

# AMERICAN HEALTH CARE: SPENDING MORE, GETTING LESS

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# Acknowledgments

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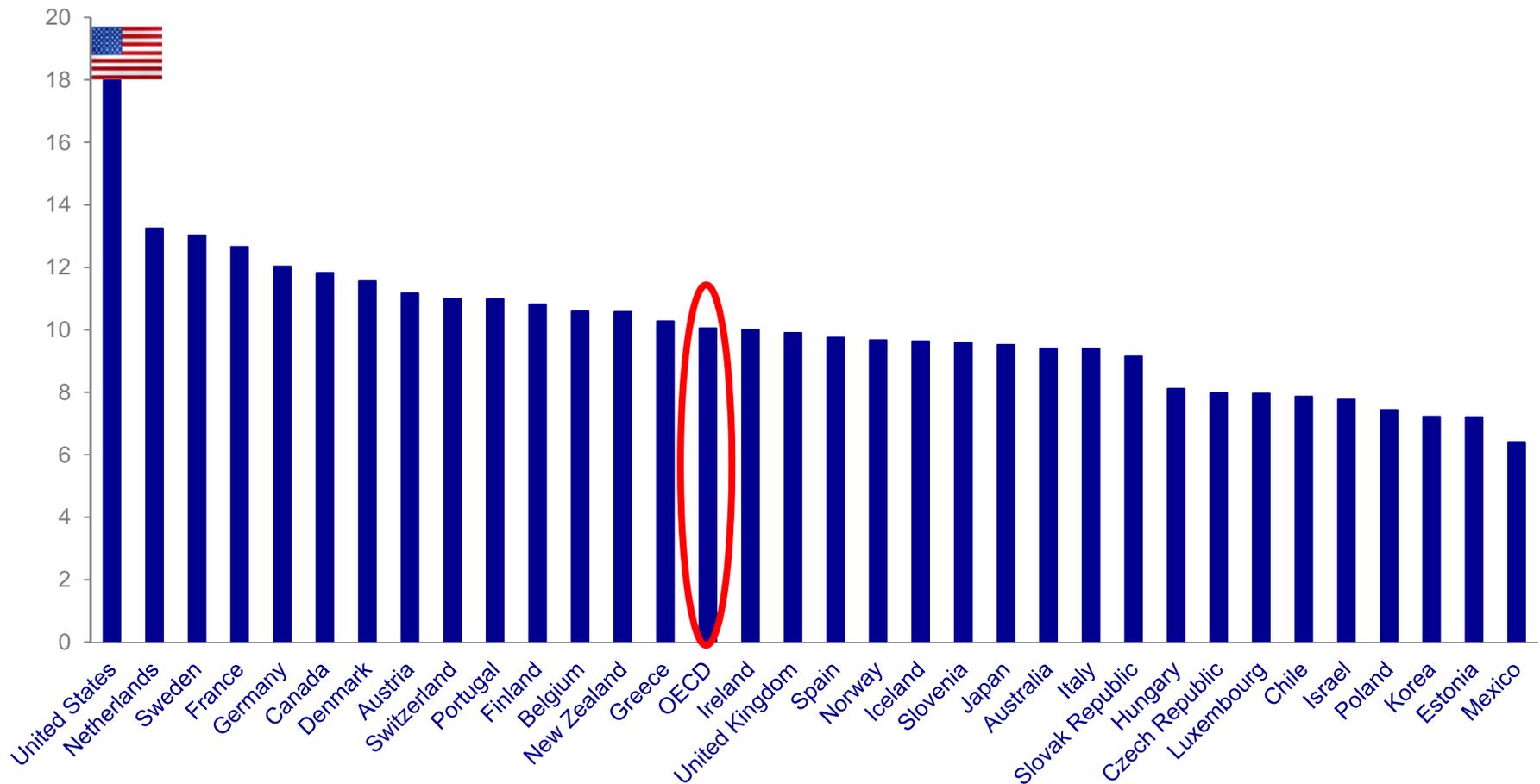
# Objectives

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- To examine international trends in health care and social service spending
- To identify evidence-based interventions that reduce health care spending and promote health
- To consider policy framework for integrating health care and social services

# Health Expenditures as % of GDP, 2009

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# Enduring Challenges

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## Out of 34 OECD Countries

**25<sup>th</sup> in maternal mortality**

**26<sup>th</sup> in life expectancy**

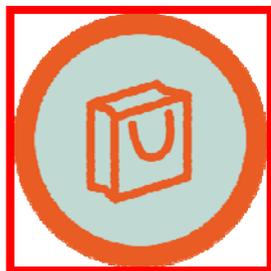
**28<sup>th</sup> in low birth weight**

## What determines health?



# Social Services

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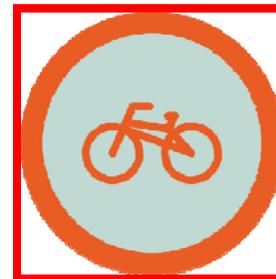
job training  
and  
employment  
programs



supportive  
housing  
& rent  
subsidies



nutritional  
support &  
family  
assistance



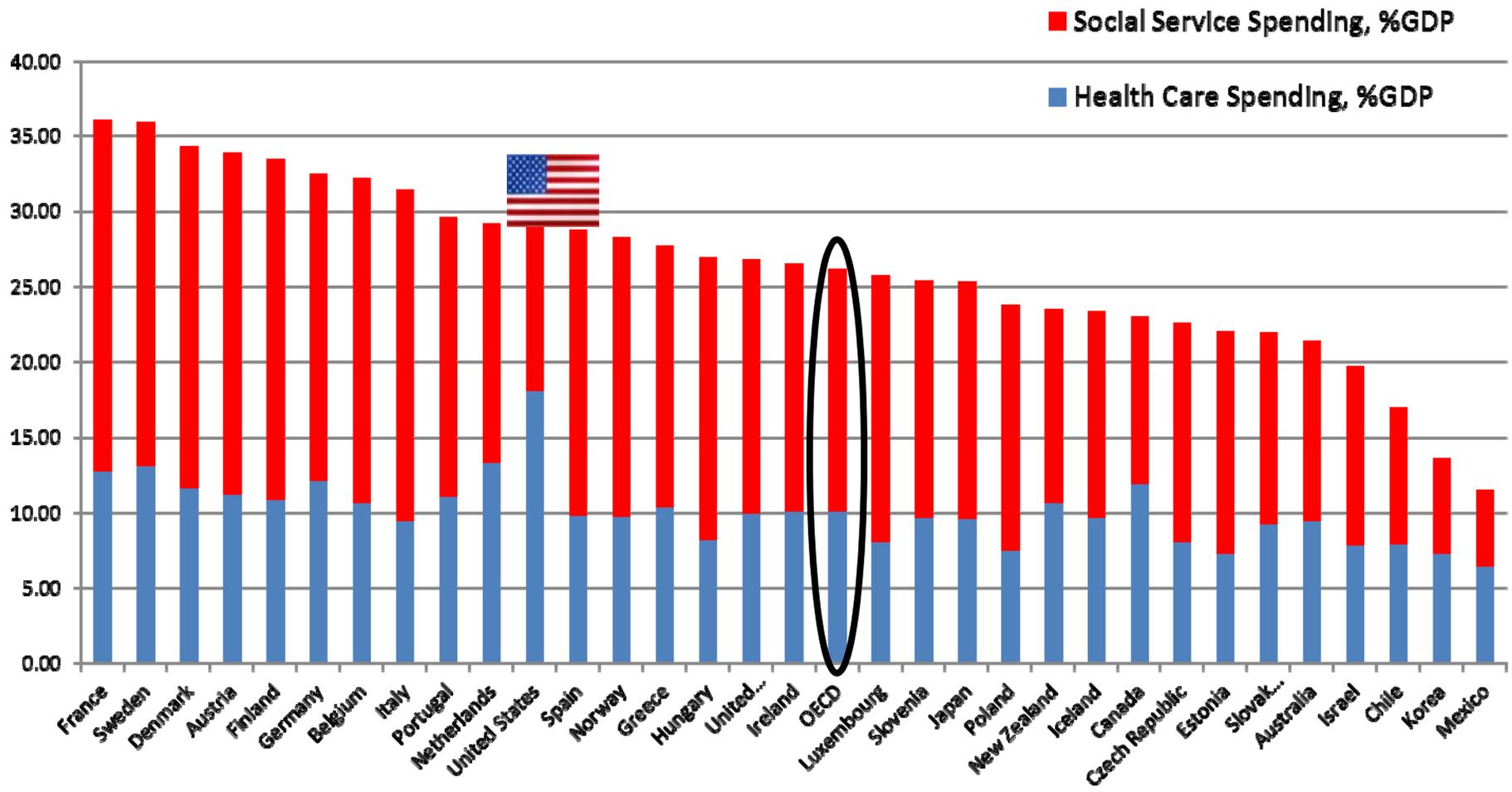
other social  
services that  
exclude health  
benefits

# Total Investment in Health as % of GDP

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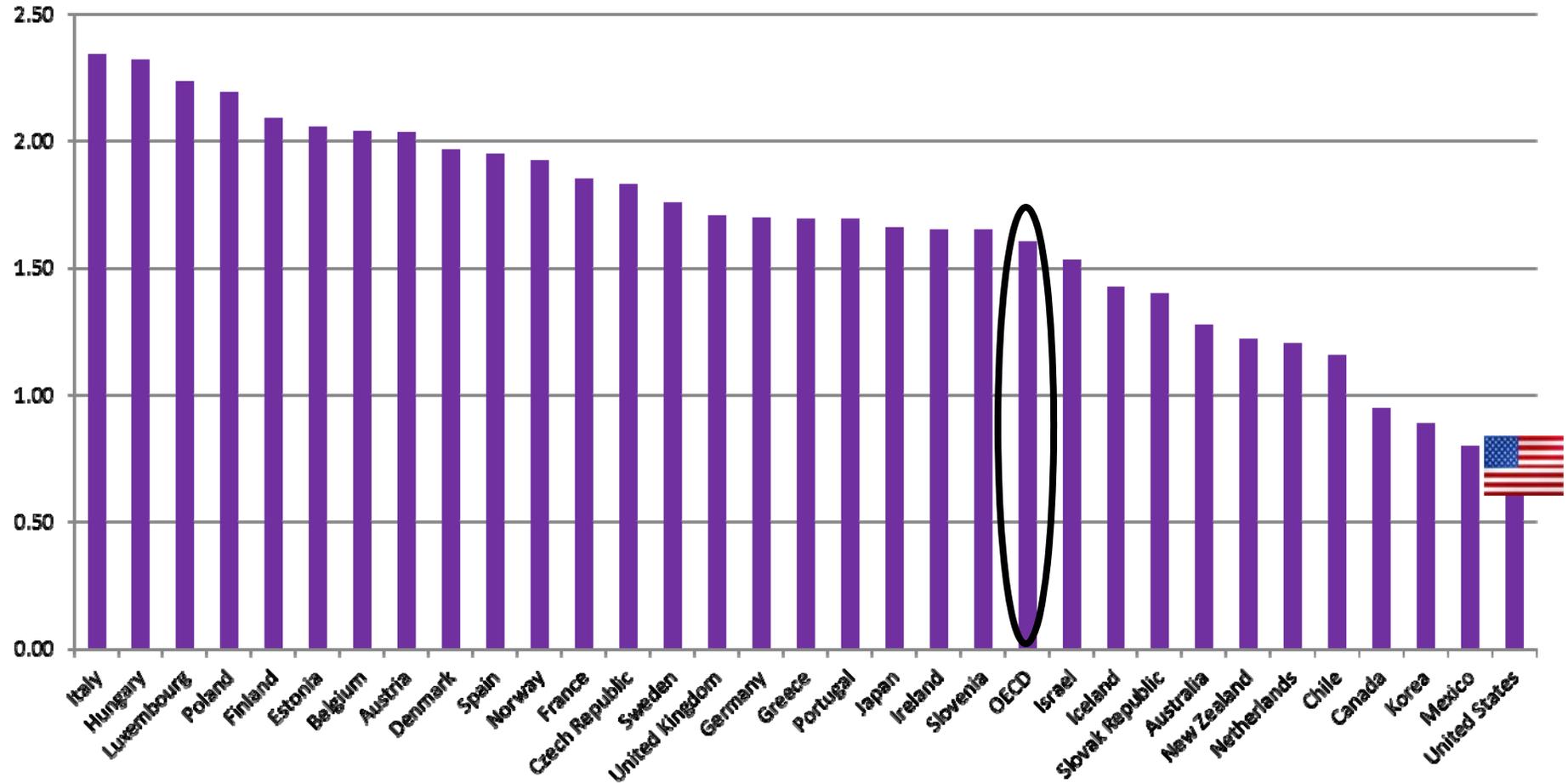
# Total Investment in Health as % of GDP

9



# Ratio of Social Service to Health Care Spending

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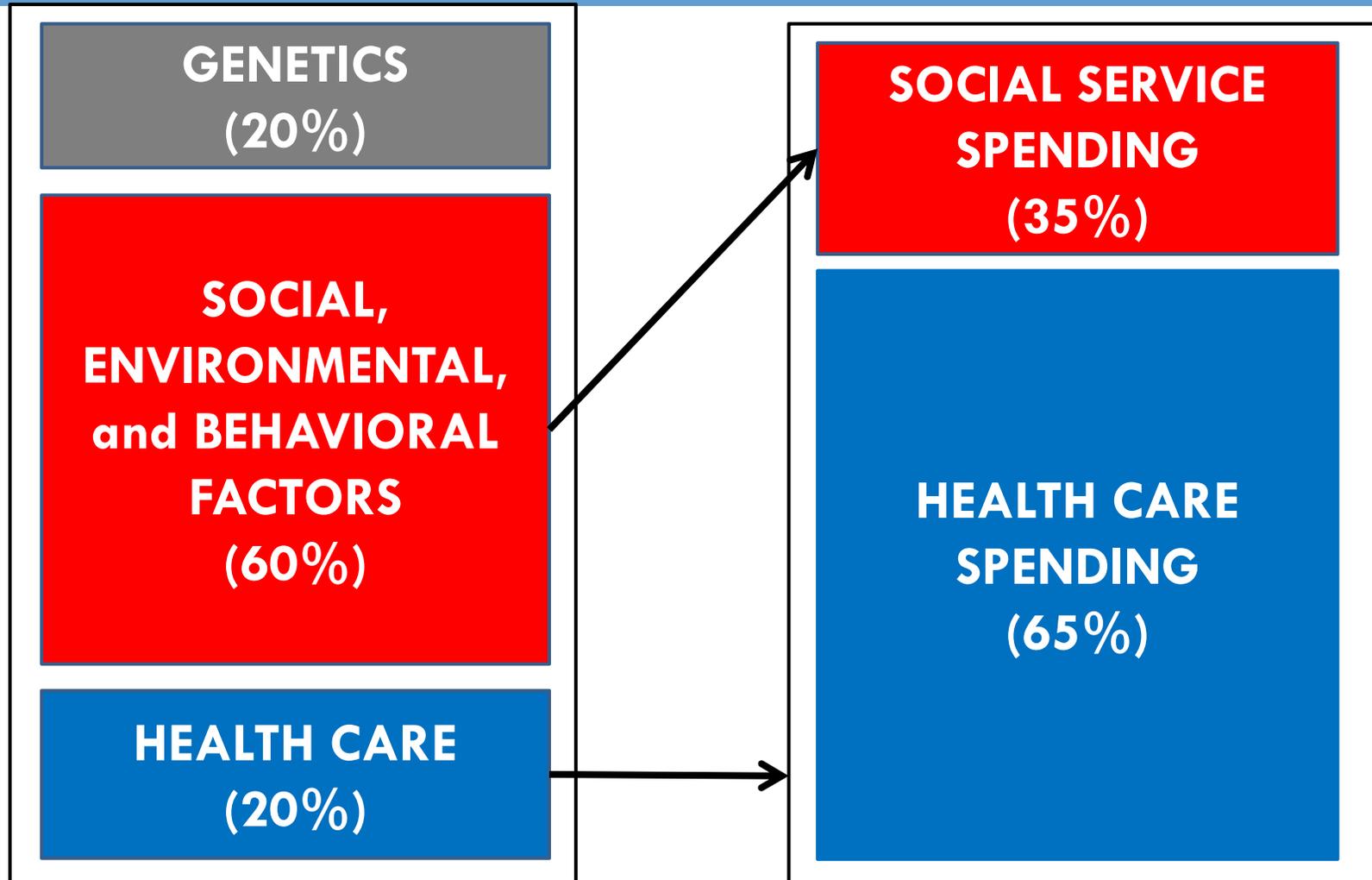
\*Switzerland and Turkey are missing data for 2009

# MISMATCH

**Determinants**

**Investment**

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In the US, for **\$1** spent on health care, about **\$0.90** is spent on social services.

In OECD, for **\$1** spent on health care, about **\$2** is spent on social services.



Does it matter?

**Countries with higher ratios of social-to-health spending have statistically better health outcomes.**

*Lower infant mortality*  
*Fewer low birth weight babies*  
*Less premature death*  
*Longer life expectancy*

# Opportunity Costs

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1 emergency department visit = 1 month's rent

2 hospitalizations = 1 year of child care

20 MRIs = 1 social worker for a year

60 echocardiograms = 1 public school teacher for a year

# LEVERAGING THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: WHAT WORKS?

JUNE 2015



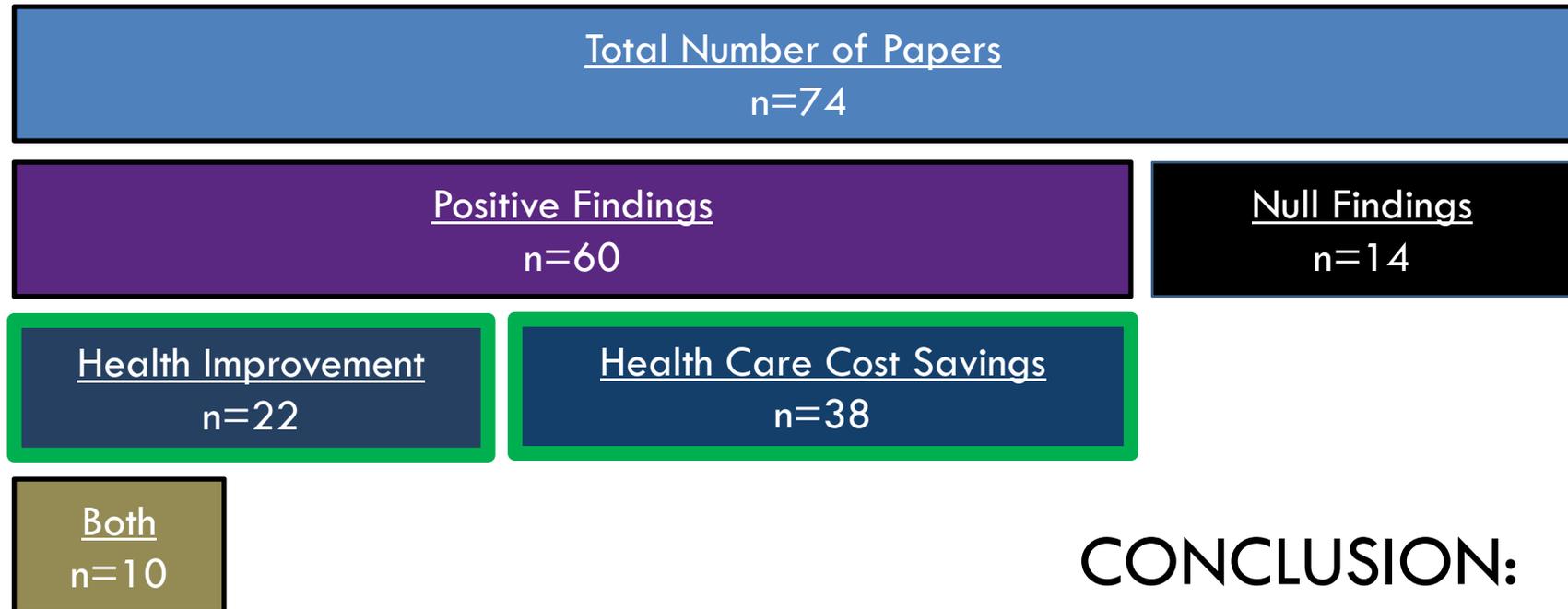
*prepared for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation by  
Lauren A. Taylor, Caitlin E. Coyle, Chima Ndumele, Erika Rogan,  
Maureen Canavan, Leslie Curry, and Elizabeth H. Bradley*

*Yale Global Health Leadership Institute*

What does the evidence tell us about **which types of social services** produce the best health-related outcomes?

# Literature review

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**CONCLUSION:**  
***The literature is *mixed*.***

# Supportive housing, and Integrated health care and housing

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Bud Clark Commons



Minnesota Supportive Housing

# Nutritional assistance for high-risk women, infants, and children, and older adults

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# Case management and community outreach

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# What to do?

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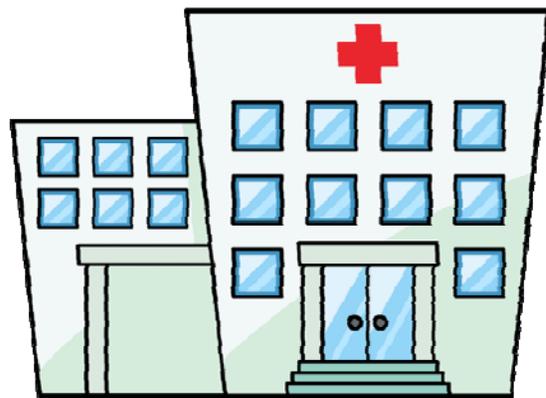
Spend more! 280% - 330% GDP?  
**Taxes? NON-STARTER**

Transfer \$\$ from **Unlikely** care to social services

Incentivize collaboration on health

# Evidence: What do we know?

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Health Care Sector

Case Management, Patient Navigators, Care Coordination, Medical Homes

Housing First

Community Outreach  
Mobile Clinics

WIC, Meals on Wheels

# What don't we know?

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1. The health care cost offsets from education and early childhood development programs
2. The health care cost offsets from income support programs, including SNAP
3. The most sustainable integrated models

# Mobilizing collaboration for health nationally

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Mitigate financial incentives to medicalize health

Establish common metrics for health *and* social services

- % smoking, % obese, % depressed... (health)
- % on target to finish high school (**education**)
- % income spent on housing (**income/housing**)

Talk differently about health and health care

THANK YOU

Elizabeth H. Bradley, PhD

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# Extra slides if asked

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# Public Health Services Defined

*Description:* Provision of services for the conservation and improvement of public health, other than hospital care, and financial support of other governments' health programs.

*Included examples:* Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), protective inspection services, health related inspections, community health care programs, regulation of air and water quality, rabies and animal control, ambulance and emergency medical services (unless operated by local fire department), and hazardous waste cleanup. Also includes medical appliances, supplies, or services as part of public assistance programs as well as construction and maintenance of nursing homes, homes for the elderly, orphanages, and veterans' homes.

# Social Services Spending Categories



Education (primary, secondary, and higher education)

Transportation

Environment

Public Safety

Housing

Corrections

Income Support, including: Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Public Health Programming, including Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Protective inspection services, Health related inspections, Community health care programs, Regulation of air and water quality, Rabies and animal control, Hazardous waste cleanup