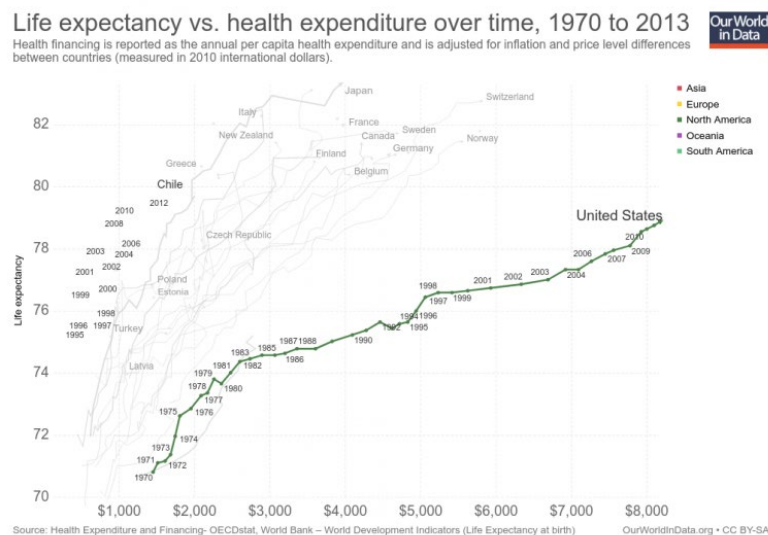


The US is an increasing outlier

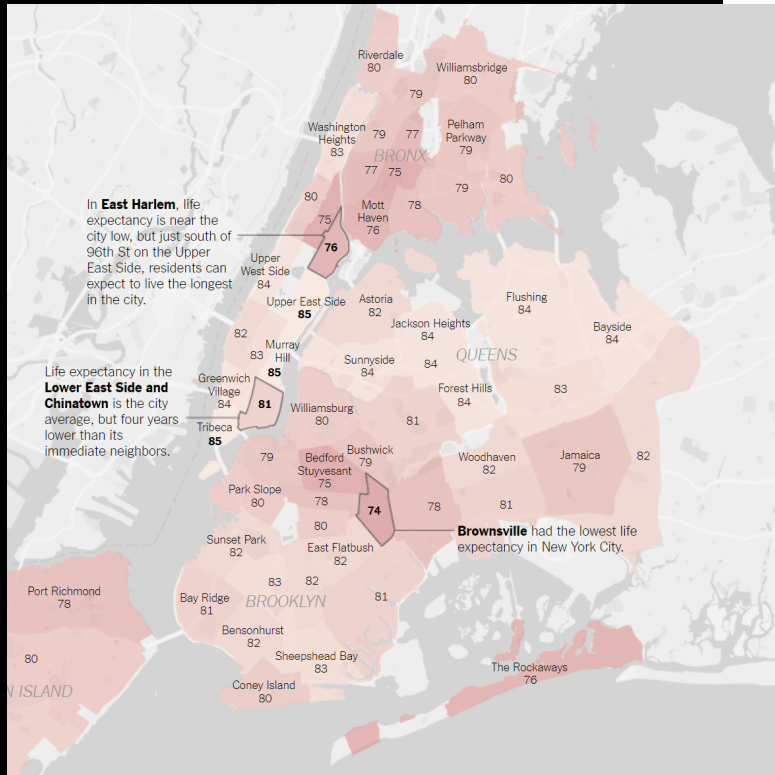
Lesson 2 – National (US)

2. The health care system needs to move from one based on paying bills when people get sick to promoting health.

- Even \$4 trillion was not enough to treat pandemic well.
- Single payer countries are better at this, but not perfect.
 - Countries that did well were very focused on public health.
- A system that pays the bills but has little input on overall direction is bound to fail



The variability in life expectancy by area is immense.

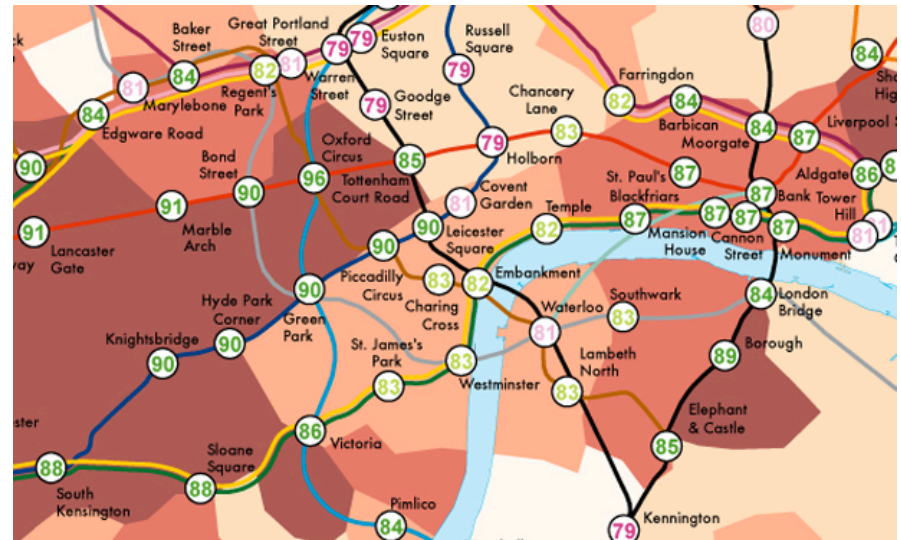


New York

Lesson 3 – Local

3. The personal is now public.
Poor health anywhere is a cause of disease everywhere.

- Risk factors for pandemic disease include smoking, obesity, unsafe sex, sharing needles.
- All cities have areas of poor health. Pandemic makes that a crisis.



London

One picture we do not want to add to

