

# Justice for All? Structural Racism and the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Lessons from the COVID Pandemic Workshop

The National Academies of Science, Engineering & Medicine

January 13, 2022

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# Disclosures

None

# Objectives

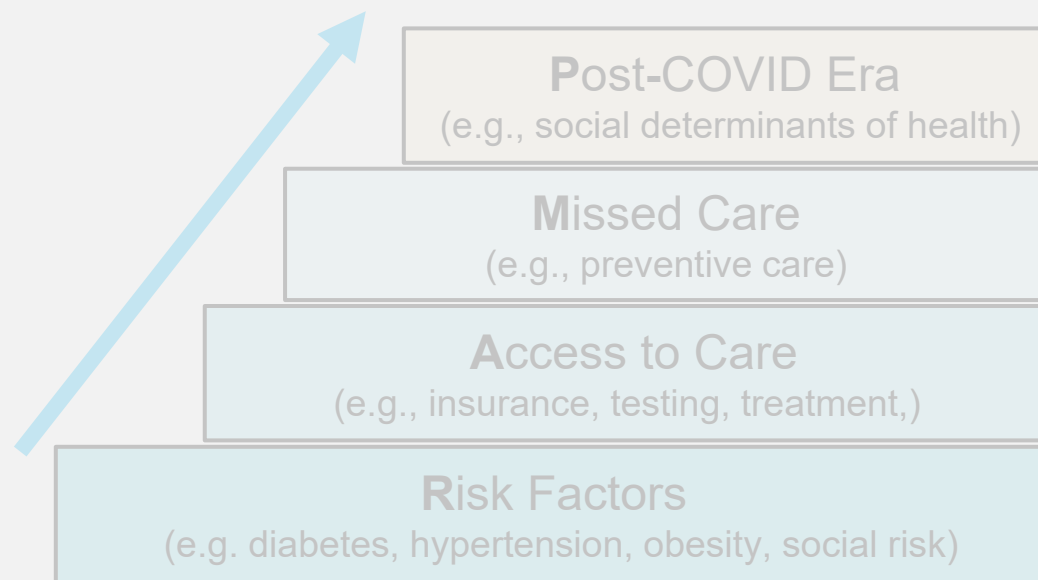
## Describing the Data

Incidence of  
COVID-19

Hospitalization  
in COVID-19

Mortality in  
COVID-19

## Examining the Drivers



## Identifying Strategies

Enhancing Race/Ethnicity  
Data Collection

Expanding Access to Health  
Care

Innovate Testing, Tracing,  
and Treatment

Eliminate Discrimination

Invest in Community &  
Social Services





**“Of all the forms of inequality,  
injustice in health care is the  
most shocking and inhumane.”**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Chicago, March 25, 1966**



# **Early Data Shows African Americans Have Contracted and Died of Coronavirus at an Alarming Rate**

No, the coronavirus is not an “equalizer.” Black people are being infected and dying at higher rates. Here’s what Milwaukee is doing about it — and why governments need to start releasing

**Here’s why African Americans are dying from the coronavirus at a startlingly higher rate in Missouri and Illinois**

**'Glaring' racial disparities found in coronavirus infection rates in these New Orleans neighborhoods**





# Latinos' coronavirus burden

At San Francisco General Hospital, more than 80% of the first patients admitted for COVID-19 were Latino, nearly three times the rate the hospital usually sees.

By Joaquin Palomino and Tatiana Sanchez | May 8, 2020

## Navajo Nation Sees High Rate Of COVID-19 And Contact Tracing Is A Challenge

April 24, 2020 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition

LAUREL MORALES

FROM



3-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST

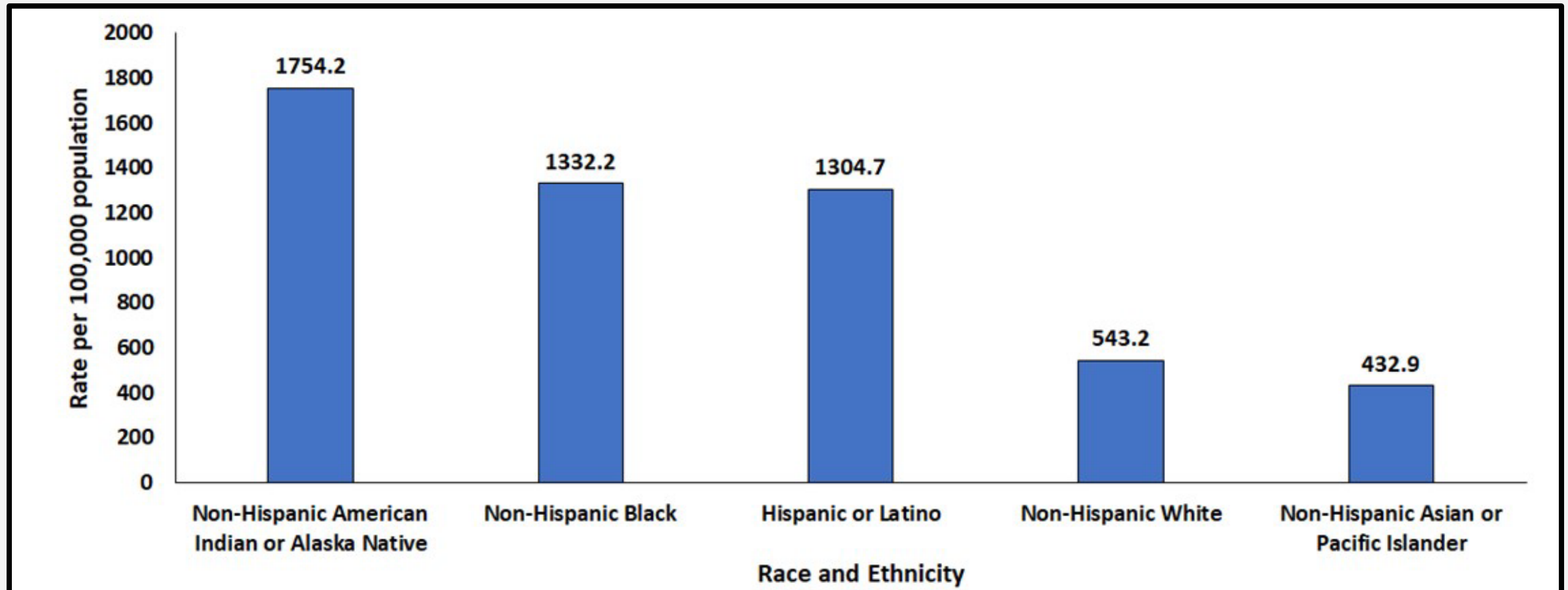


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# COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Race/Ethnicity



CDC, Dec. 2021



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# Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Mortality by Race/Ethnicity



APM Research  
Lab, March 2021



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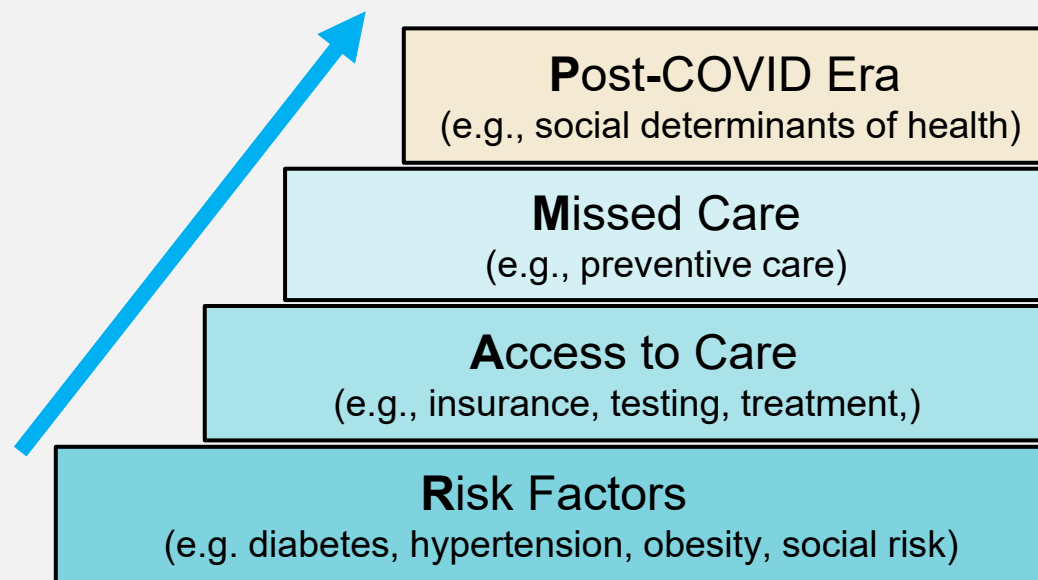
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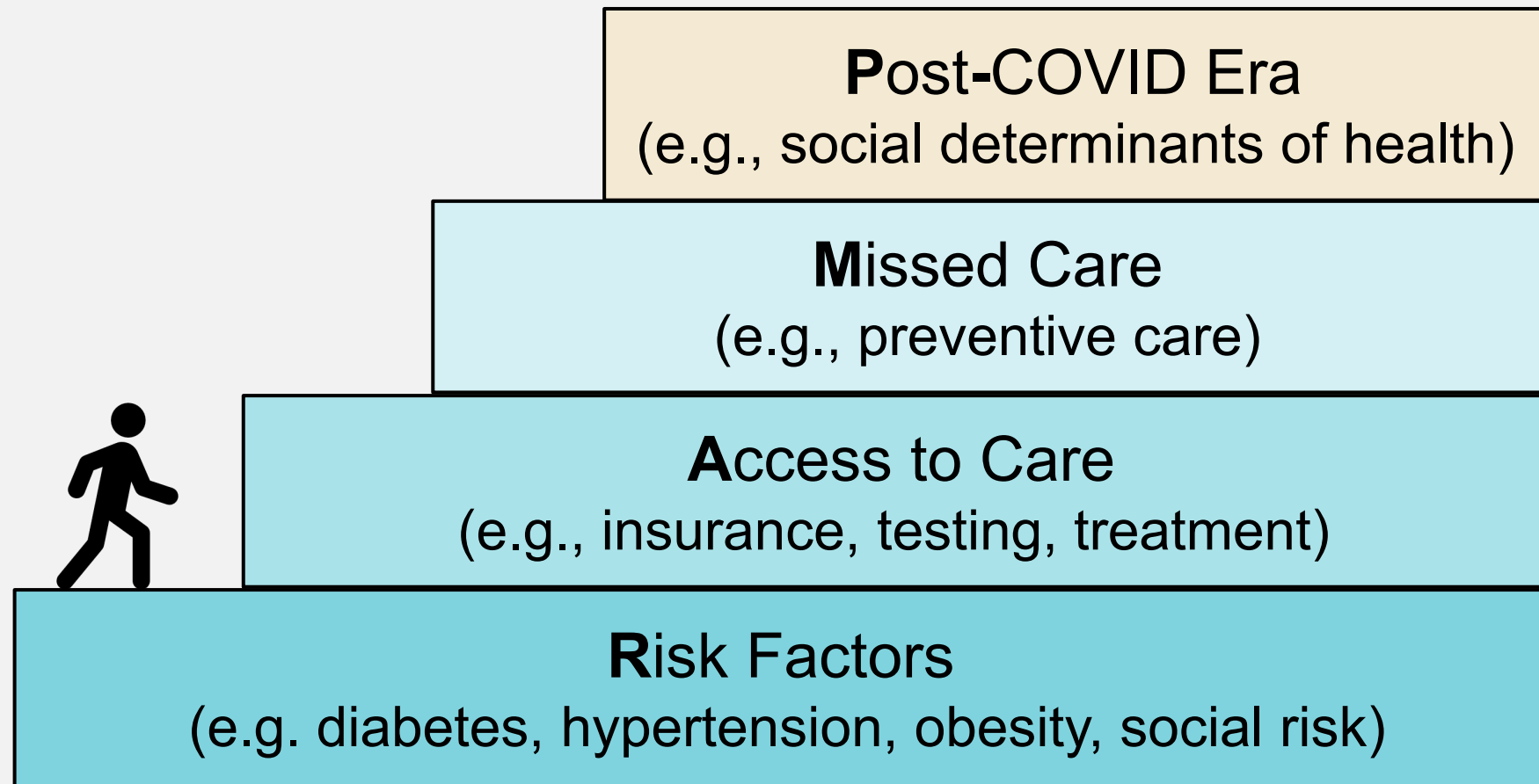
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# Framework for COVID-19 Disparities



## Clinical Characteristics of 138 Hospitalized Patients With 2019 Novel Coronavirus-Infected Pneumonia in Wuhan, China

Dawei Wang, MD; Bo Hu, MD; Chang Hu, MD; Fangfang Zhu, MD; Xing Liu, MD; Jing Zhar  
Zhenshun Cheng, MD; Yong Xiong, MD; Yan Zhao, MD; Yirong Li, MD; Xinghuan Wang, M

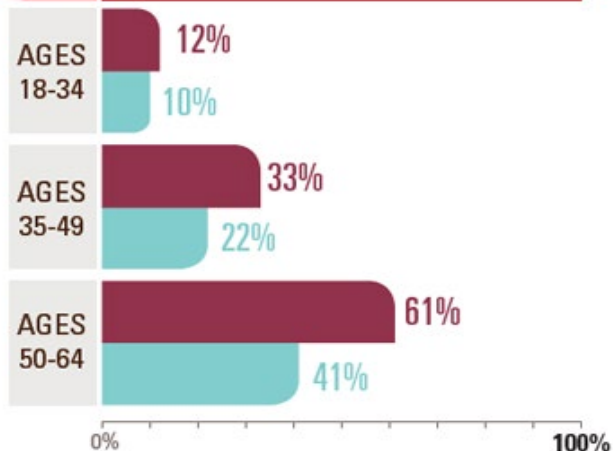
JAMA | Original Investigation

## Baseline Characteristics and Outcomes of 1591 Patients Infected With SARS-CoV-2 Admitted to ICUs of the Lombardy Region, Italy

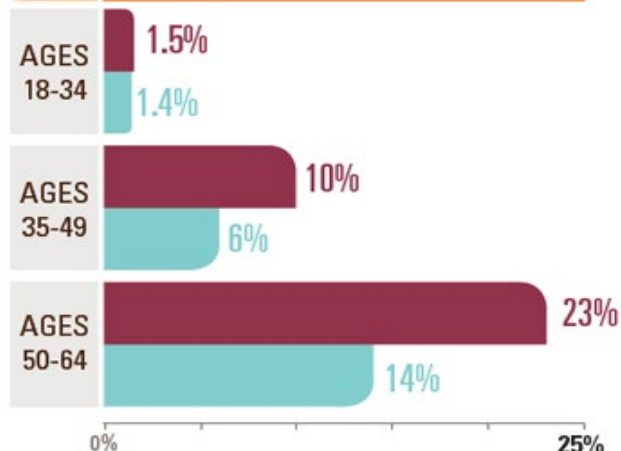
Giacomo Grasselli, MD; Alberto Zangrillo, MD; Alberto Zanella, MD; Massimo Antonelli, MD; Luca Cabrini, MD; Antonio Castelli, MD; Danilo Cereda, MD;  
Antonio Coluccello, MD; Giuseppe Foti, MD; Roberto Fumagalli, MD; Giorgio Iotti, MD; Nicola Latronico, MD; Luca Lorini, MD; Stefano Merler, MS;  
Giuseppe Natalini, MD; Alessandra Piatti, MD; Marco Vito Ranieri, MD; Anna Mara Scandroglio, MD; Enrico Storti, MD; Maurizio Cecconi, MD;  
Antonio Pesenti, MD; for the COVID-19 Lombardy ICU Network



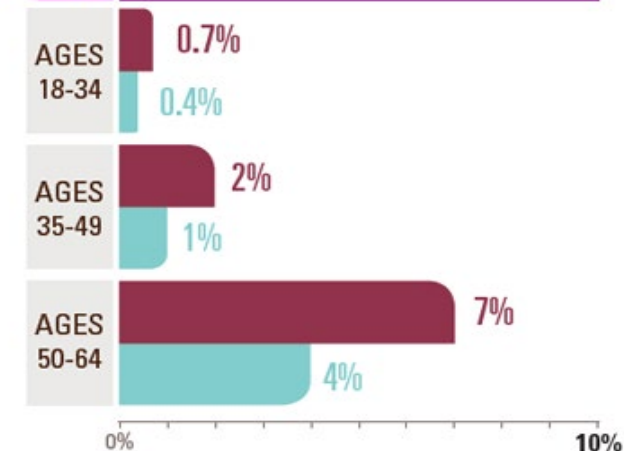
### High Blood Pressure



### Diabetes



### Stroke



Wang et al., JAMA. 2020; CDC. 2019



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National

## In an immigrant community battling coronavirus, 'essential' means 'vulnerable'



## Blacks & Hispanics more likely to work in:

- Home health care
- Nursing homes
- Public transportation
- Food services
- Construction

McCormick JAMA. 2020;  
Figueroa. Health Affairs. 2020



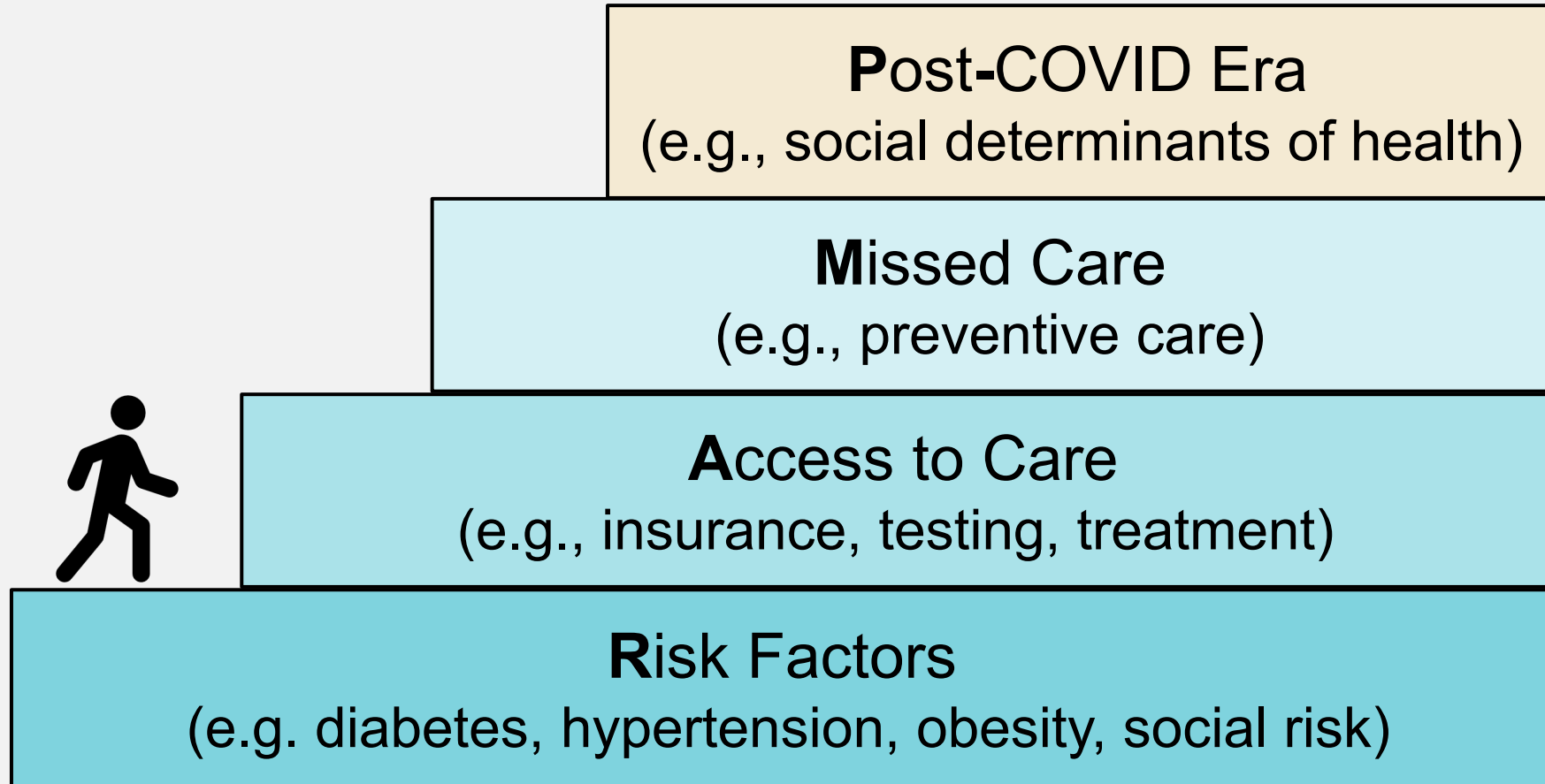
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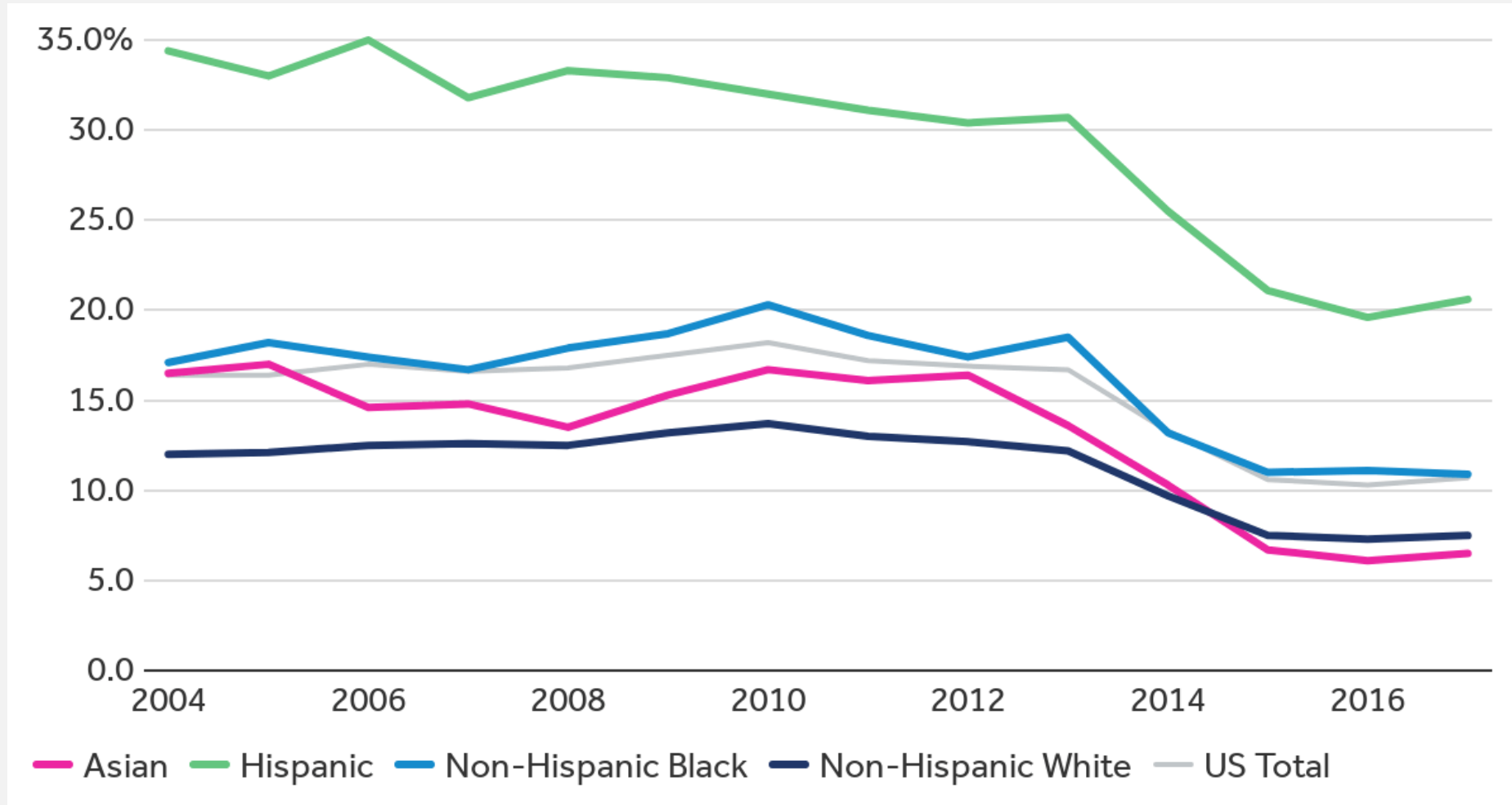
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# Framework for COVID-19 Disparities



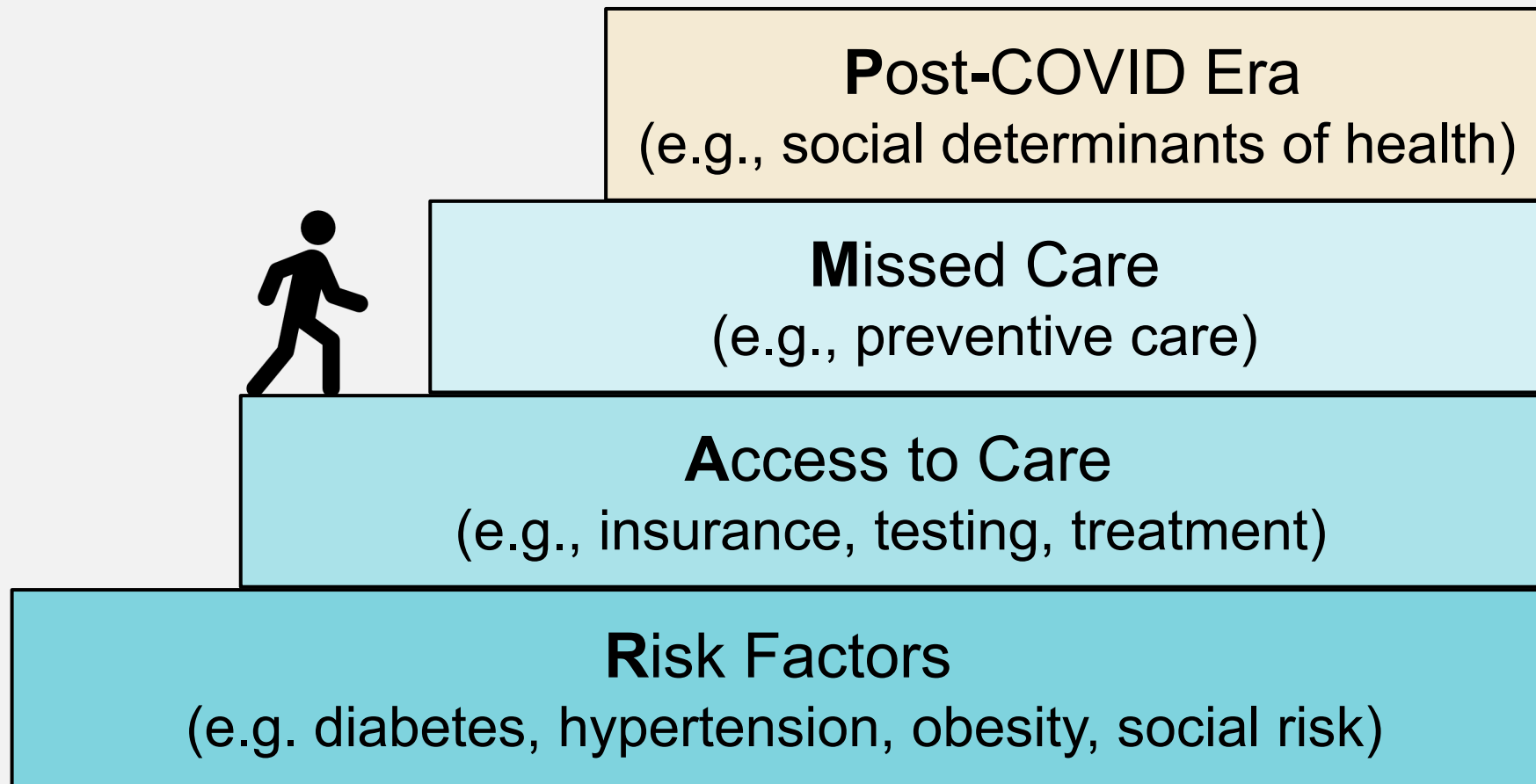
# Uninsured Rate in the U.S.



Kaiser Fam Found. 2018



# Framework for COVID-19 Disparities



The New York Times

# Where Have All the Heart Attacks Gone?

Except for treating Covid-19, many hospitals seem to be eerily quiet.



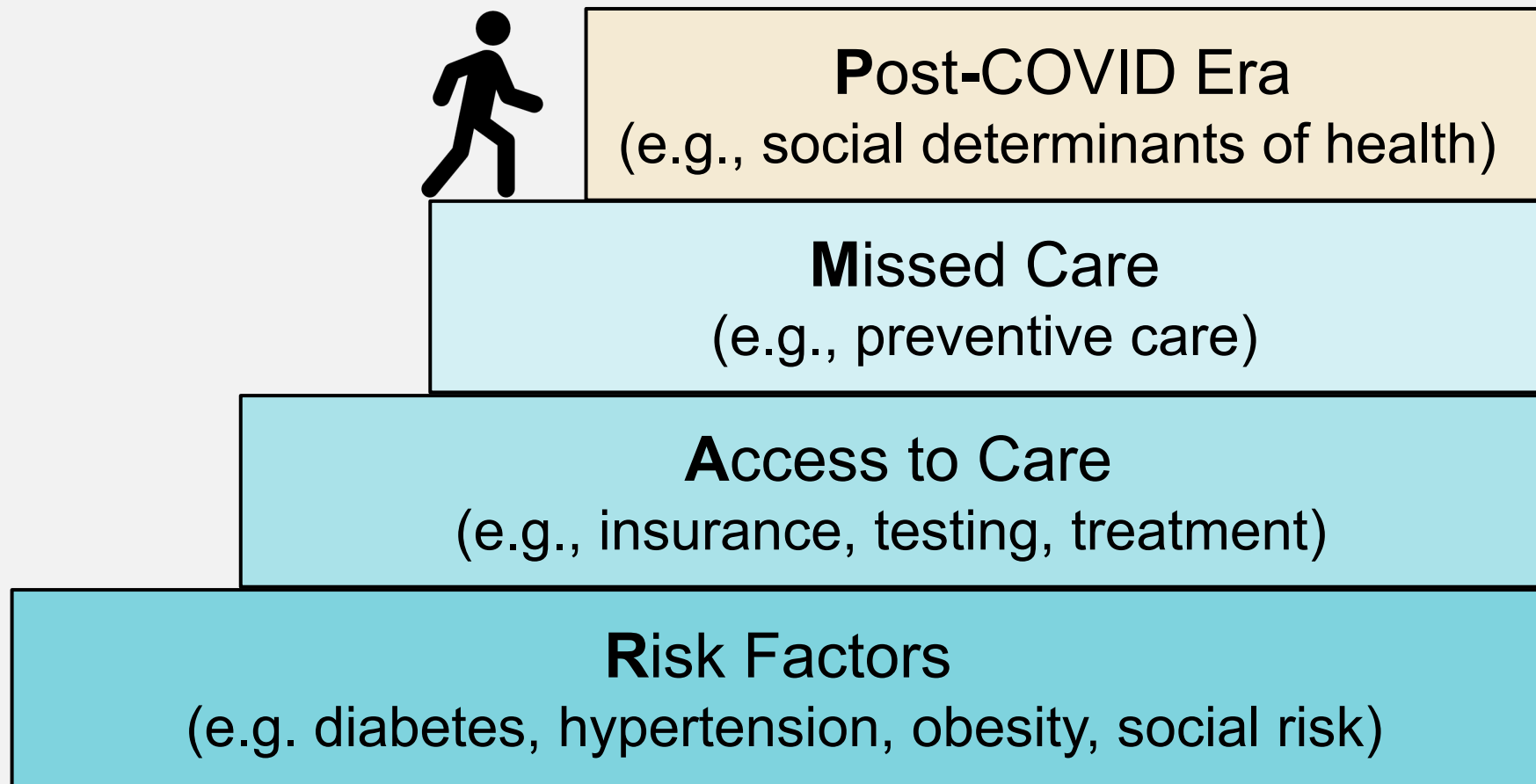
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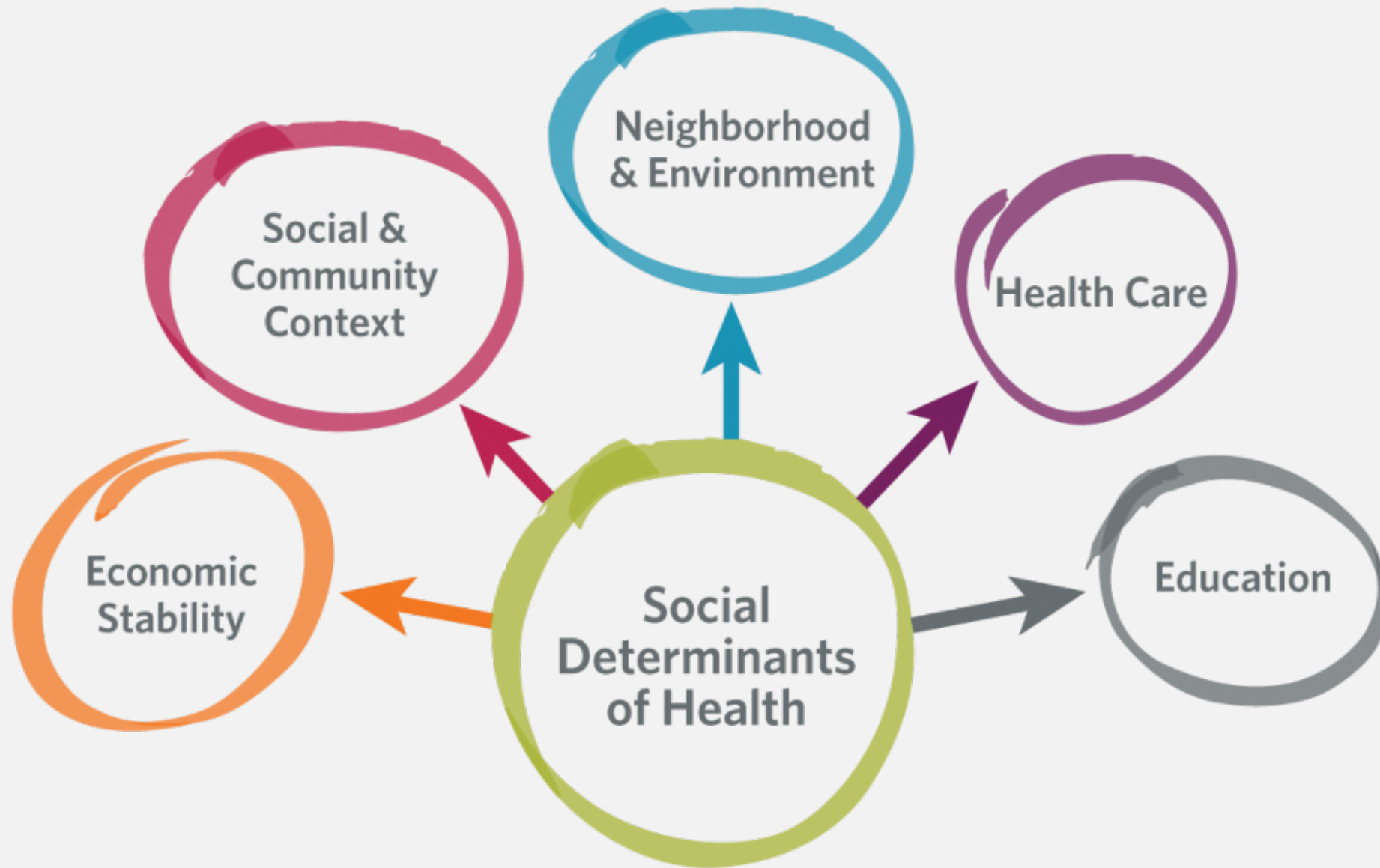
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# Framework for COVID-19 Disparities





The New York Times

## The Other Way Covid Will Kill: Hunger

Worldwide, the population facing life-threatening levels of food insecurity is expected to double, to more than a quarter of a billion people.



## The Rent Eats First, Even During a Pandemic

Threatening to turn families out of their homes during the coronavirus fight isn't just morally suspect; it's dangerous.

By Matthew Desmond

Mr. Desmond is the author of "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City."

Aug. 29, 2020



Illustration by Rachel Willey; photograph by Getty Images



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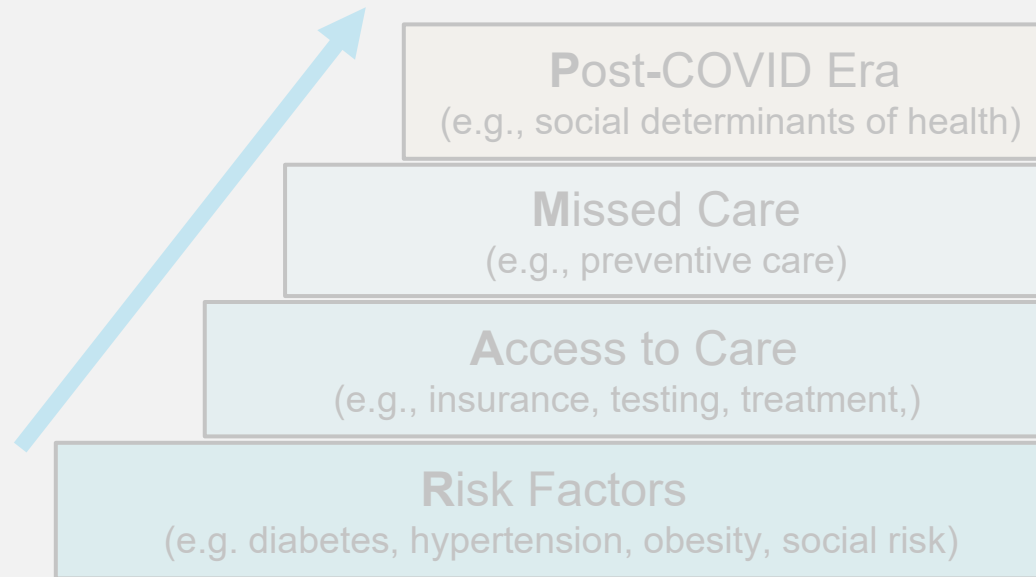
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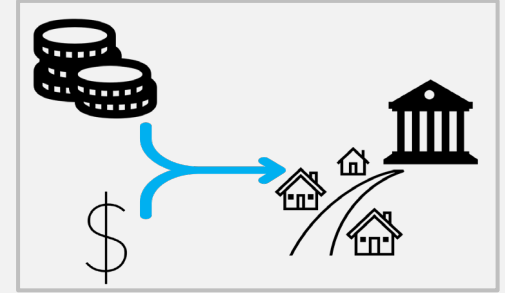
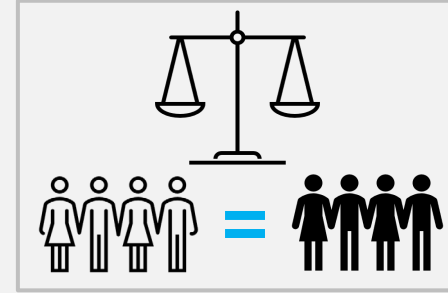
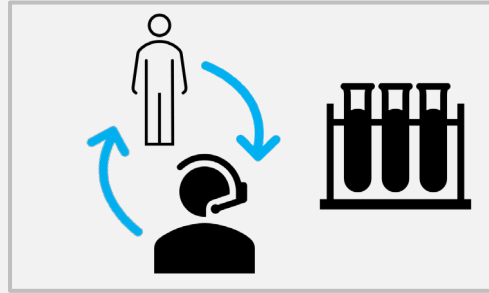
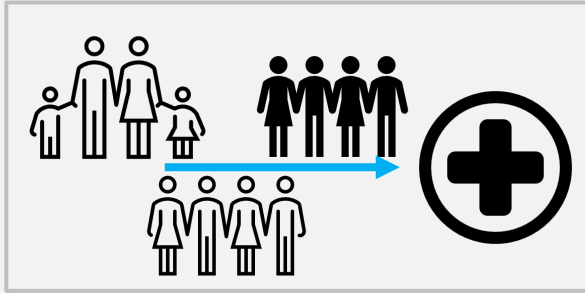
Elevate Community &  
Social Investment






# Strategies to Achieve Structural Racism in COVID-19

1. **Enhance Race/Ethnicity Data Collection**
2. **Expand Access to Health Care**
3. **Equitable Testing and Treatment (Pharmacoequity)**
4. **Eliminate Racism & Discrimination**
5. **Elevate Community and Social Service Investment**





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