

# How to teach social equity in medical school?

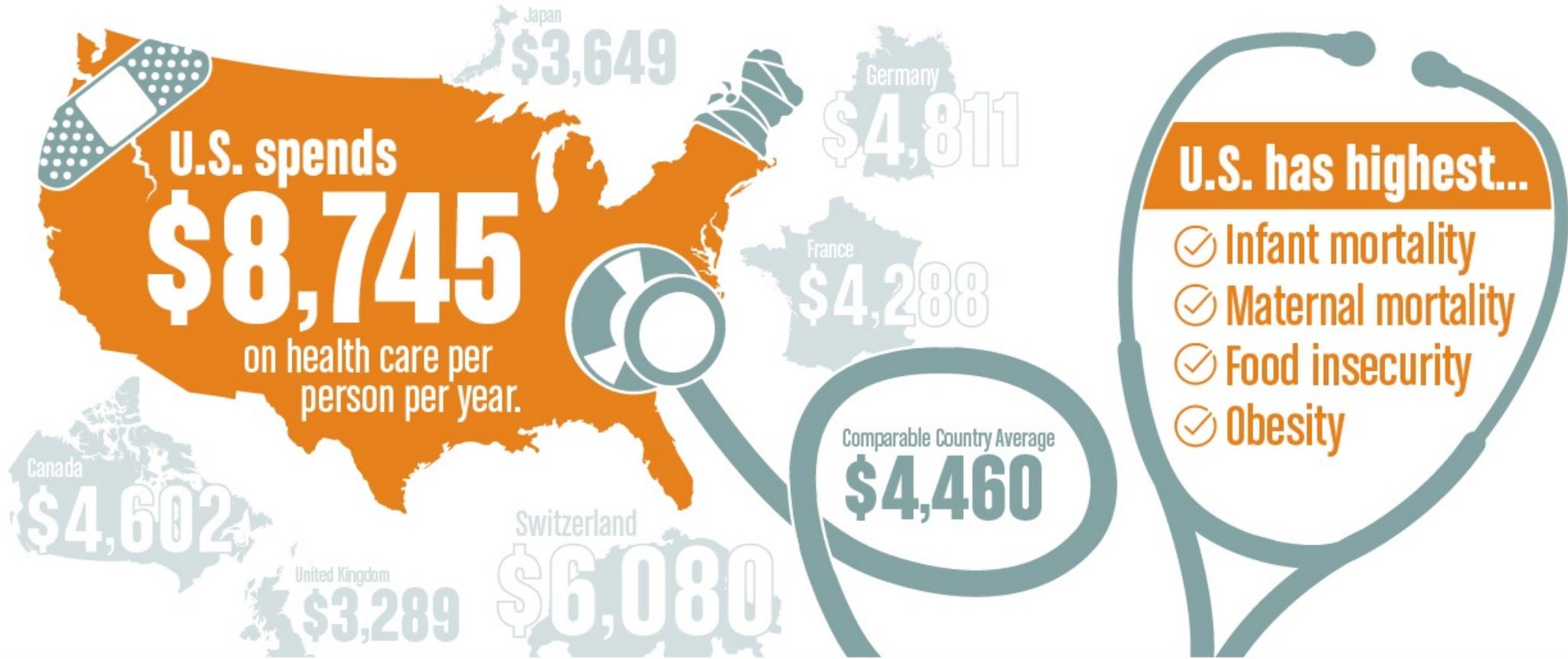
Board of Regents Panel

February 8, 2021

Dr. Ram Raju

# RICHEST COUNTRY, POOREST HEALTH

Of all rich countries, the United States spends the most on health care, yet sees the poorest health outcomes.



Infographic by Doug Puller/Bread for the World

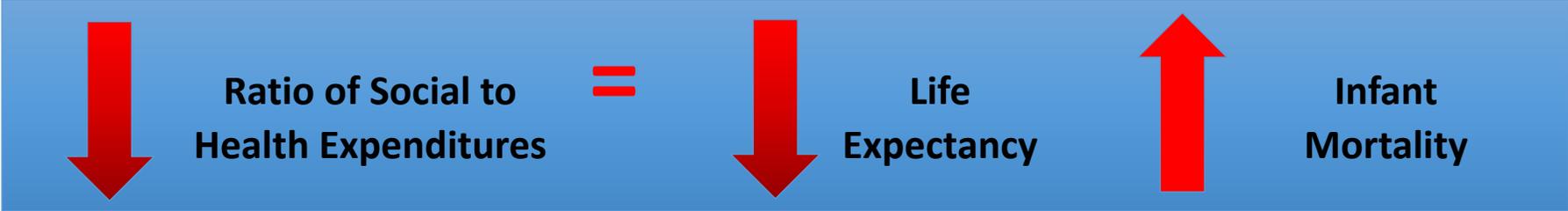
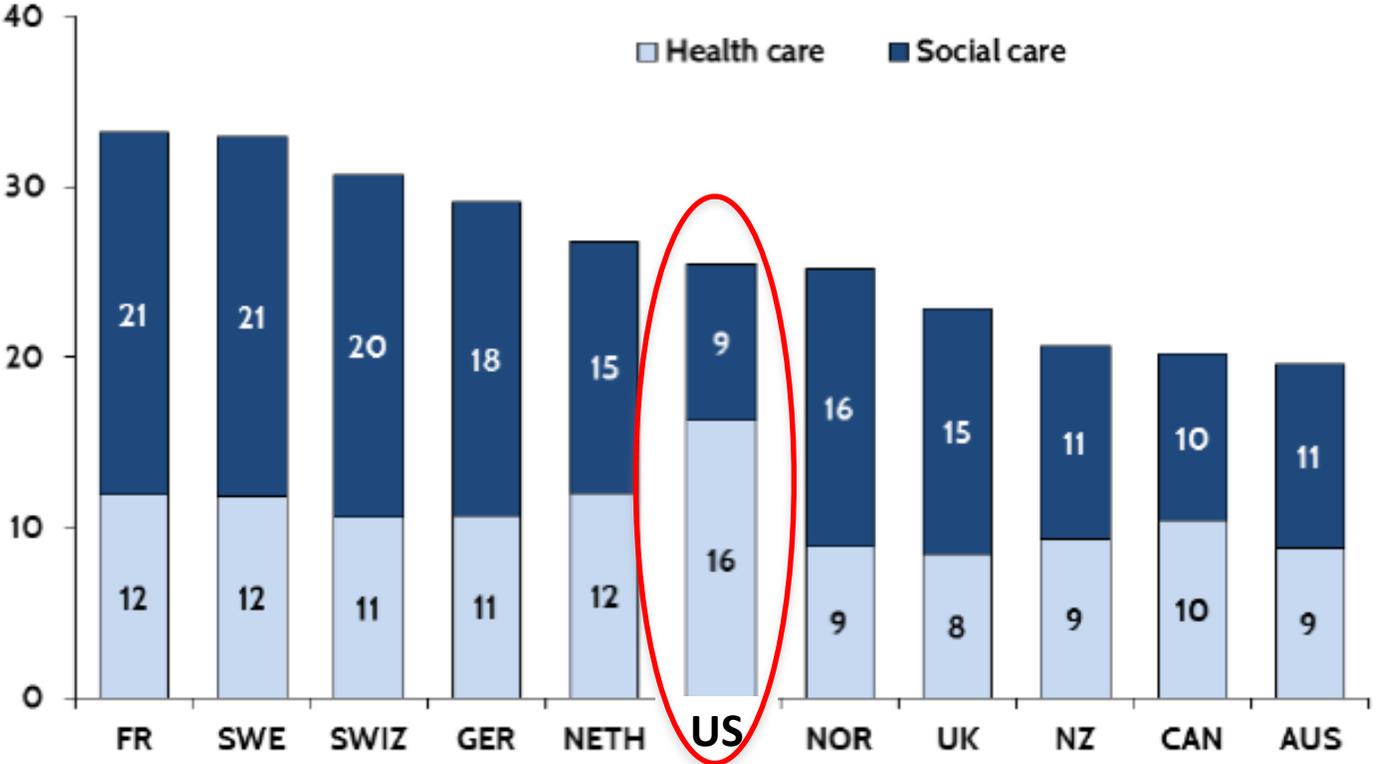
Hunger is a health issue. The 2016 Hunger Report, *The Nourishing Effect*, launches November 23. Visit [www.hungerreport.org](http://www.hungerreport.org) on the day of the launch to learn more.



**breadfortheworld**  
INSTITUTE

# Health and Social Care Spending as a Percentage of GDP\*

The United States spends more on health care and less on social care than any of the other countries shown, but has poorer health outcomes.

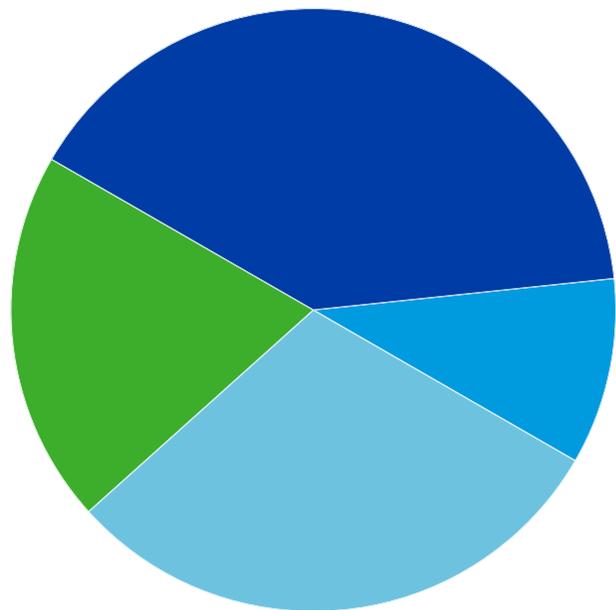


Source: E.H. Bradley and L.A. Taylor, *The American Health Paradox: Why Spending More is Getting Us Less*, Public Affairs, 2013; \*GDP refers to gross domestic product

# The Challenge

## To improve health outcomes, we must see the whole picture

Social determinants of health are critical components of the health of populations



### Socioeconomic factors

- Community safety
- Education
- Employment
- Family/social support
- Income
- Poverty
- Violence/domestic violence



### Health behaviors

- Alcohol use
- Diet & exercise
- Food insecurity/hunger
- Tobacco use
- Unsafe sex



### Physical environment

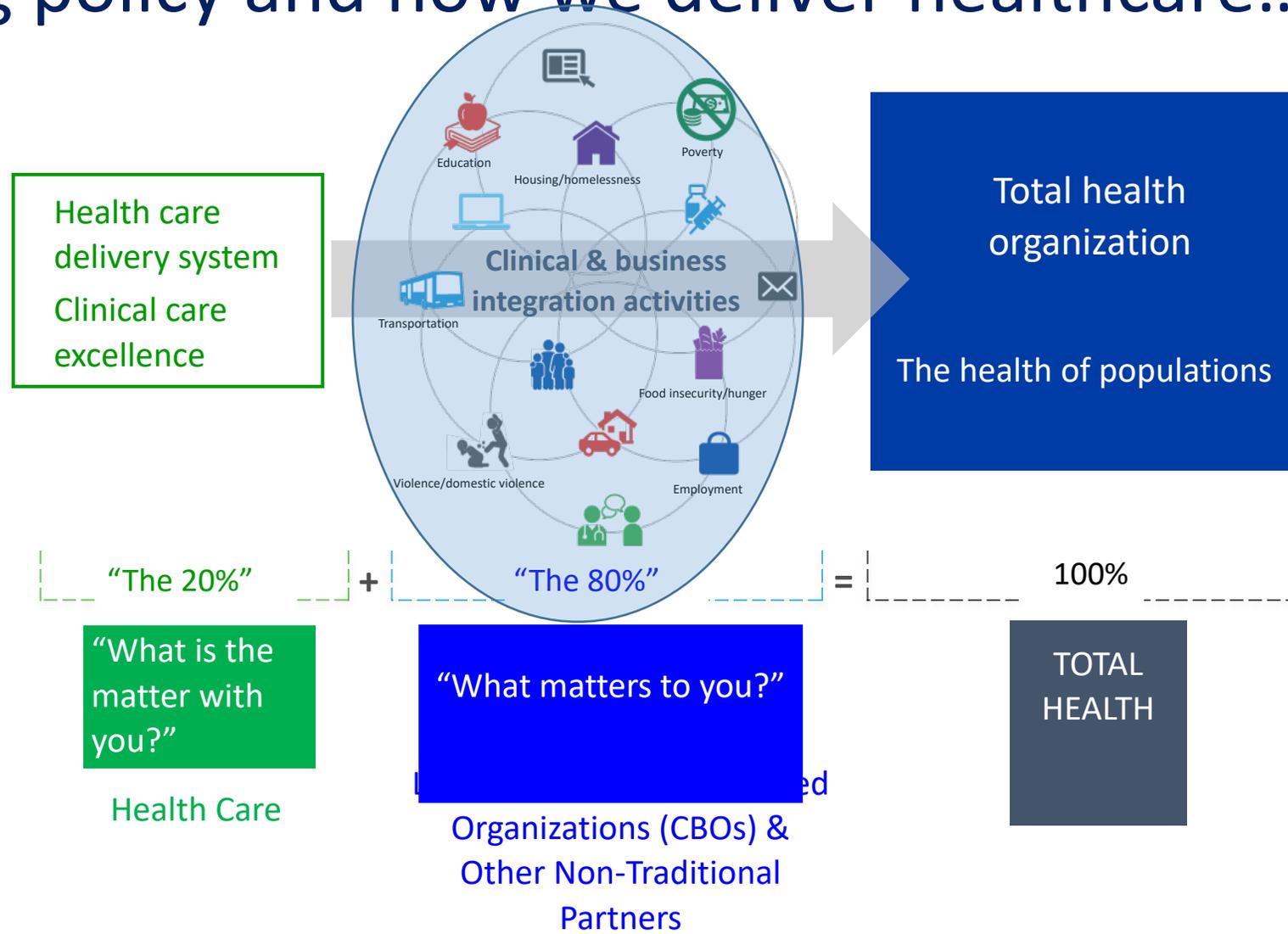
- Built environment
- Environmental quality
- Housing/homelessness
- Transportation



### Health care

- Access to care
- Quality of care

# Transformative Change in our Healthcare Landscape calls for transforming policy and how we deliver healthcare...



# Strengthening Medical Education

- Social screening at the point of care + closed loop referrals
  - Northwell Social Vulnerability Index + NowPow
  - Identify, prioritize and address social risk
  - Medical students need to be taught this approach of “flipping the lens”
- “Context informed care”
  - Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell  
Emergency Medical Technician Training
  - First course of curriculum includes early clinical immersion in which students integrate their medical knowledge and skills and become certified EMTs

# The Difference Between **EQUALITY** & **EQUITY**



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



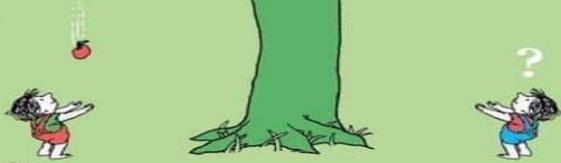
In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodation because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

# Inequality

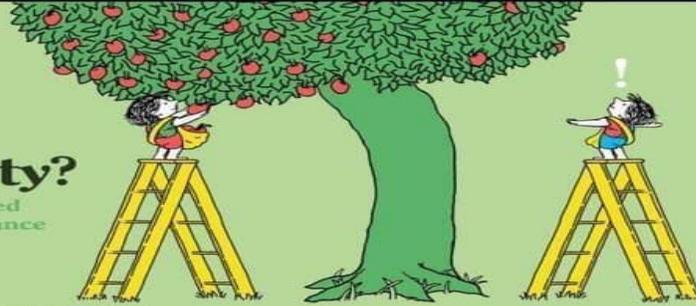
Unequal access to opportunities



Source: @HuntHewitt in the 2019 Design in Tech Report

# Equality?

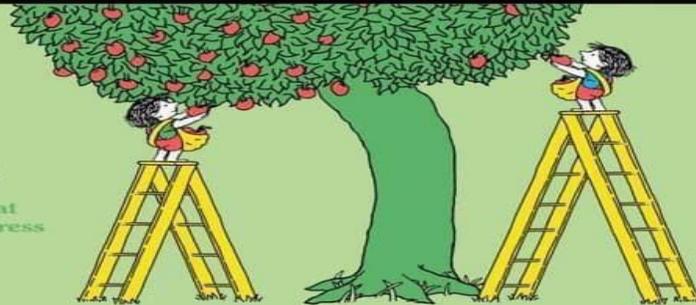
Evenly distributed tools and assistance



Source: @HuntHewitt in the 2019 Design in Tech Report

# Equity

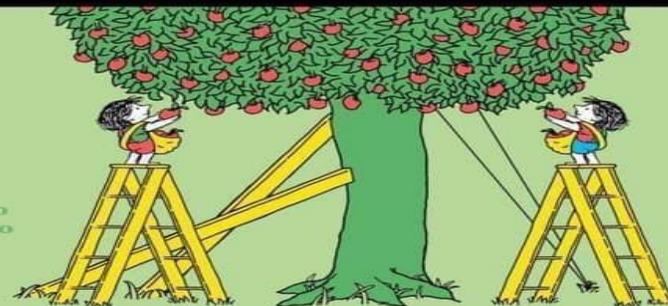
Custom tools that identify and address inequality



Source: @HuntHewitt in the 2019 Design in Tech Report

# Justice

Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities



Source: @HuntHewitt in the 2019 Design in Tech Report