

The Path to Equity: Starting Early

July 2023

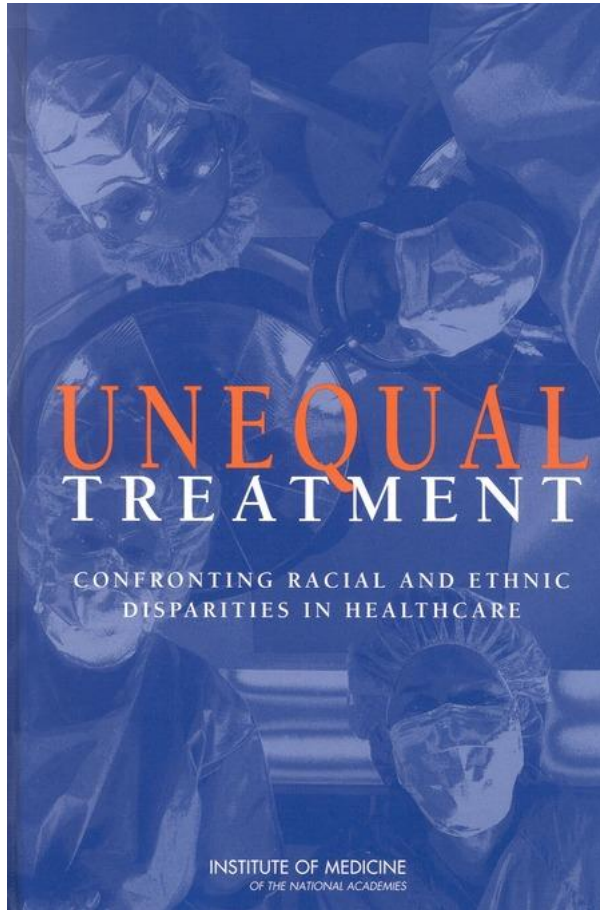
Tina L. Cheng, MD, MPH

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- I do not intend to discuss an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device in my presentation.



COMMENTARY

JAMA The Journal of the
American Medical Association

Health Disparities Across the Lifespan Where Are the Children?

Tina L. Cheng, MD, MPH

Renee R. Jenkins, MD

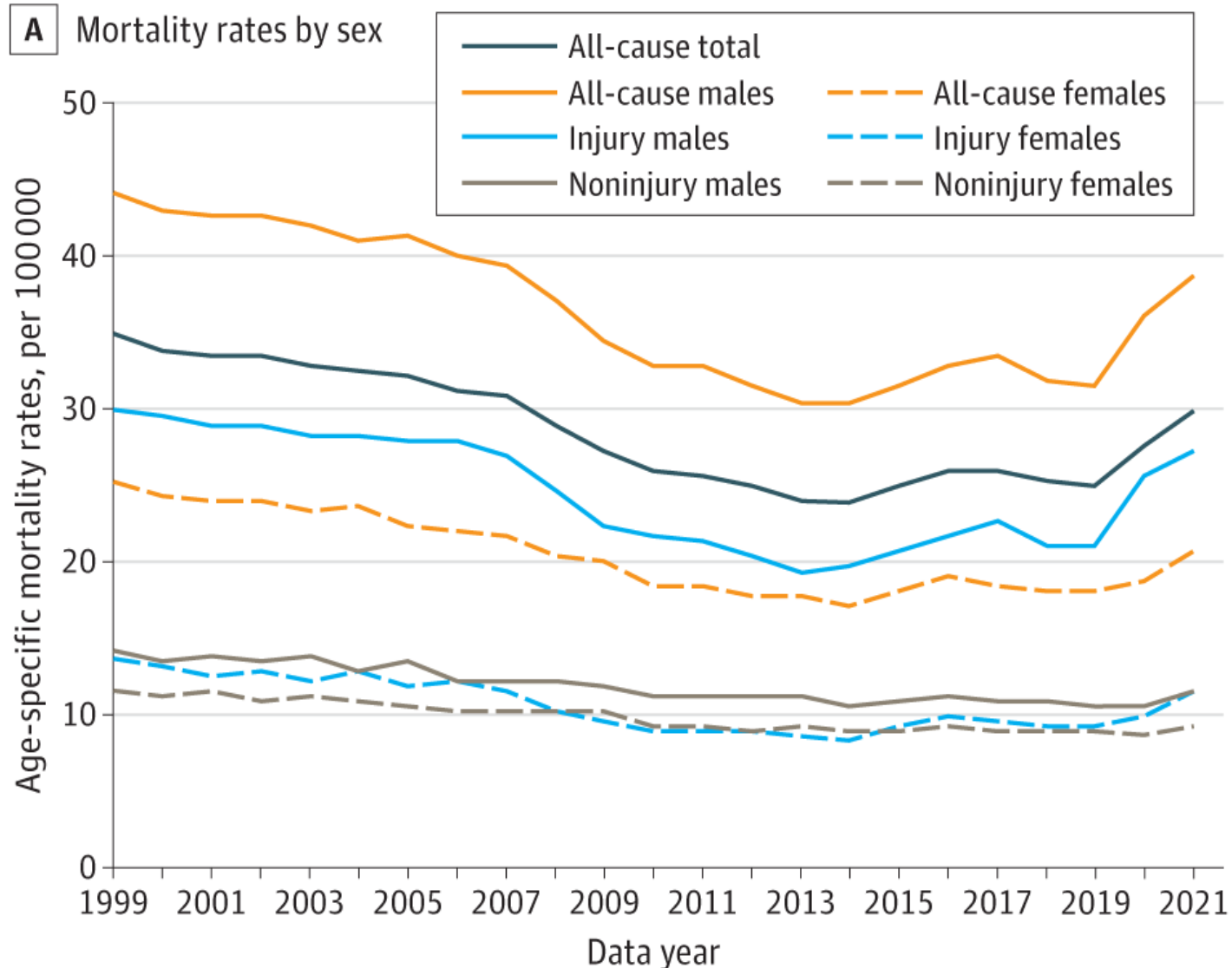
A 2003 PUBLICATION BY THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE raised awareness regarding persistent disparities in health care in the United States.¹ However, of the 103 studies reviewed in the report, only 5 focused on disparities for children. Based on the expectation of a significantly more diverse child population by 2020,² and the large number of children living in poverty, greater attention is needed on vulnerable children and their potential for a healthy and productive adulthood. Much

sustainability depends on a future workforce; investing in children is a vital economic growth strategy and should be a priority of business, government, and philanthropy.⁷

Second, investment in children must guarantee access to health care. The recent passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, the insurance program for low-income children, is an important first step in improved health insurance coverage for US children. This program provides consistent coverage, avoiding the disruptions that cause underuse of services and greater unmet medical need. Scientific evidence supporting the benefits of the Children's Health Insurance Program and health insurance for all children demonstrate improved preven-

JAMA 2009;301(23):2491-2

The New Crisis of Increasing Mortality in US Children and Adolescents, Age 1 to 19 years



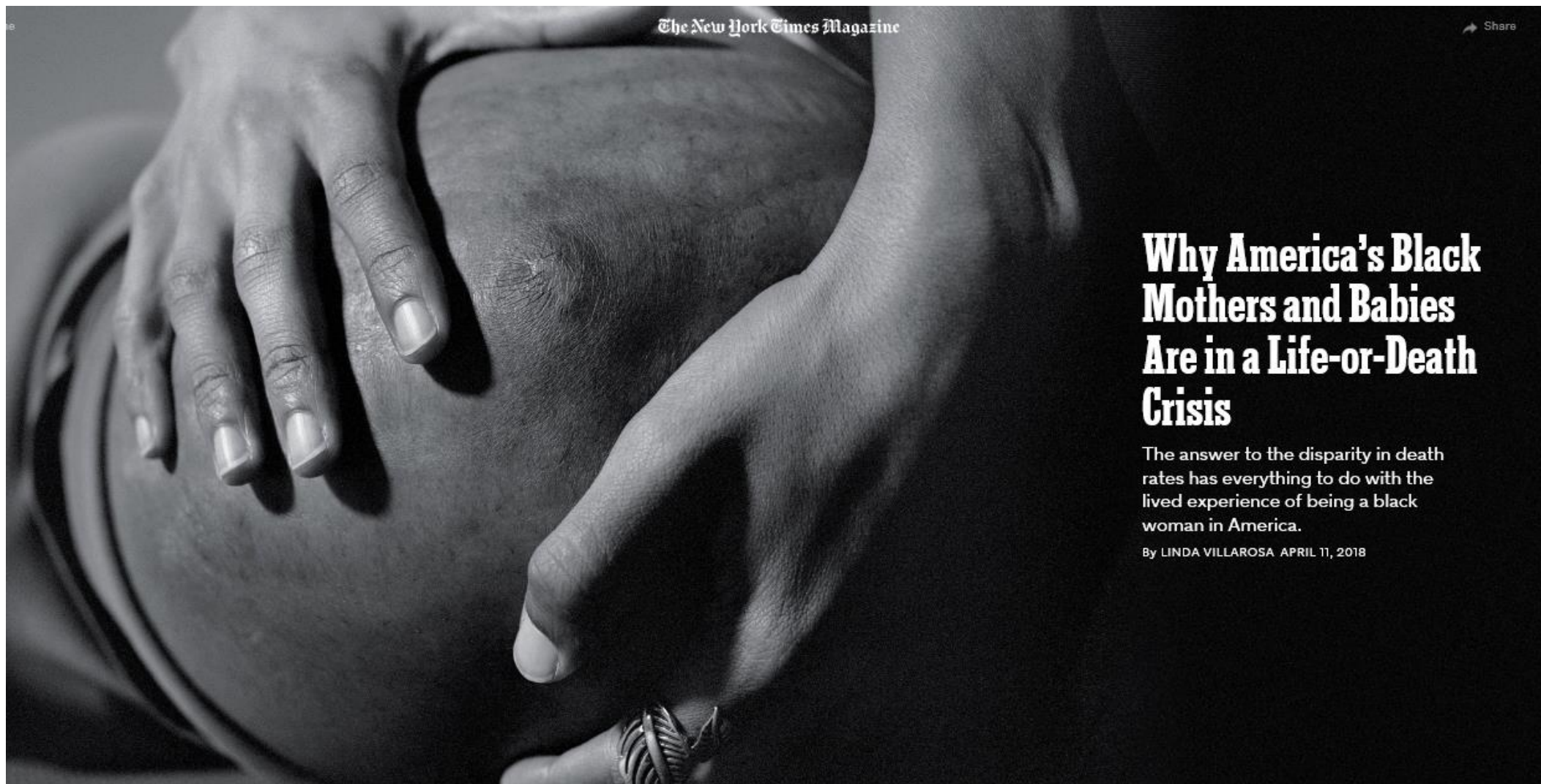
I miss people

“Diseases of Despair”
Suicide, homicide,
poisoning

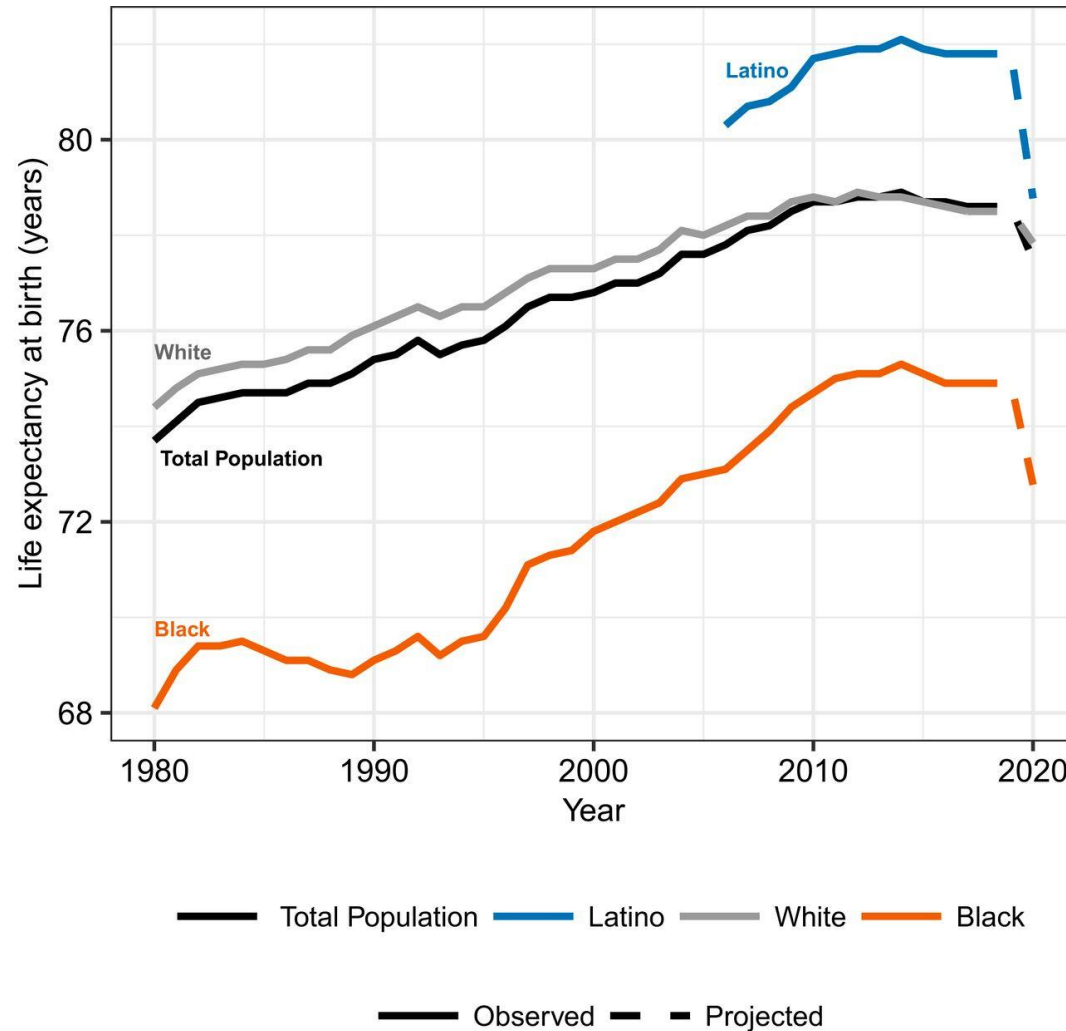
Black/white ratio > 2

JAMA. Published online March 13, 2023.
doi:10.1001/jama.2023.3517
KidsCount Data Center, 2021 data

“Black infants in America are now more than twice as likely to die as white infants, a disparity that is wider than it was in 1850, 15 years before the end of slavery.”



Trends in Life Expectancy at Birth by Race and Ethnicity, 1980-2020



“Estimated reductions for the Black and Latino populations are 3-4x that for Whites. Consequently, COVID-19 is expected to reverse over 10 y of progress made in closing the Black–White gap in life expectancy and reduce the previous Latino mortality advantage by over 70%.”

SPECIAL REPORT

**A Potential Decline in Life Expectancy in the United States
in the 21st Century**

S. Jay Olshansky, Ph.D., Douglas J. Passaro, M.D., Ronald C. Hershow, M.D.,
Jennifer Layden, M.P.H., Bruce A. Carnes, Ph.D., Jacob Brody, M.D., Leonard Hayflick, Ph.D.,
Robert N. Butler, M.D., David B. Allison, Ph.D., and David S. Ludwig, M.D., Ph.D.

“Unless effective population-level interventions to reduce obesity are developed, the steady rise in life expectancy...may soon come to an end and the youth of today may, on average, **live less healthy and possibly even shorter lives than their parents.**”

Best Hope for Improving Life Expectancy & Equity Starts Early in the Life Course

- **Obesity** roots start early in the life course
 - Overweight/obese children are 5x more likely to be overweight/obese in adulthood than those who were not (CDC Vital Signs)
- **Addiction** is a Pediatric disease
 - 90% of Americans who meet criteria for addiction started using before the age of 18 (Partnership to End Addiction)
- **Mental, emotional and behavioral disorders** start early
 - half of all lifetime cases start by age 14 years and three fourths by age 24 years (NRC IOM 2009)
- **Adverse childhood experiences** (ACEs) are associated with increased adult physical and mental health disorders and lower education and productivity (Felitti 1998)

POLICY STATEMENT

Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health
Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health

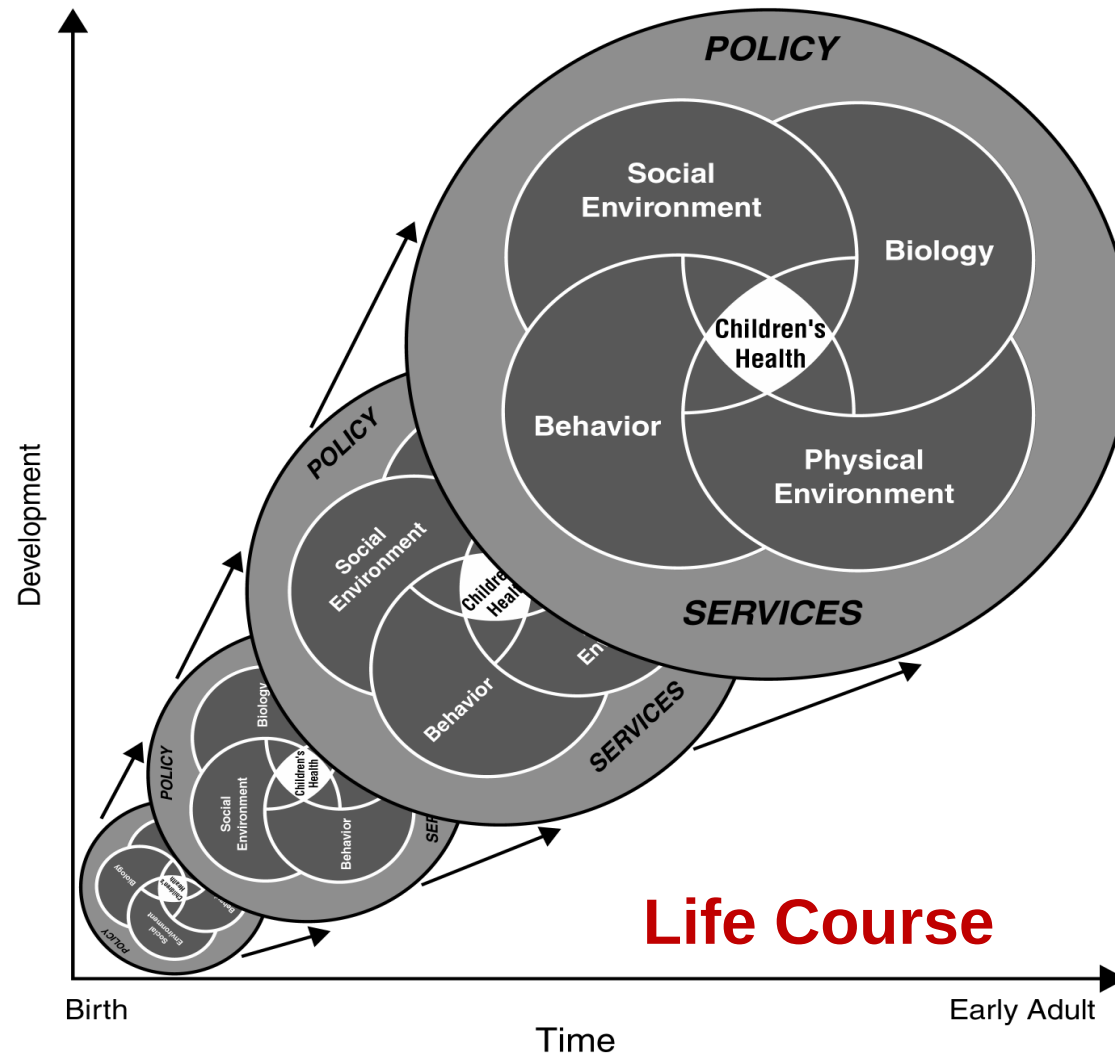
Maria Trent, MD, MPH, FAAP, FSAHM,^a Danielle G. Dooley, MD, MPhil, FAAP,^b Jacqueline Dougé, MD, MPH, FAAP,^c SECTION ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH, COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS, COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE

Pediatrics. 2019 Aug;144(2):e20191765. Doi: 10.1542/Peds.2019-1765. Pmid: 31358665.



Model of Children's Health and Its Influences

National Research Council, IOM



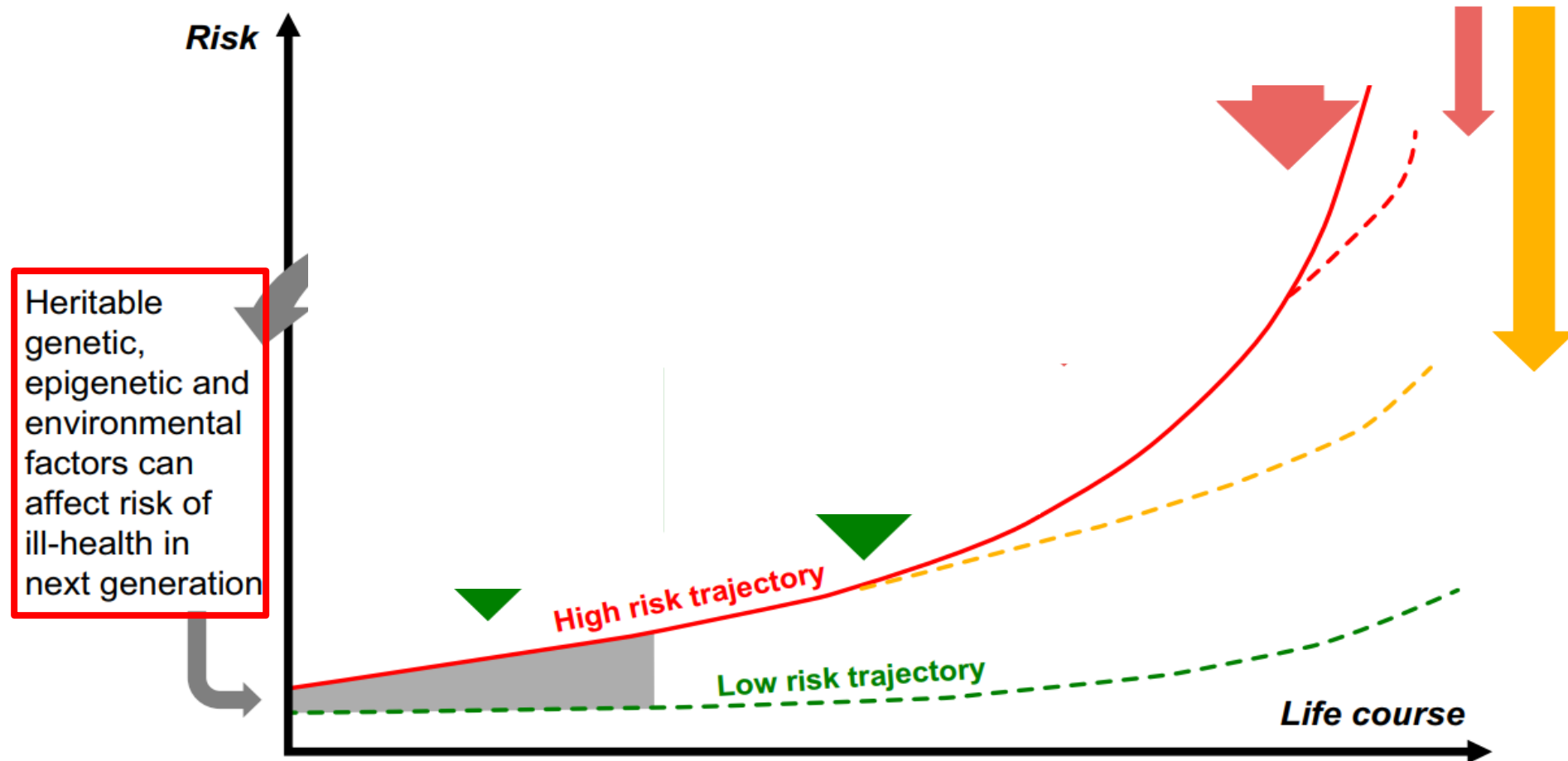
Multiple Influences

Life Course

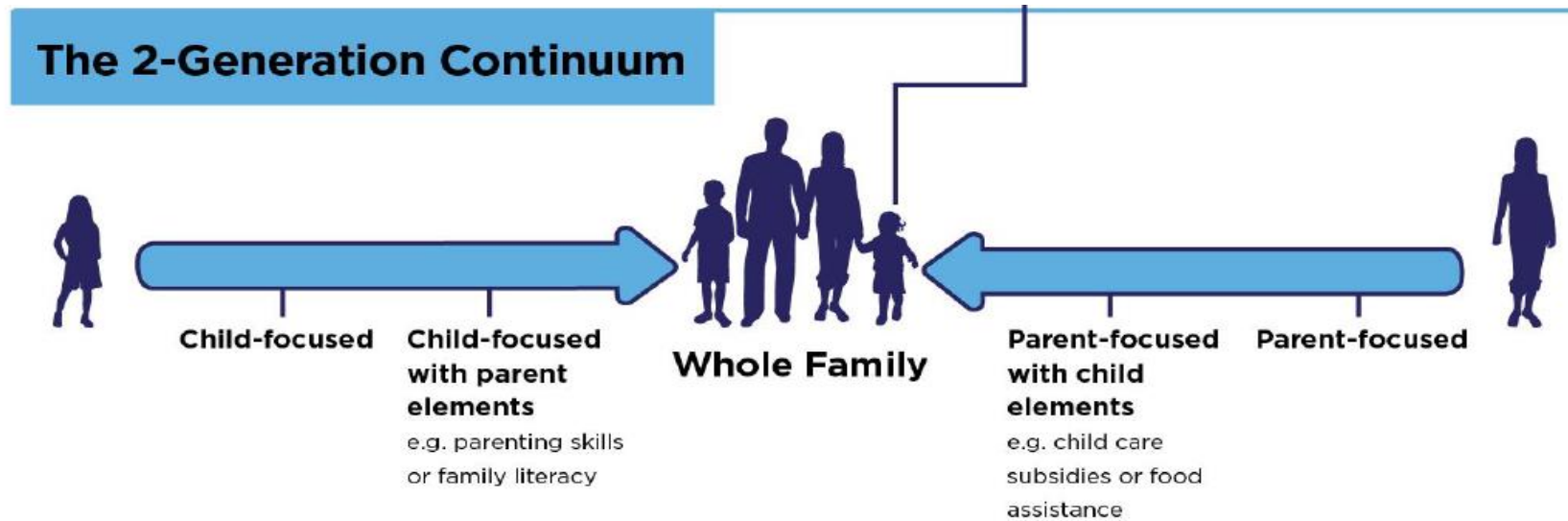
**Children's Health,
the Nation's
Wealth.** DC:
National Academies
Press, 2004.

Life Course View of Health Risk

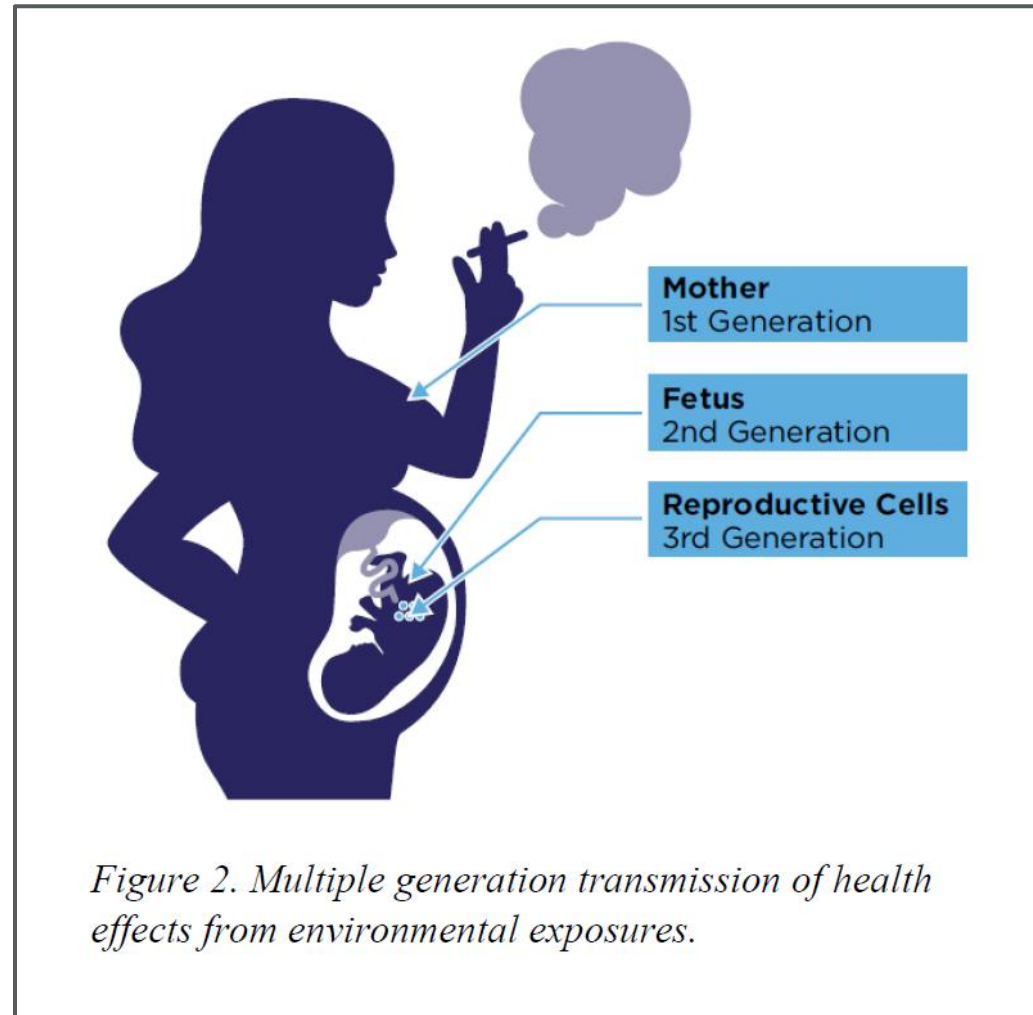
Hanson & Gluckman, *Physiol Rev* 2014; 94(4): 1027-1076



The Three Generation Continuum



Adapted from Ascend of the Aspen Institute, Cheng, Johnson, Goodman, **Pediatrics** 2016;137:1-12



Cheng TL, Miranda ML,
Child Enrollment
Scientific Vision
Working Group of the
NIH *All of Us* Research
Program.
[https://allofus.nih.gov/
sites/default/files/cesv
wg_1-18-18.pdf](https://allofus.nih.gov/sites/default/files/cesv_wg_1-18-18.pdf)

Epigenetic transgenerational inheritance? Diethylstilbestrol (DES) exposure during pregnancy has multigenerational neurodevelopment effects.
Kioumourtzogiou **JAMA Ped** 2018;172:670-75

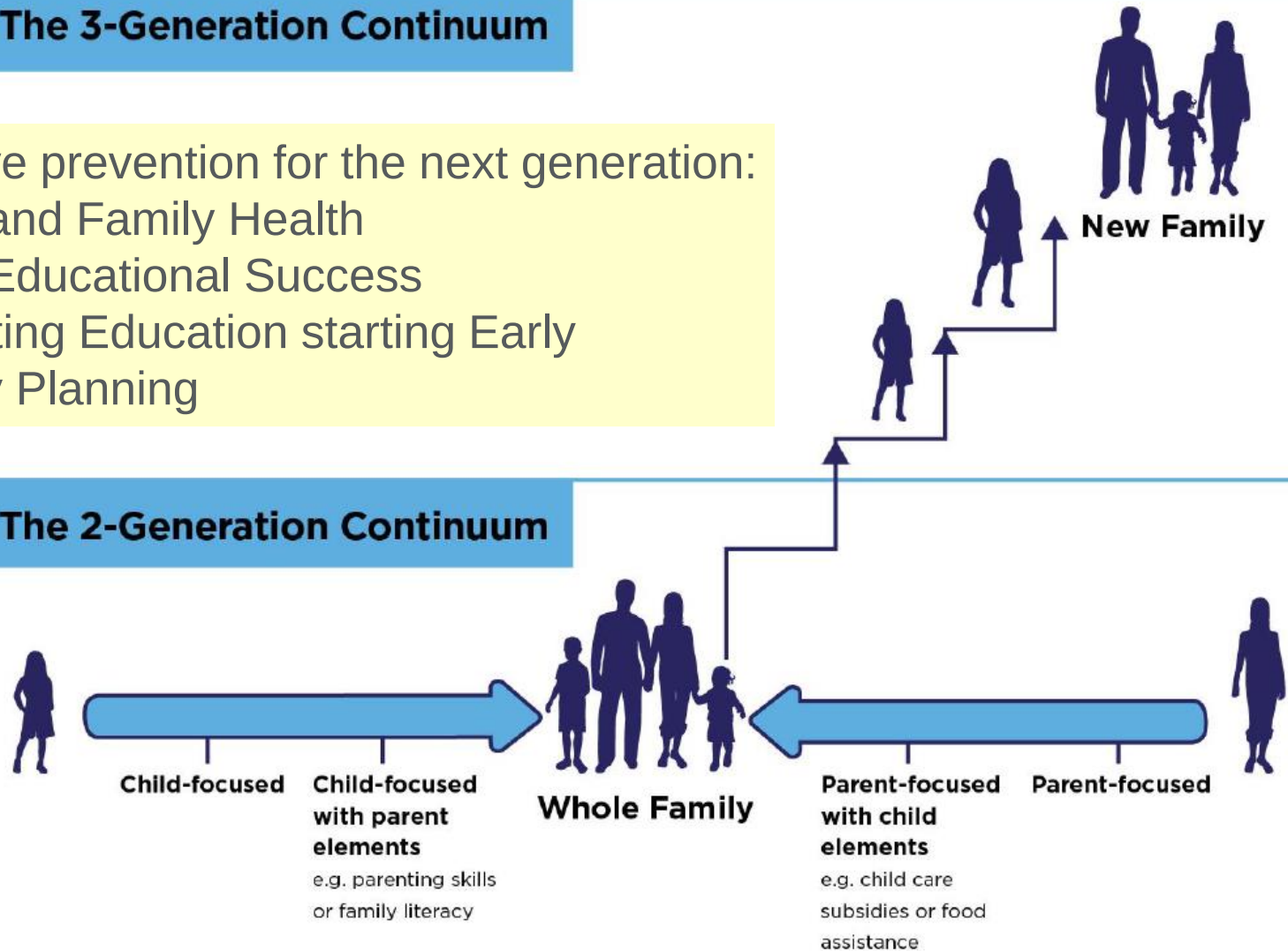
The Three Generation Continuum

The 3-Generation Continuum

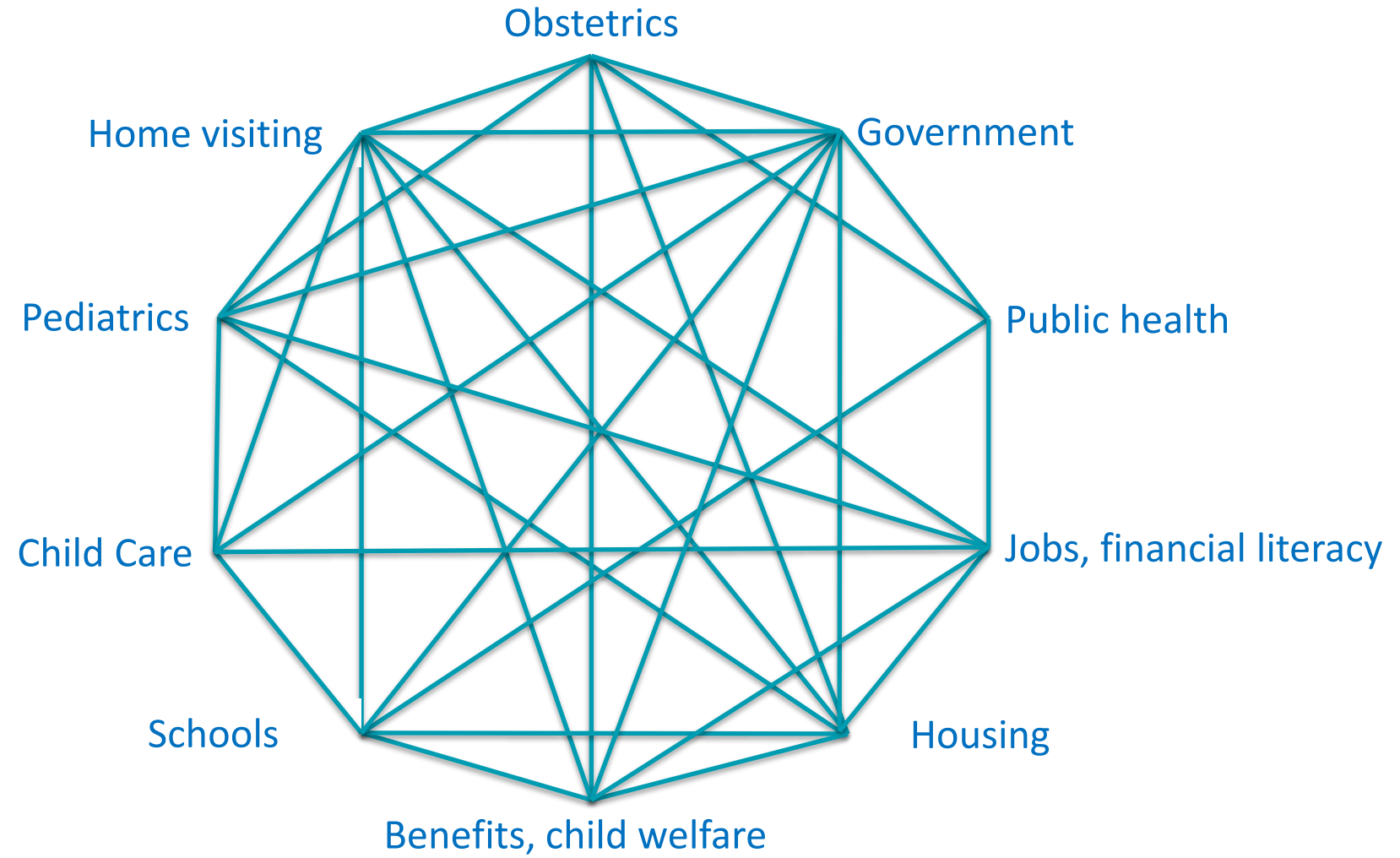
Proactive prevention for the next generation:

- Child and Family Health
- Child Educational Success
- Parenting Education starting Early
- Family Planning

The 2-Generation Continuum

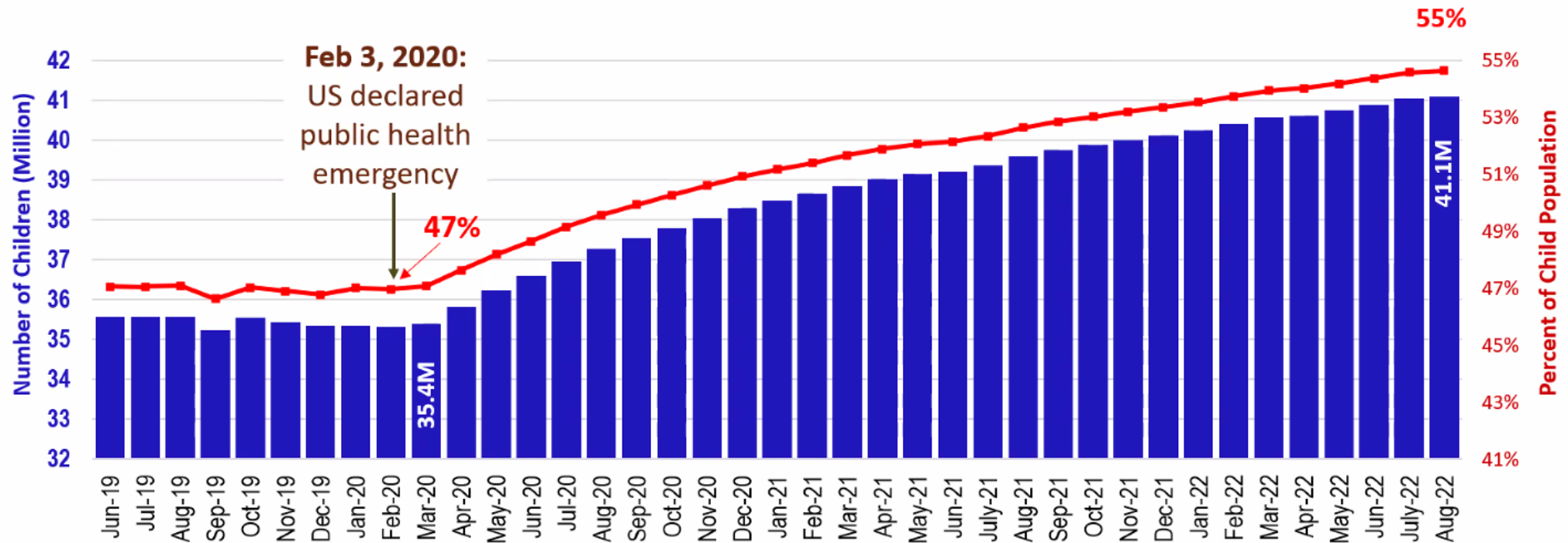


Delivery System for Child Healthcare



Medicaid/CHIP Child Enrollment Trend June 2019 – August 2022

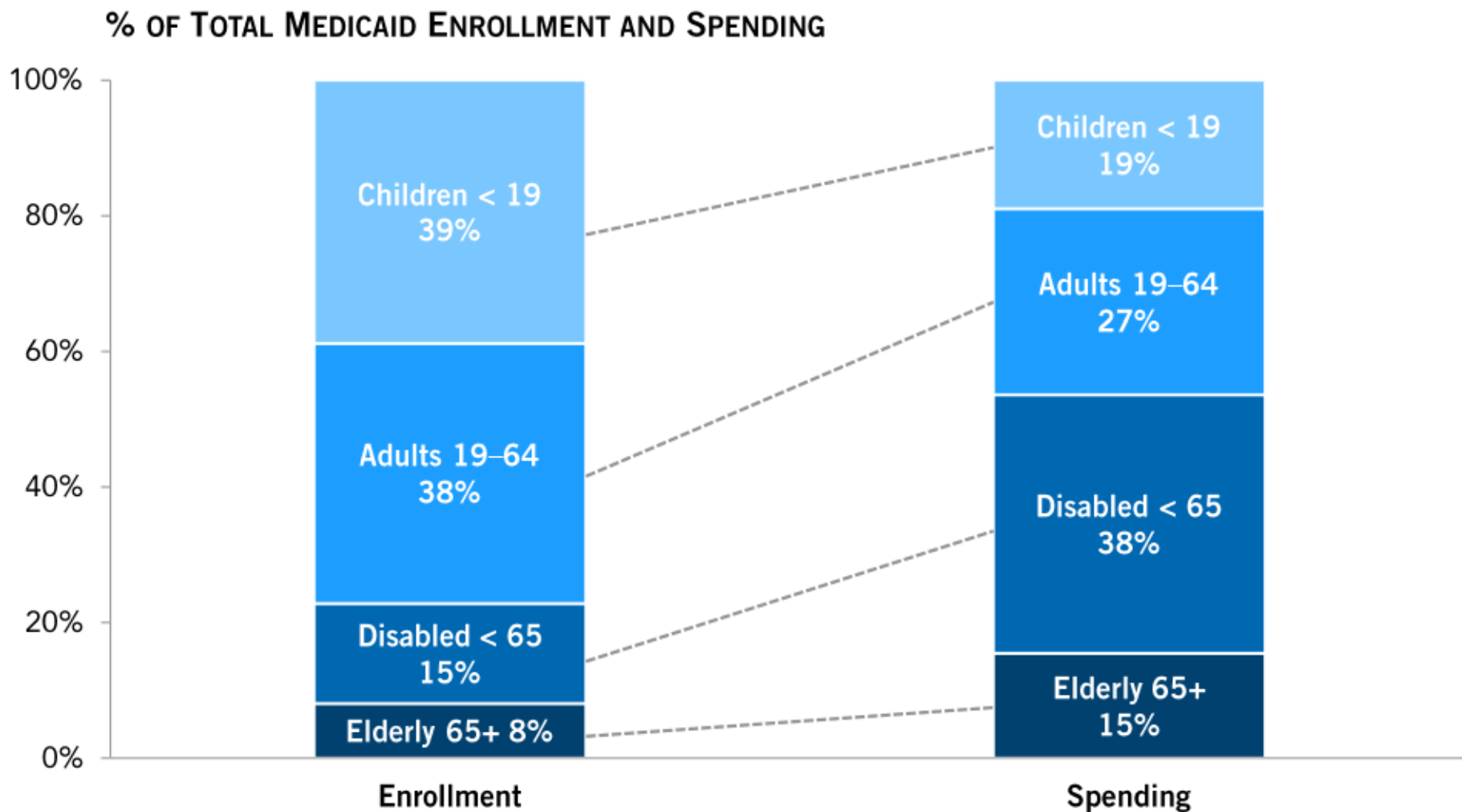
Number and Percent of US Children Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP Before and Since the COVID-19 Pandemic



Note: Arizona did not submit any child data throughout the reporting period and is not included in this report. August 2022 data is preliminary. **Source:** AAP analysis of data submitted by states to CMS released through the Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Performance Indicator Projects.

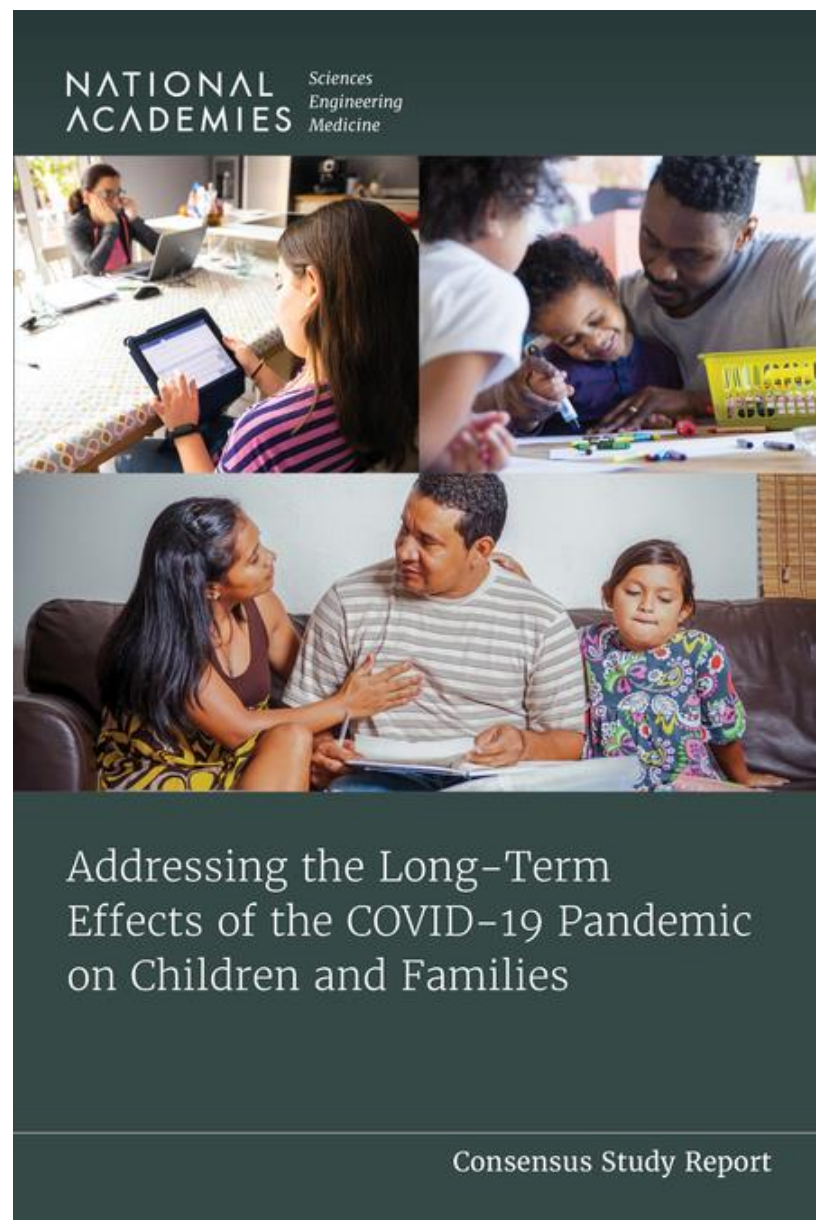


The elderly and people with disabilities make up 23 percent of Medicaid's enrollment, but account for 54 percent of the program's spending

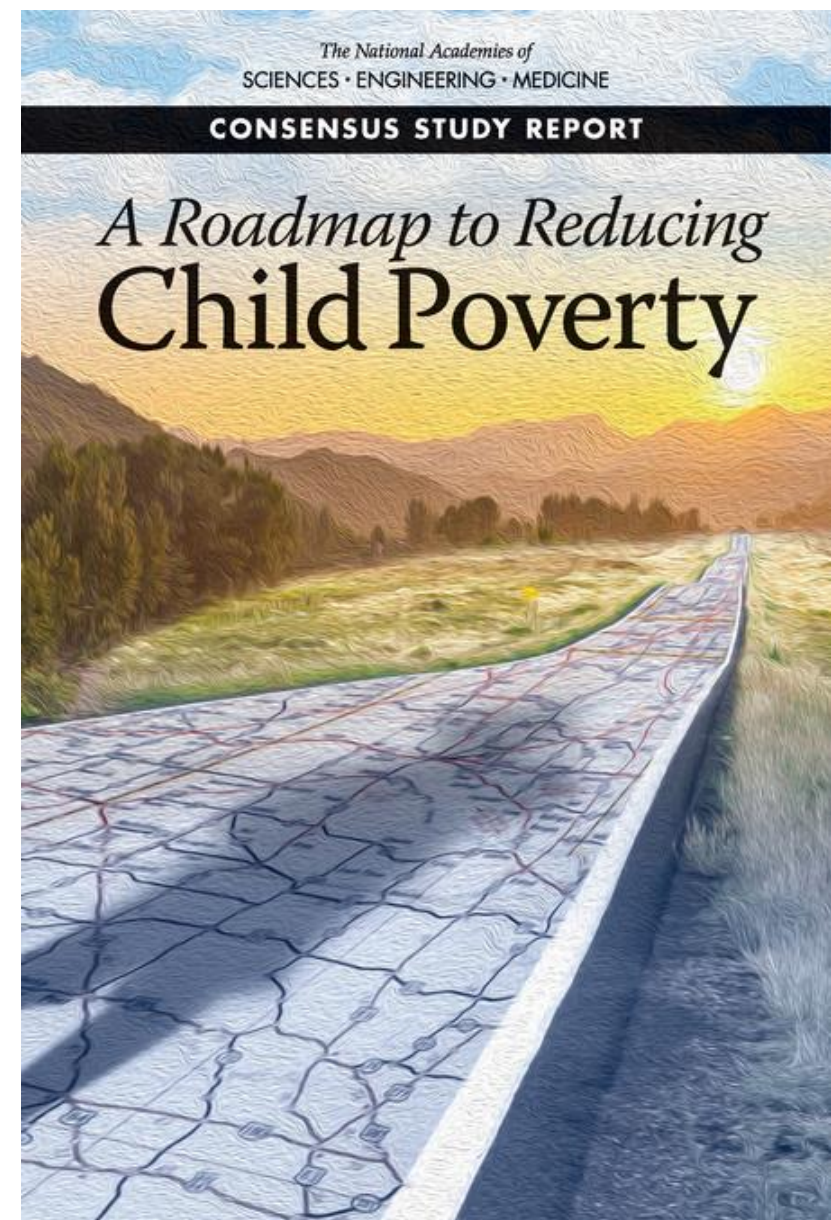


SOURCE: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile: Characteristics, Health Status, Access, Utilization, Expenditures and Experience*, August 2021.

NOTES: Data are for 2017.



2023, <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/addressing-the-long-term-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-children-and-families>



<http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2019/a-roadmap-to-reducing-child-poverty.aspx>

“There is nothing new about poverty.
What is new, however, is that we have the
resources to get rid of it.”

Martin Luther King, 1964

Wisdom, Will, Wallet
*We have the wisdom and the
wallet, what about the will?*

Cheng, Acad Ped 2010:10:81-6



A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is filled with clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. In the foreground, two people are silhouetted against the wet sand, which reflects the sky. One person is standing with one arm raised, and the other is in a crouching or jumping pose. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men.

Frederick Douglass