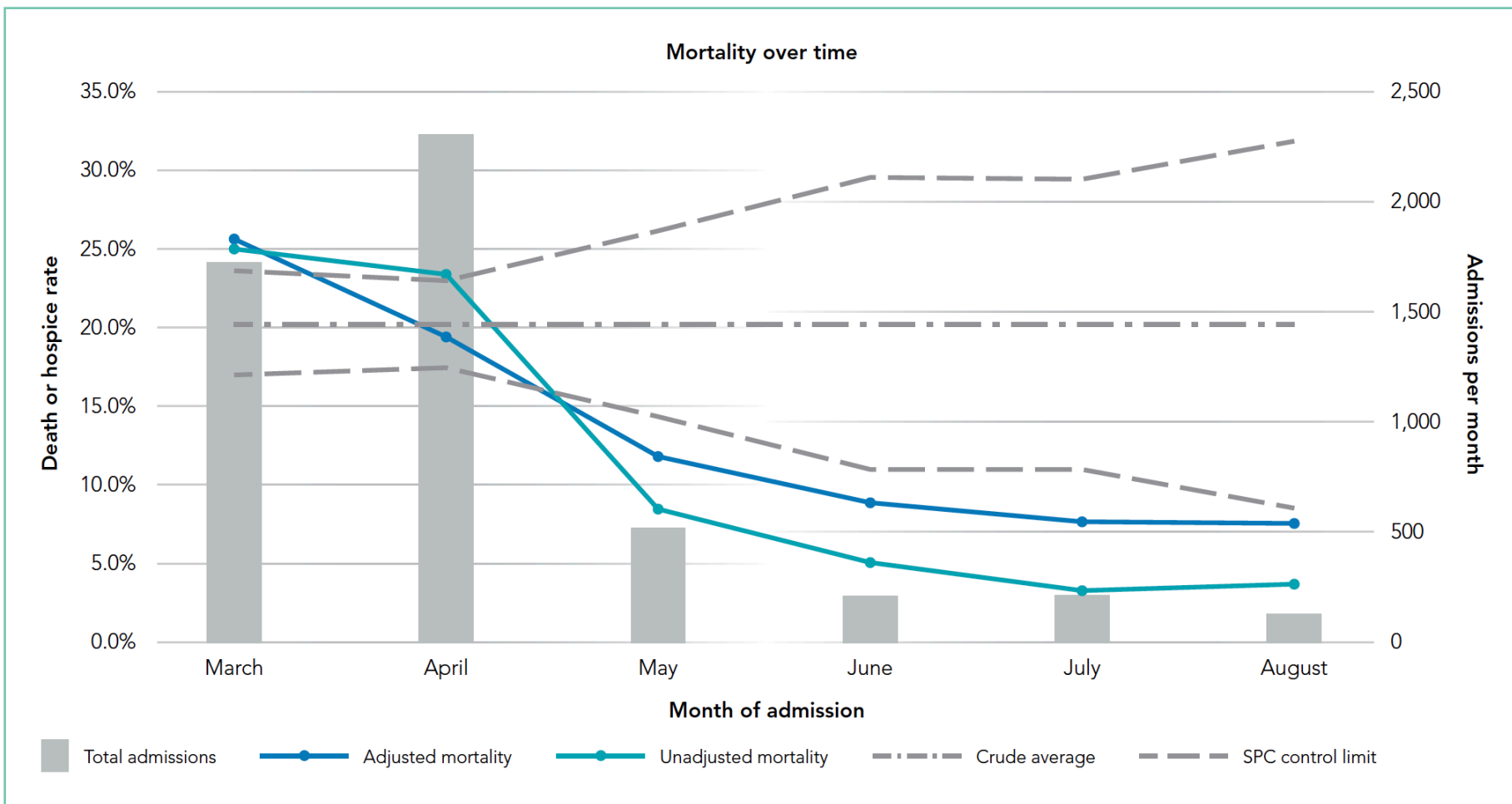


# COVID-19

What went wrong, why it did, how we can do better

Sandro Galea

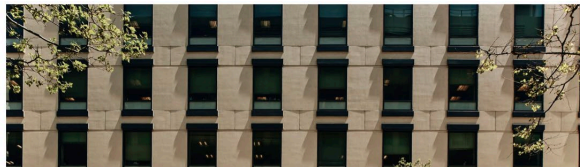
1. A lot went right during COVID-19



**FIG.** Adjusted and Unadjusted Mortality or Hospice Rate, by Month of Admission.

## Early Data Show Moderna's Coronavirus Vaccine Is 94.5% Effective

Moderna is the second company to report preliminary results from a large trial testing a vaccine. But there are still months to go before it will be widely available to the public.



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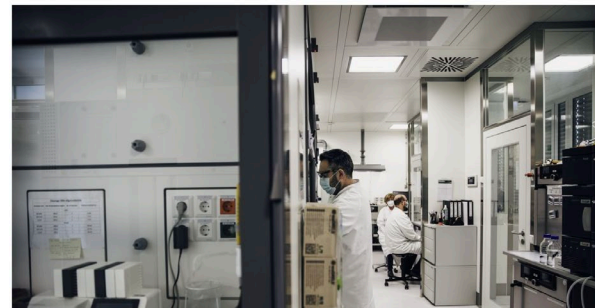
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BUSINESS | HEALTH CARE | HEALTH

## Pfizer's Covid-19 Vaccine Proves 90% Effective in Latest Trials

Drugmaker and partner BioNTech could seek FDA authorization by end of November

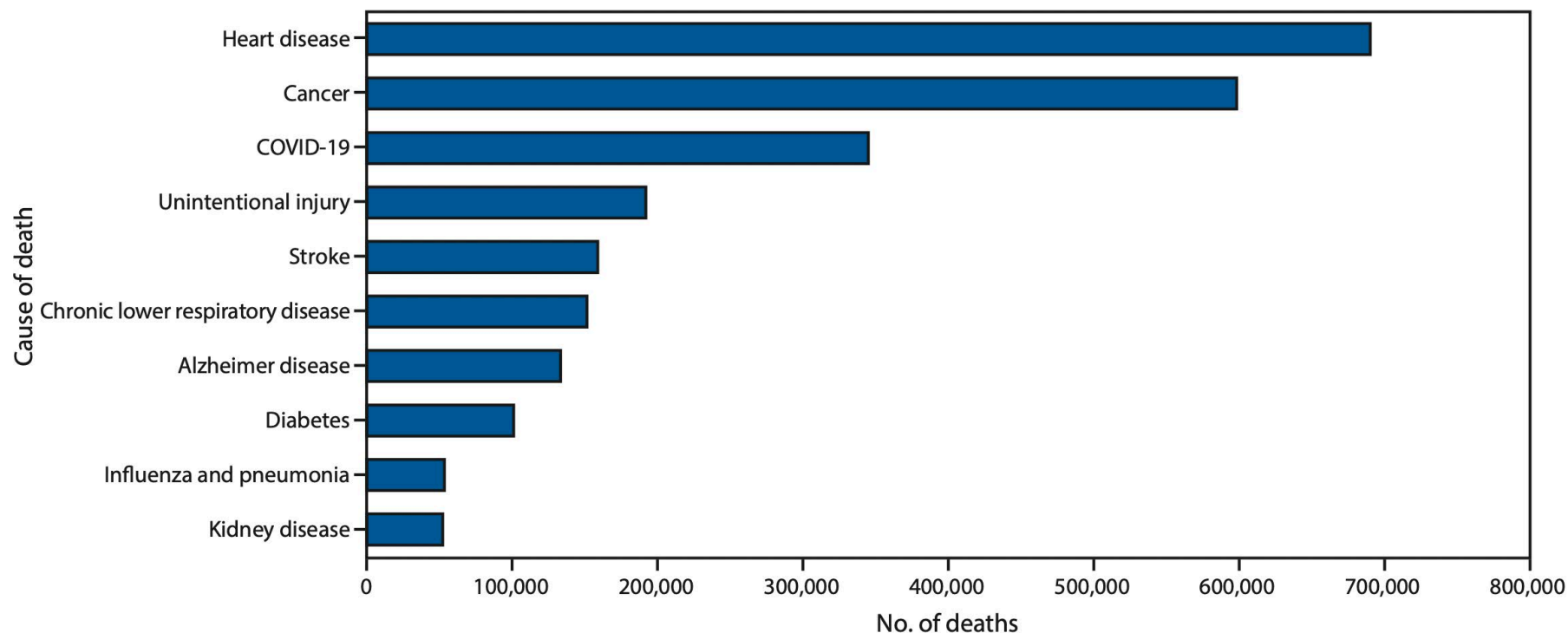


- BEST MEDICARE PLANS FOR SENIORS >
- BEST DROPS FOR DRY EYES >
- VITAMINS FOR HAIR LOSS >
- CAUSES OF MACULAR DEGENERATION >
- 2020 AVERAGE RETIREMENT INCOME >

2. So much went wrong



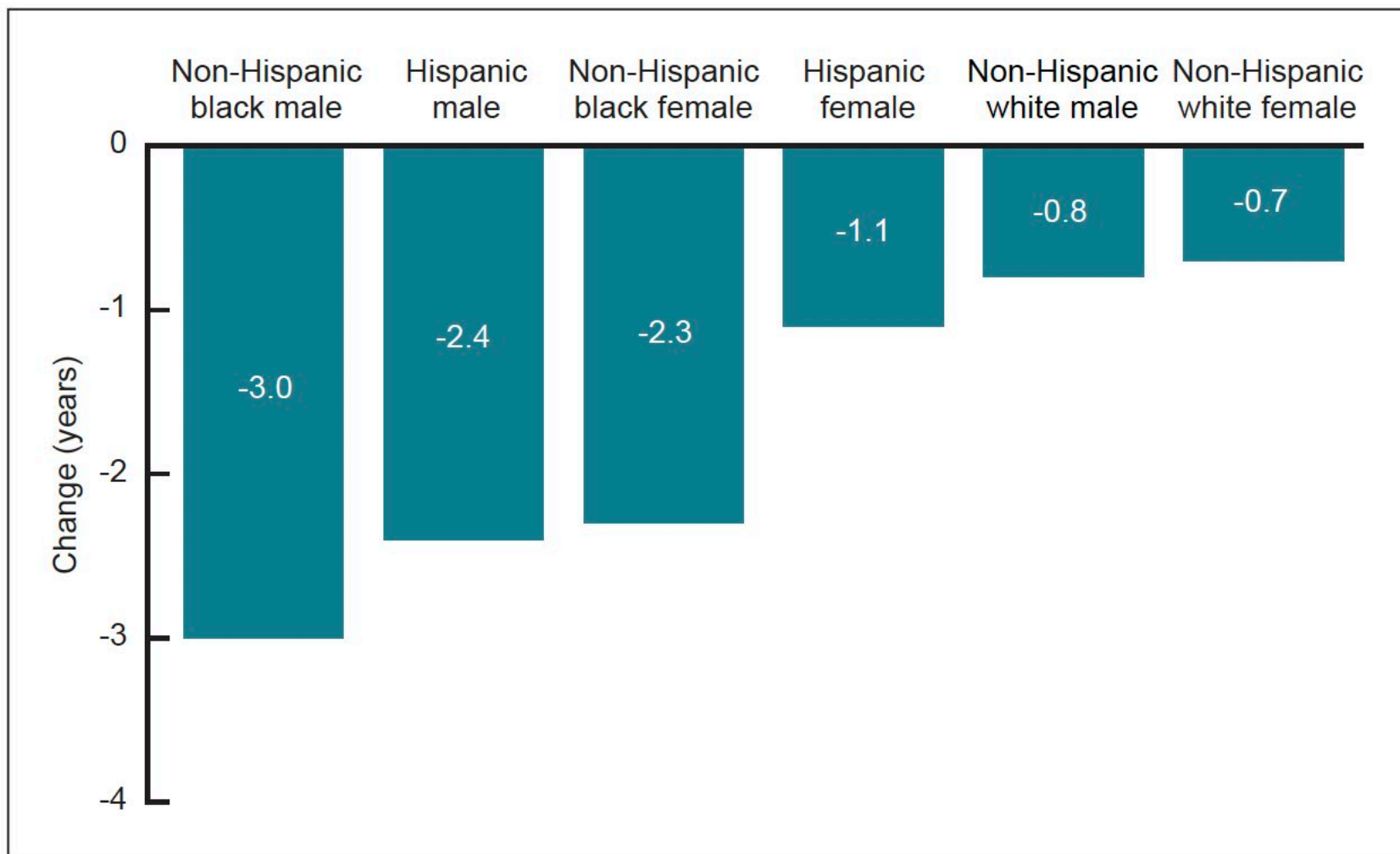
**FIGURE 2. Provisional\* number of leading underlying causes of death<sup>†</sup> — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2020**



\* National Vital Statistics System provisional data are incomplete. Data from December are less complete due to reporting lags. Deaths that occurred in the United States among residents of U.S. territories and foreign countries were excluded.

<sup>†</sup> Deaths for which COVID-19 was a contributing, but not the underlying, cause of death are not included in this figure.

Figure 4. Change in life expectancy at birth, by Hispanic origin and race and sex: United States, 2019 and 2020



NOTES: Life expectancies for 2019 by Hispanic origin and race are not final estimates; see Technical Notes. Estimates are based on provisional data from January 2020 through June 2020.

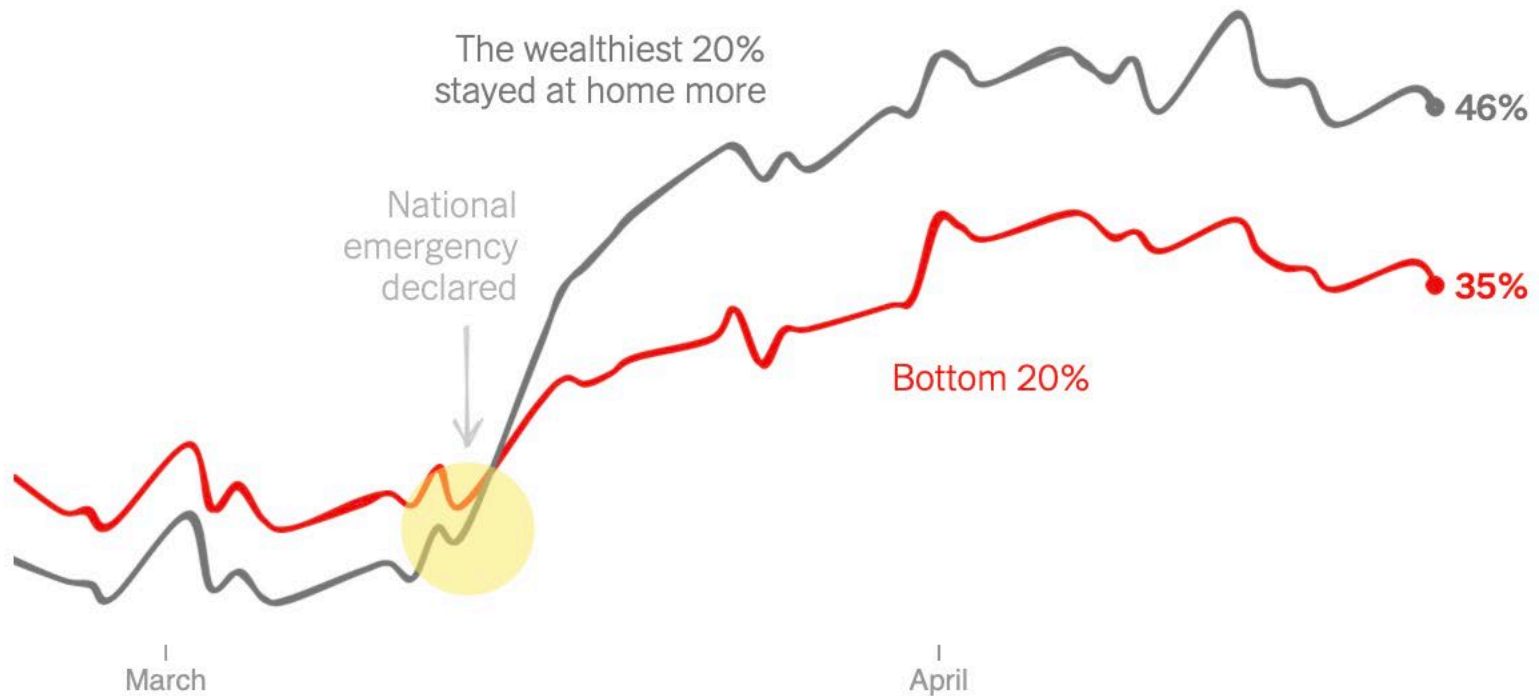
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality data.



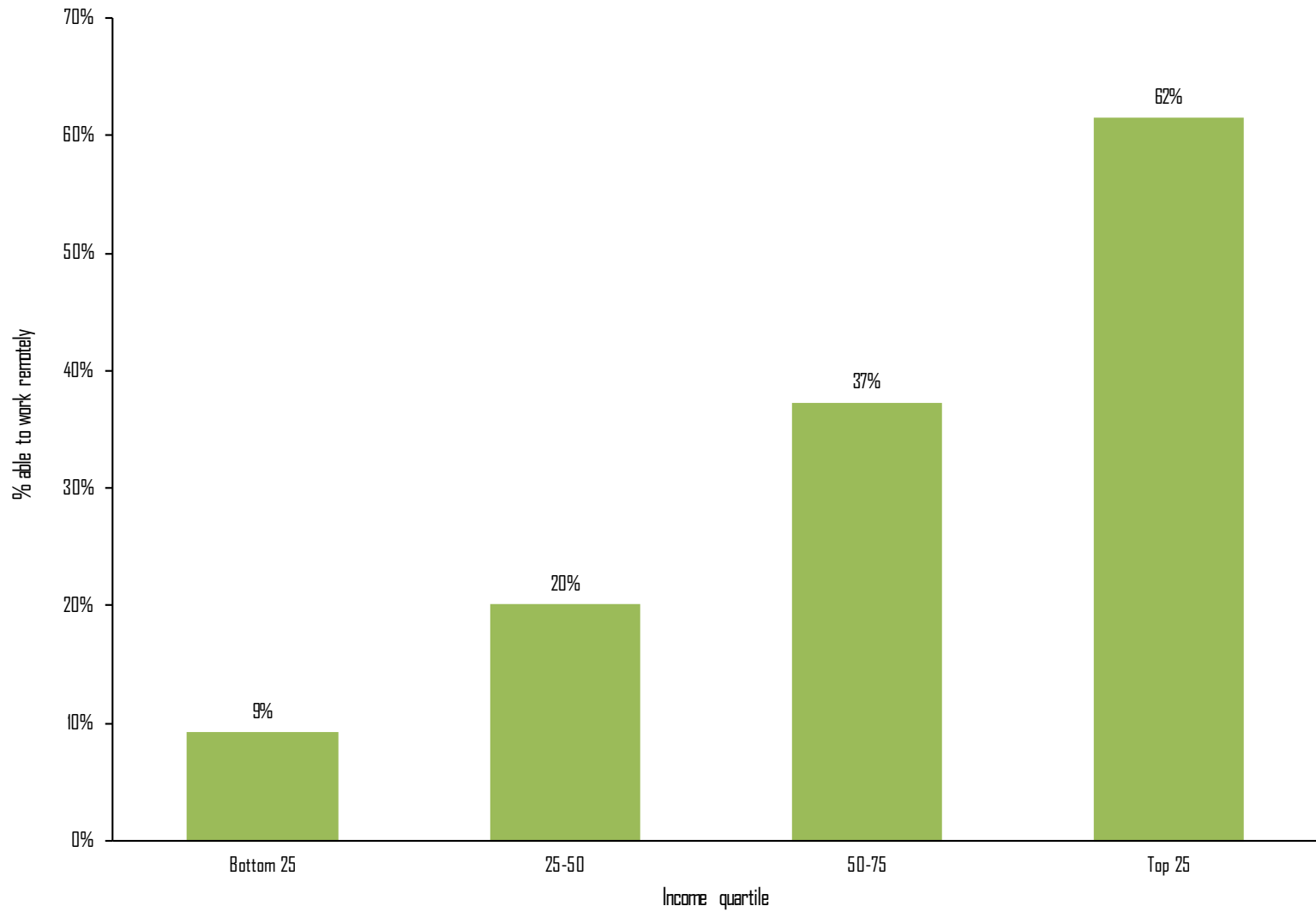
3. Why did it all go so wrong?

a. Inequitable unnecessary risk of getting COVID

## Share of population staying at home, by income group

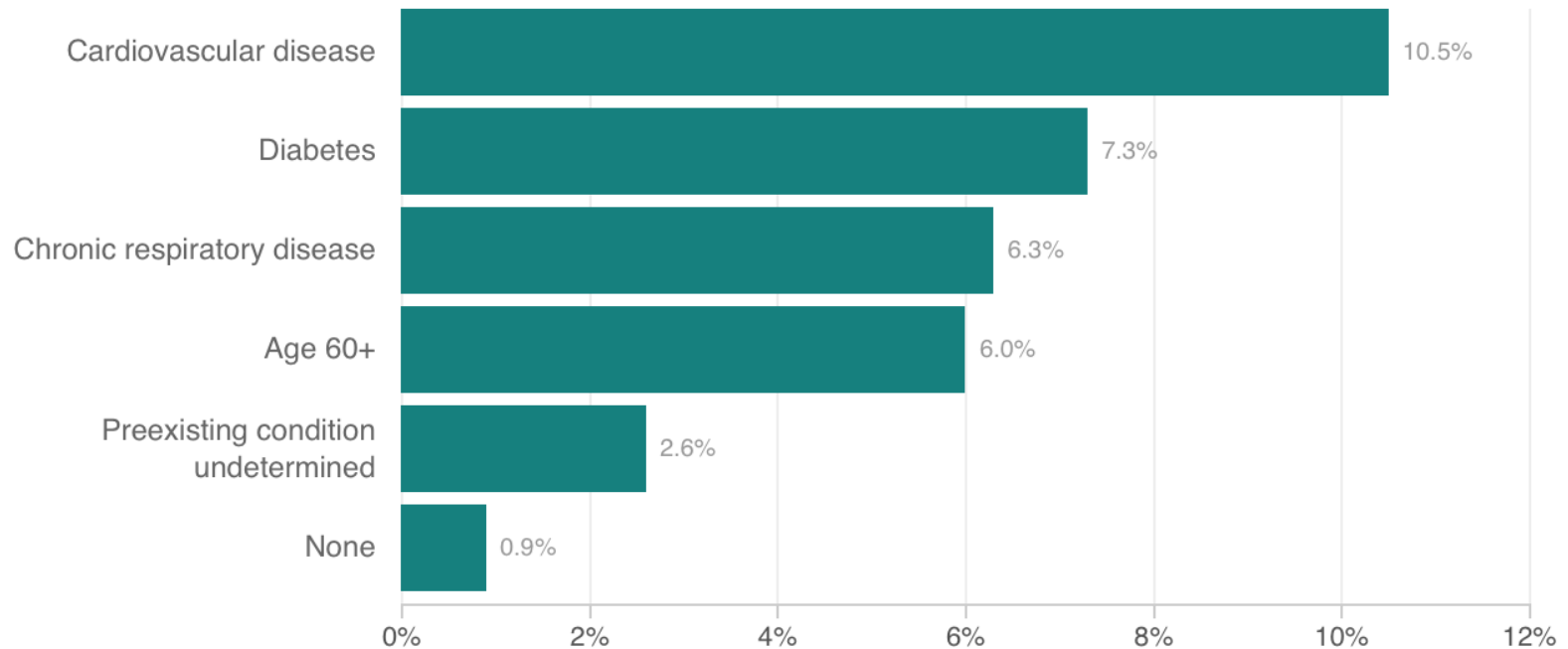


# Ability to work remotely



b. Inequitable risk of severe COVID

# Death Rate For COVID-19 Patients In China Higher For Those With Underlying Conditions

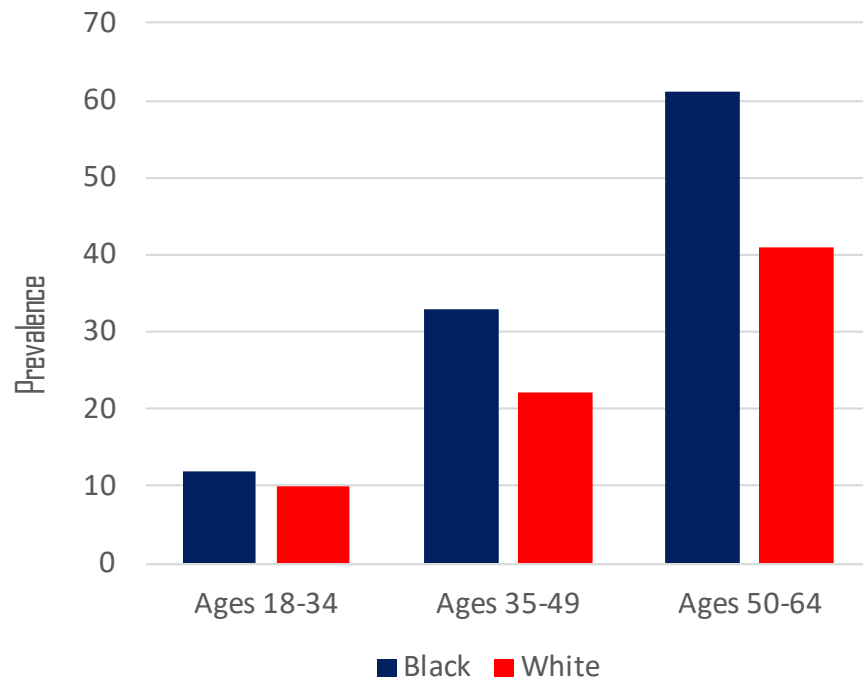


**Notes:** Preexisting condition death rates based on 504 deaths out of 20,812 cases.

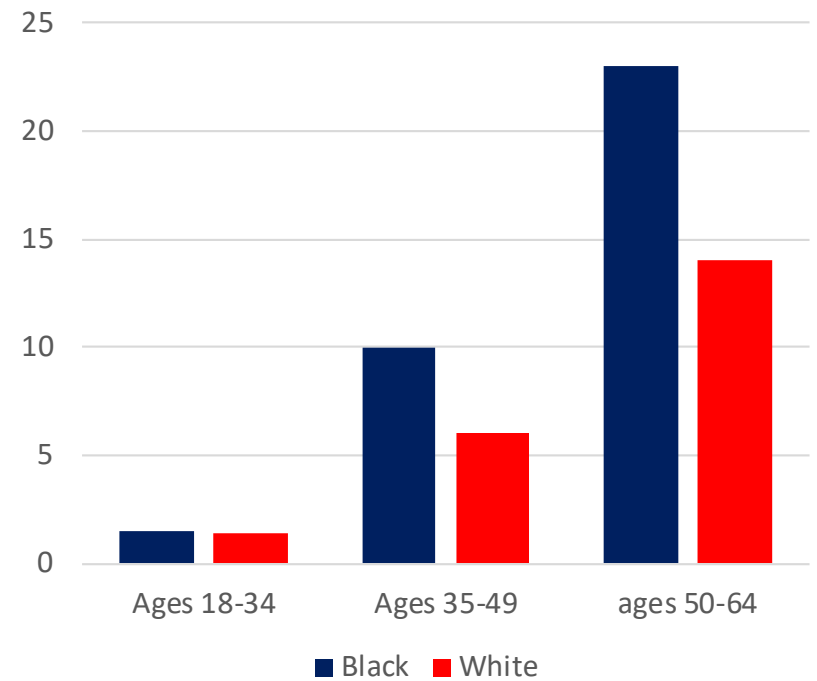
*Source: Chinese CDC*

*Credit: Ruth Talbot/NPR and Chris Zubak-Skees/Center for Public Integrity*

## High blood pressure



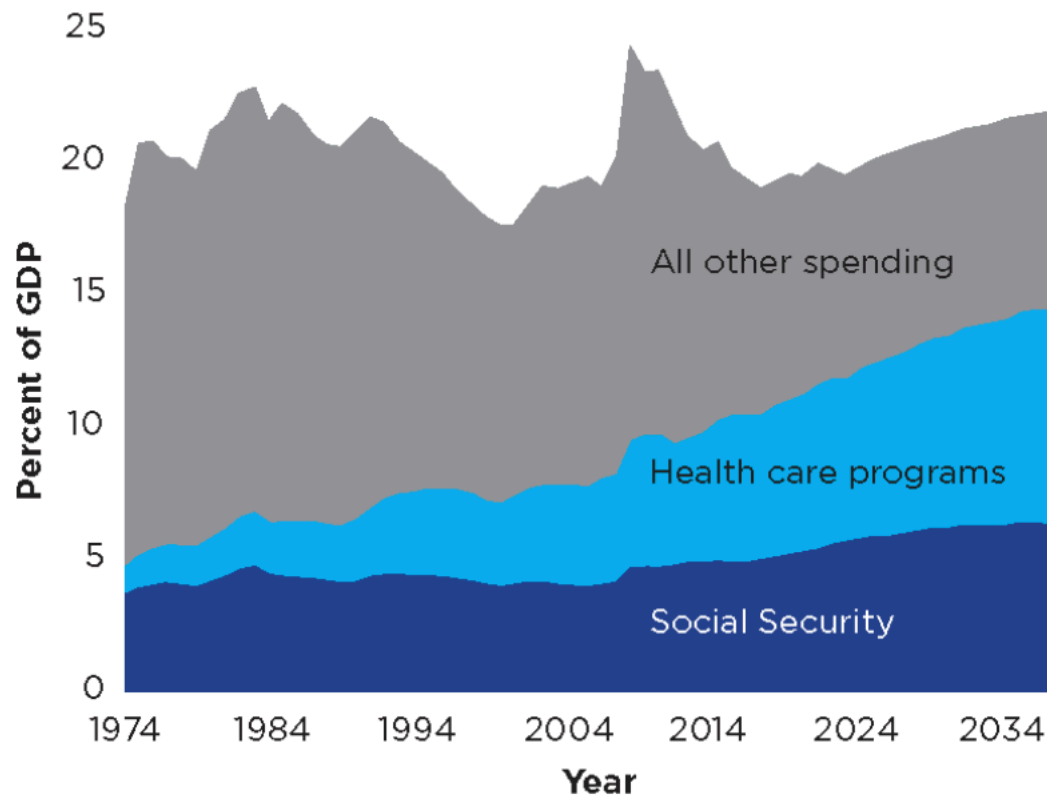
## Diabetes



4. Why did we get it wrong?



a. Inequitable underinvestment in what makes us healthy



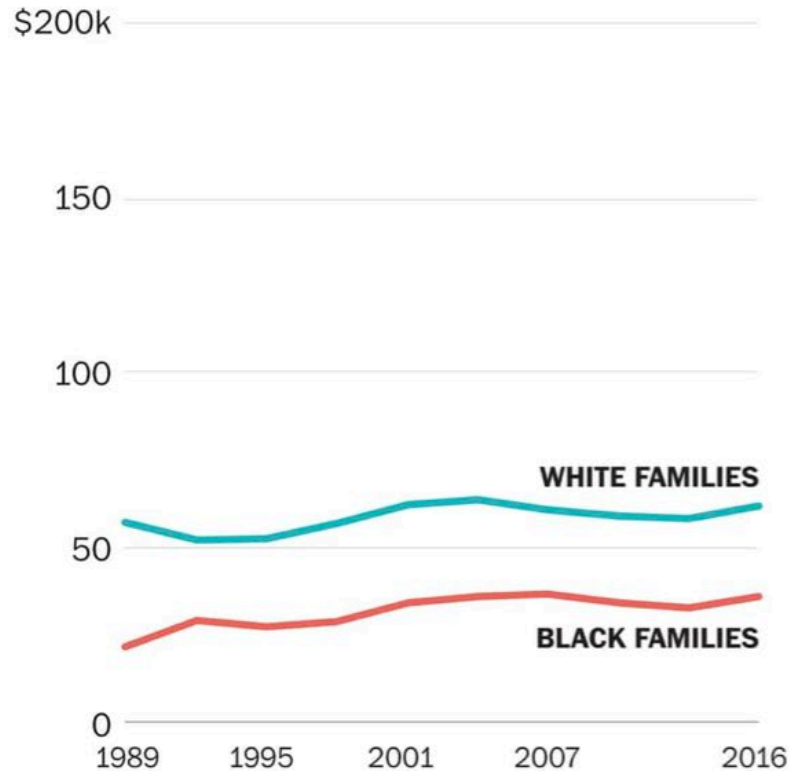
**Figure 3 |** Historical and projected federal spending: health care and other programs.

SOURCE: Data from Congressional Budget Office.

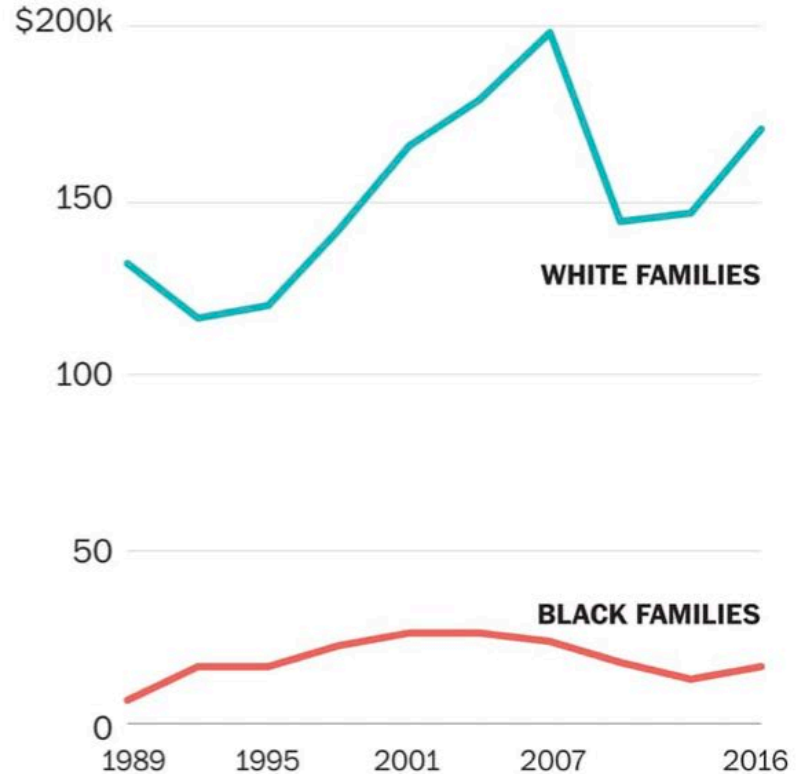
# Racial income and wealth gaps

Median income and wealth of black and white families over time, in 2016 dollars

## INCOME



## WEALTH

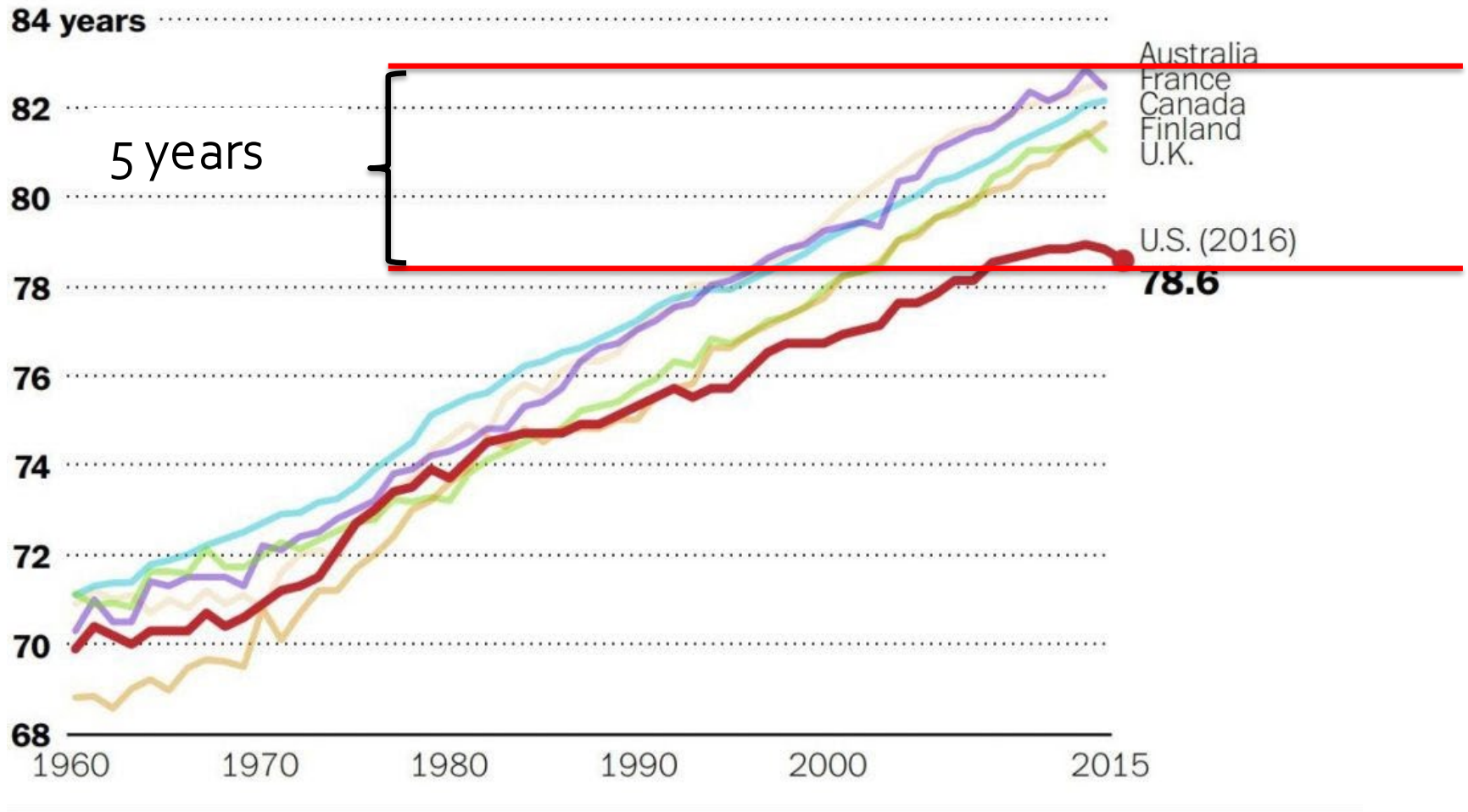


Sources: Survey of Consumer Finances

THE WASHINGTON POST

# American exceptionalism

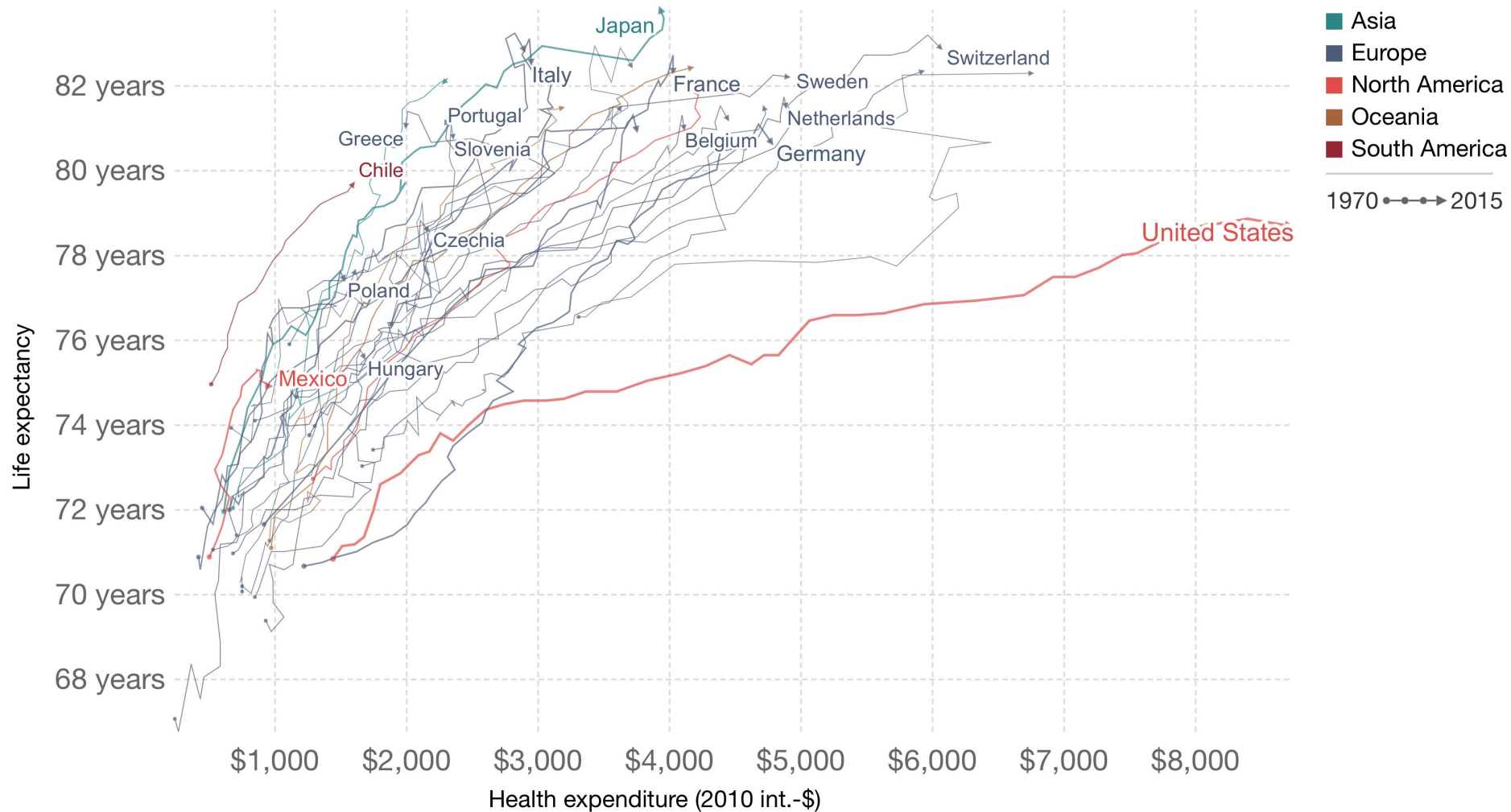
Life expectancy at birth, selected OECD countries



Source: OECD, U.S. Census Bureau

# Life expectancy vs. health expenditure, 1970 to 2015

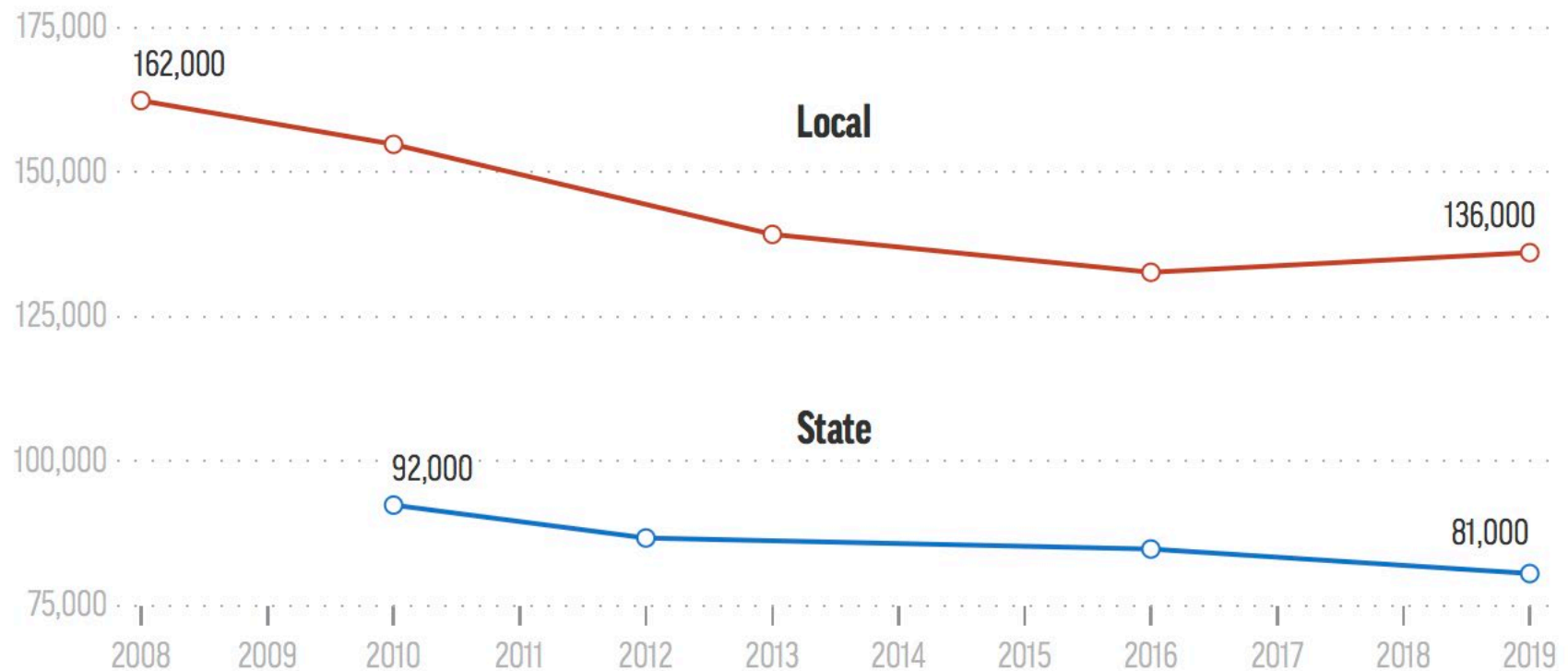
Health financing is reported as the annual per capita health expenditure and is adjusted for inflation and price level differences between countries (measured in 2010 international dollars).



Source: Data compiled from multiple sources by World Bank, Health Expenditure and Financing - OECDstat (2017)  
OurWorldInData.org/the-link-between-life-expectancy-and-health-spending-us-focus • CC BY

b. Underinvestment in what can keep us healthy

# State and local public health workforces have shrunk



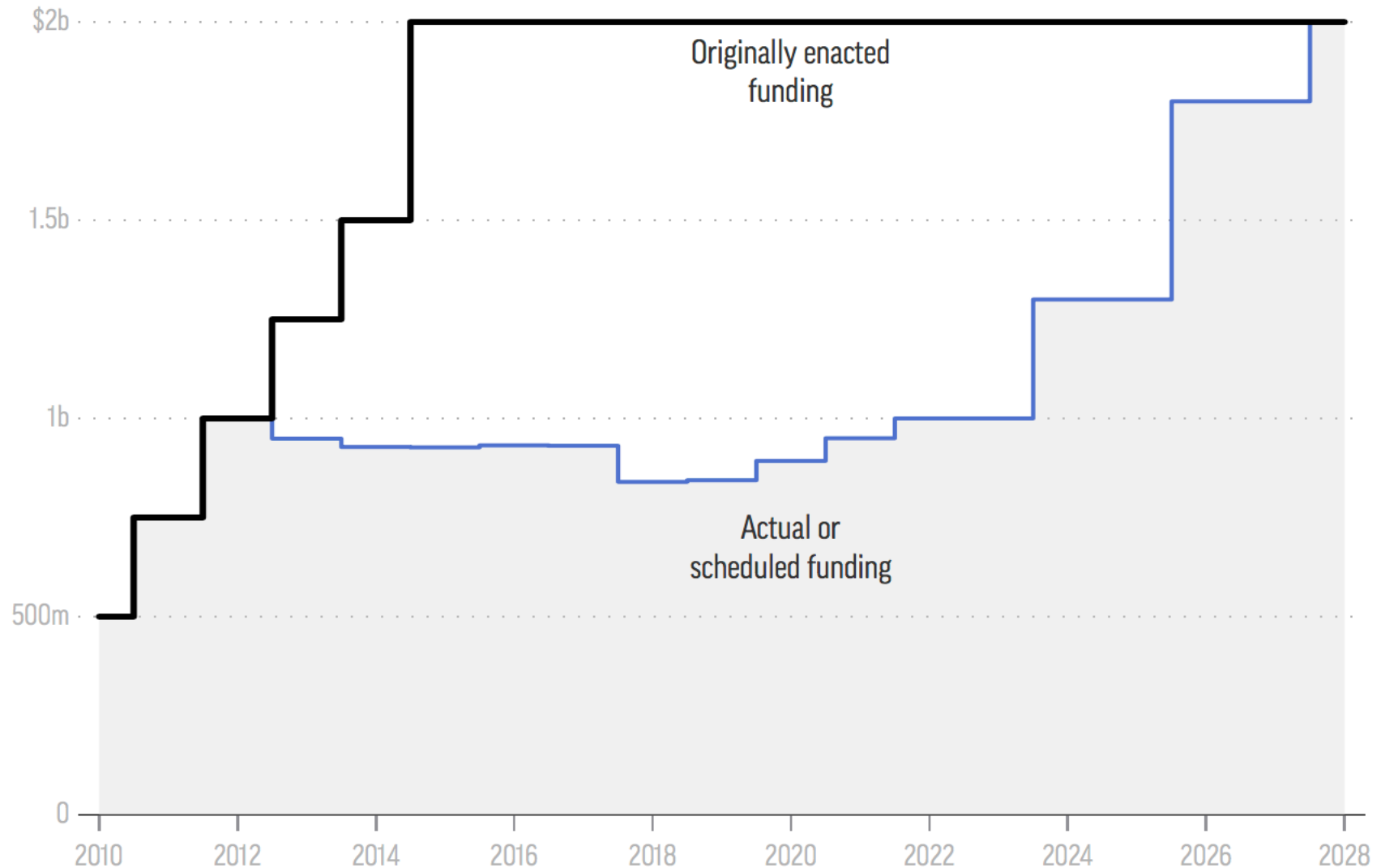
State figures are for full-time equivalent employees in state public health agencies excluding Kansas, New Jersey, Texas and Wyoming, which do not have comparable data. Local figures are for full-time equivalent employees of local health departments.

Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of County and City Health Officials /

Graphic: Hannah Recht/KHN, Francois Duckett/AP



# Federal Prevention and Public Health Fund faces shortfalls



Source: Trust for America's Health / Graphic: Hannah Recht/KHN, Francois Duckett/AP





5. How we can do better

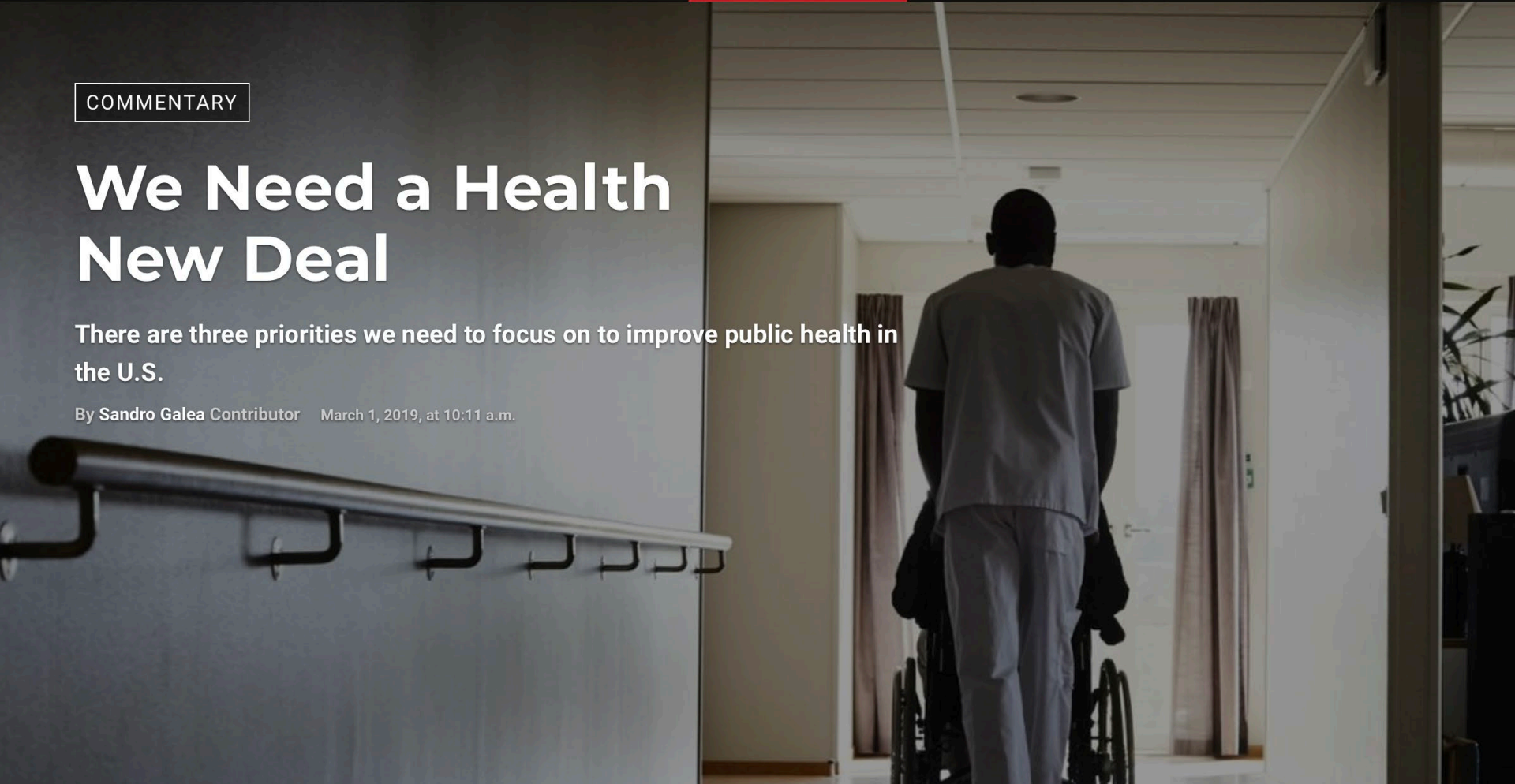
a. Investment in a healthy world before the next pandemic

COMMENTARY

# We Need a Health New Deal

There are three priorities we need to focus on to improve public health in the U.S.

By **Sandro Galea** Contributor March 1, 2019, at 10:11 a.m.





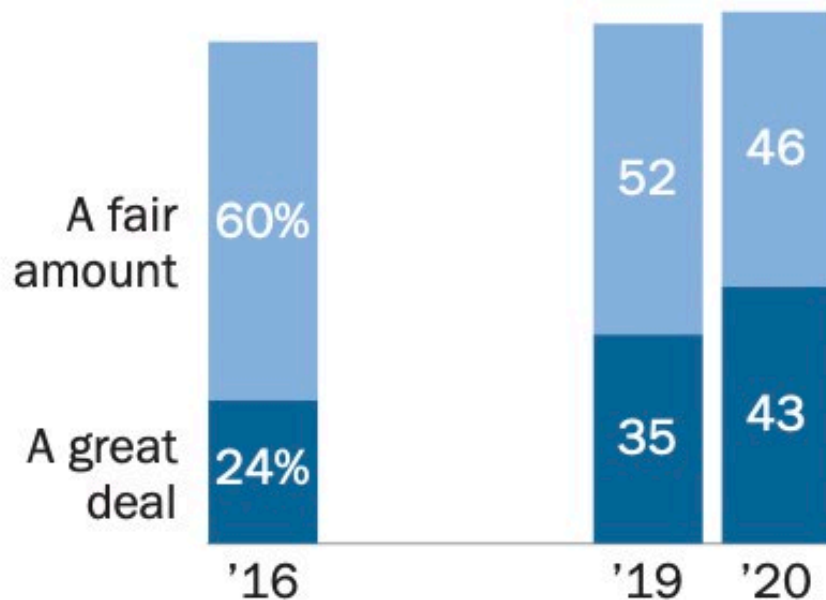


b. Investment in a science of consequence

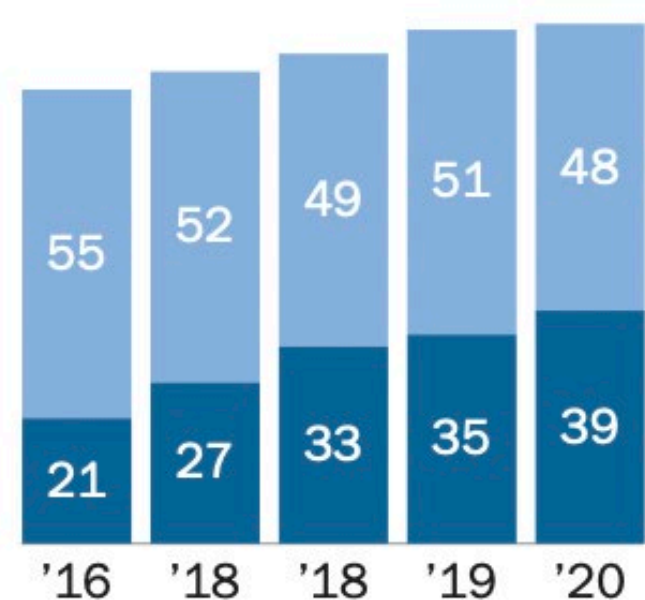
# Americans express growing confidence in medical scientists since the COVID-19 outbreak

*% of U.S. adults*

Confidence in  
**medical scientists** to act in the  
best interests of the public



Confidence in  
**scientists** to act in the best  
interests of the public





MAY 15, 2017

# TIME

## **WARNING:** WE ARE NOT READY FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC

SCIENCE KNOWS  
HOW TO FIGHT  
AN OUTBREAK—  
BUT POLICY STILL  
GETS IN THE WAY  
BY BRYAN WALSH

HOW TO KEEP THE  
WORLD SAFE  
BY BILL GATES

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"This book can save us if we are serious about saving ourselves."  
—Ibram X. Kendi, bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist*

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The  
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