

WHO GLOBAL WEBINARS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON EQUITY AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

CONFRONTING POVERTY AND INCOME INSECURITY DURING COVID-19 THROUGH STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION



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INTRODUCTION

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UHC/Healthier Populations, WHO

SETTING THE SCENE

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A new impetus

*Why only treat people.....
and then send them back to the conditions
that made them sick?*

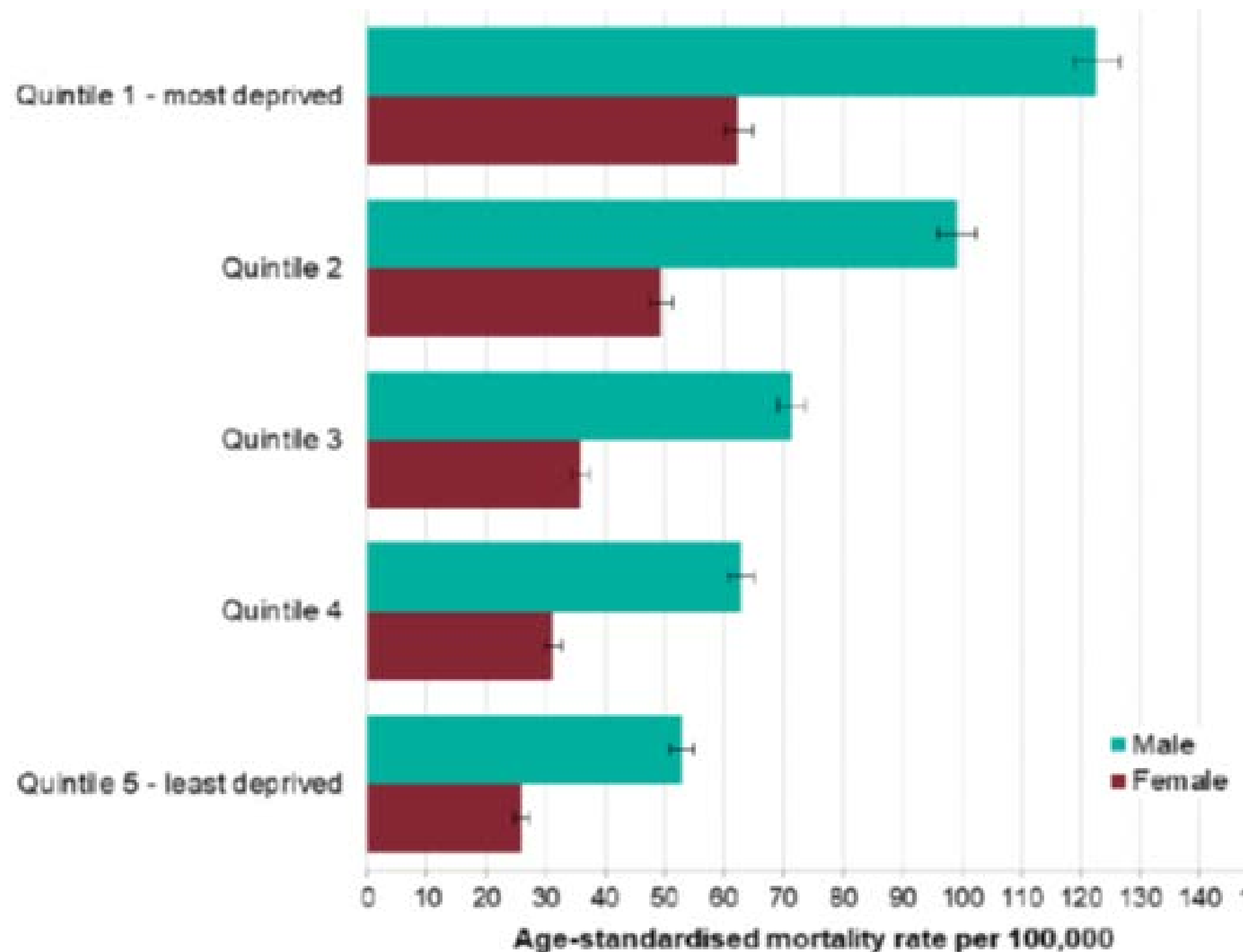


Commission on
Social Determinants of Health

- 2021 – 22 January Executive Board Resolution (EB148.R2) “The Social Determinants of Health”
- Calls for WHO to produce the first World Report on the Social Determinants of Health Equity by World Health Assembly 2023
- First global report on the social determinants of health since WHO published report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health²

Importance of poverty in poor COVID-19 outcomes

England*: COVID-19 death rates (mid-2020)



- Multiple studies
- Household poverty is significantly associated with worse COVID outcomes independently of other important demographic and socioeconomic drivers:
 - ✓ household density,
 - ✓ age,
 - ✓ pre-existing health conditions,
 - ✓ occupation,
 - ✓ access to hand-washing facilities and health services.

* Public Health England. (2020) Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19

Global poverty trends* before, during and post COVID-19

Poverty	2019	2020	2021	2030
Pre-COVID	650,433,712	621,931,609	598,347,067	536,923,904
	8.4%	8.0%	7.6%	6.3%
October 2020	646,806,659	766,032,180	726,524,822	597,902,578
	8.4%	9.9%	9.3%	7.0%

*Source: Kharas, H. The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Extreme Poverty (2020) Brookings Press . <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/10/21/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-global-extreme-poverty/>

Income insecurity and health inequities overall – what do we know...?



- ❑ Income Insecurity is the largest contributor to inequities in health* out of 5 key social determinants
- ❑ Income insecurity and the lack of or inadequate social protection:
 - 46% of the inequity in mental health
 - 35% of the inequity in self reported health
 - 40% of the inequity in life satisfaction

* Healthy Prosperous Lives for All – the European Health Equity Status Report 2019
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/health-equity-status-report-2019>

Pathways* from poverty to unequal health and unequal life chances



- ❑ Higher OOPs, catastrophic health expenditures and **unmet need for health and social care**



- ❑ Insecurity/ Quality of essential health goods such as **food, fuel shelter/ housing, digital connectivity, local neighborhoods**

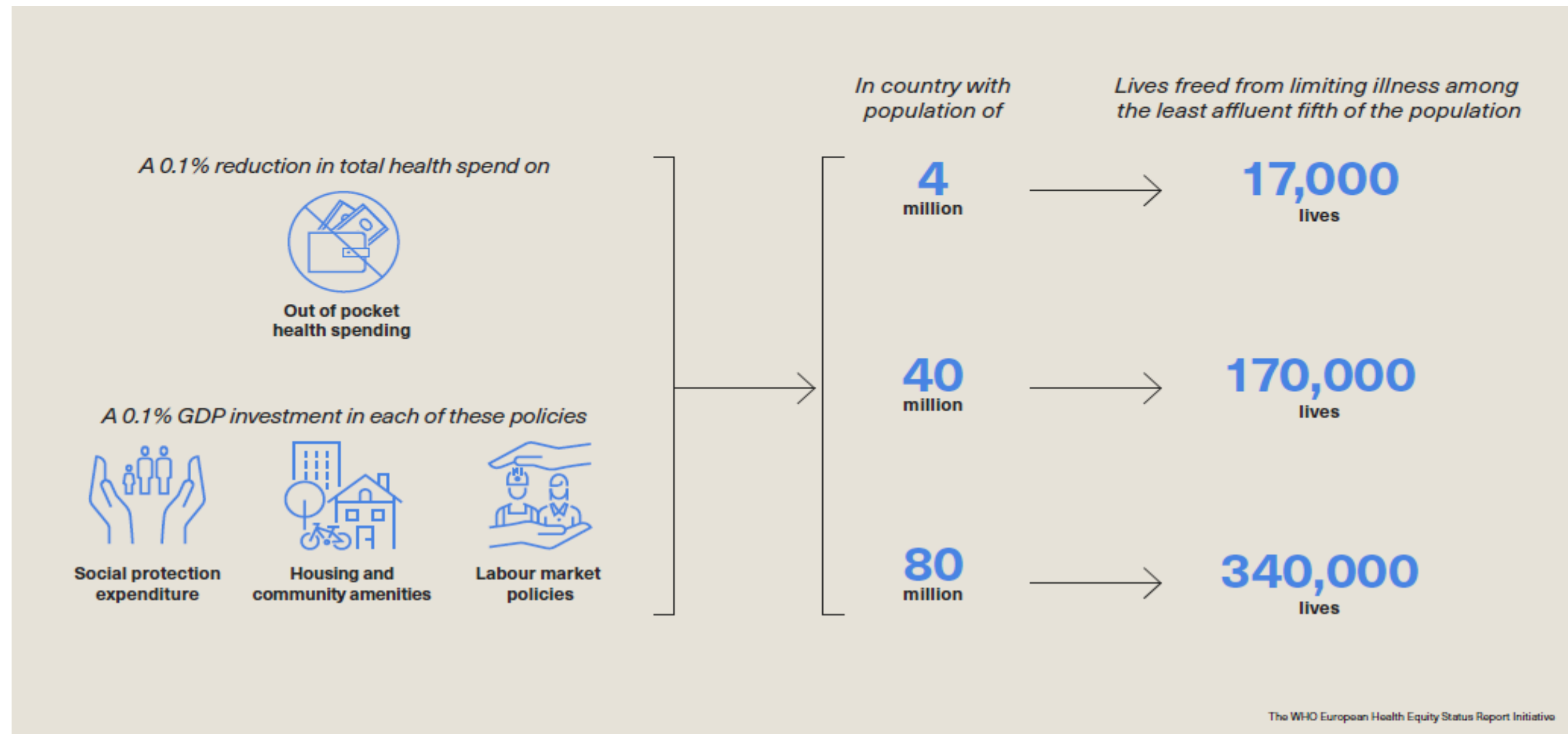


- ❑ Higher exposure to unsafe/ **precarious employment unemployment, early drop out of education & learning**

* Healthy Prosperous Lives for All – the European Health Equity Status Report 2019

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/health-equity-status-report-2019>

Social protection matters in reducing health inequities



and results are achievable in 4 years

* WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development (2020)