

# Healthy, Prosperous Lives for All

The WHO European Health Equity Status Report Initiative

## Investment for Wellbeing and Health Equity in the Context of COVID-19



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# PEOPLE ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND DUE TO POOR HEALTH

THE BOTTOM 20% OF THE POPULATION IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION EXPERIENCE:

## HIGHER Illness Limiting Daily Life

Comparing between the top and the bottom 20% of the population by income

**2x** MALE    **2x** FEMALE



Limiting illness leaves the individual and their family at risk of poverty and social exclusion

## HIGHER Poor Life Satisfaction

Comparing between the top and the bottom 20% of the population by income

**3x** MALE    **2.5x** FEMALE

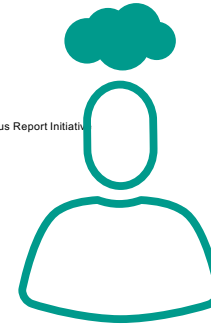


Poor life satisfaction captures how people feel about their lives – and indicates that people are not thriving and flourishing

## HIGHER Poor Mental Health

Comparing between the top and the bottom 20% of the population by income

**2x** MALE    **1.5x** FEMALE

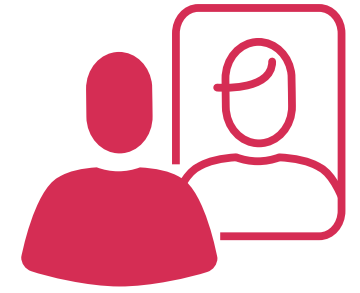


Depression and anxiety are among the top 5 causes of the overall disease burden in the WHO European Region

## HIGHER Poor Self-Reported Health

Comparing between the top and the bottom 20% of the population by income

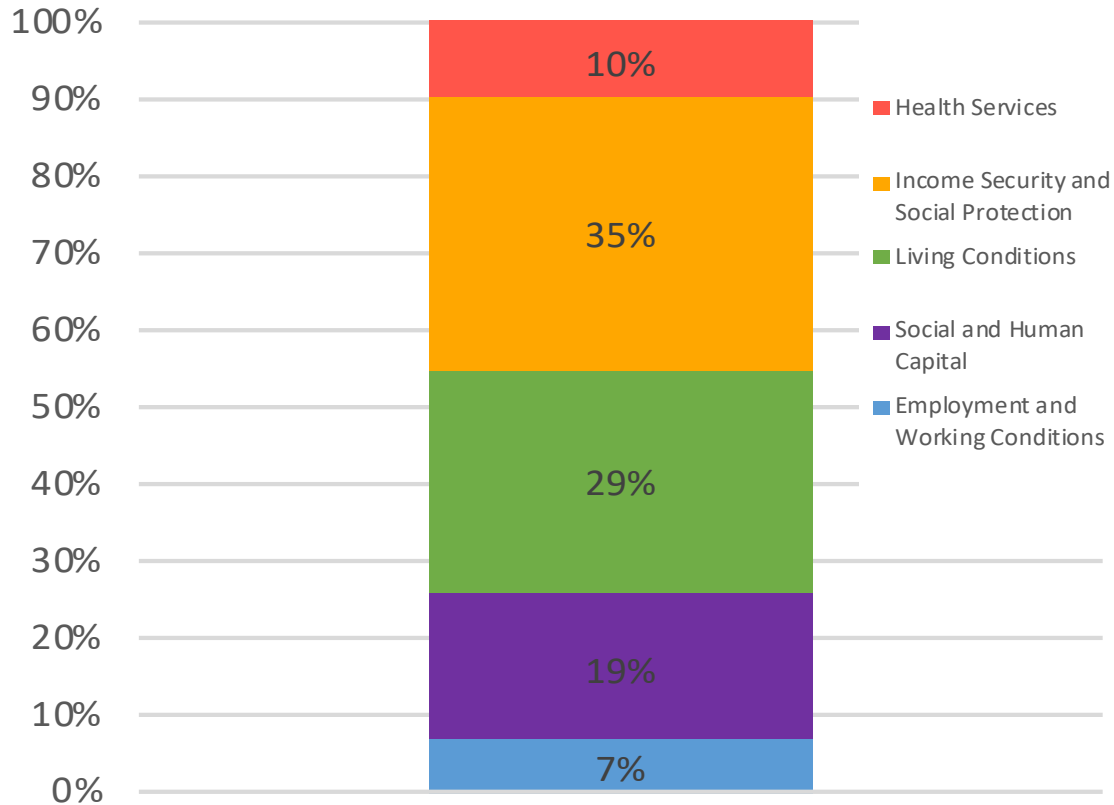
**2x** MALE    **2x** FEMALE



Poor self-reported health is a good predictor of future health problems

# What is holding people back from good health and a decent life?

Decomposing the gap in health status between poorest and richest income quintiles over 36 European countries



% of the gap explained by differences in 5 factors, controlling for age & gender (based on analysis of EQLS 2003-2016)

- 10%** Inequity in access to and quality of health care
- 35%** Financial Insecurity *'not being able to make ends meet'*
- 29%** Poor quality housing and underdeveloped and unsafe neighborhoods
- 19%** Lack of trust, agency and sense of belonging + poor access and quality of education
- 7%** Lack of decent work and poor working conditions

# How is COVID impacting health ? the 3 main pathways

- Direct impacts on health and health inequities from **contracting COVID-19**
- Direct and indirect health impacts due to the **COVID-19 containment measures**
- Indirect impacts on health due to health-related **socioeconomic effects of lockdowns** measures

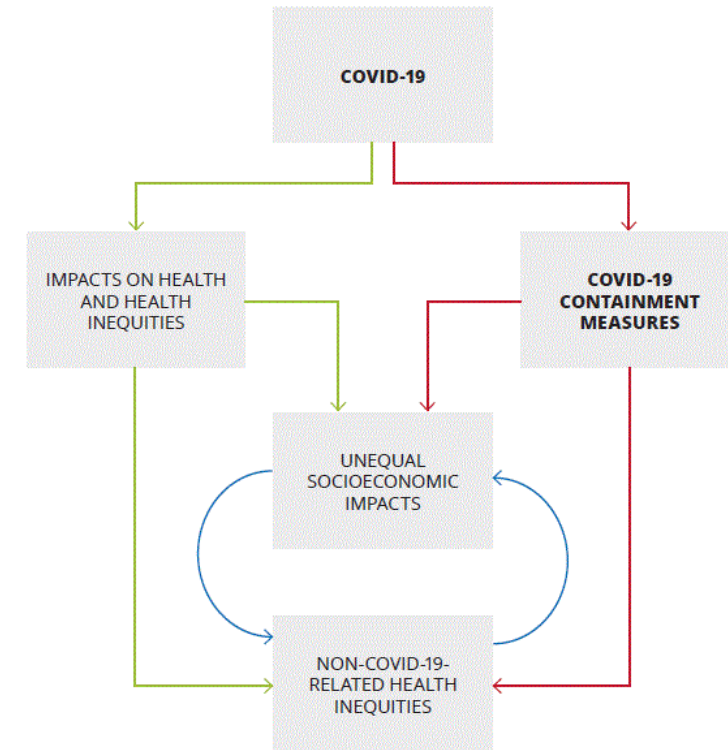
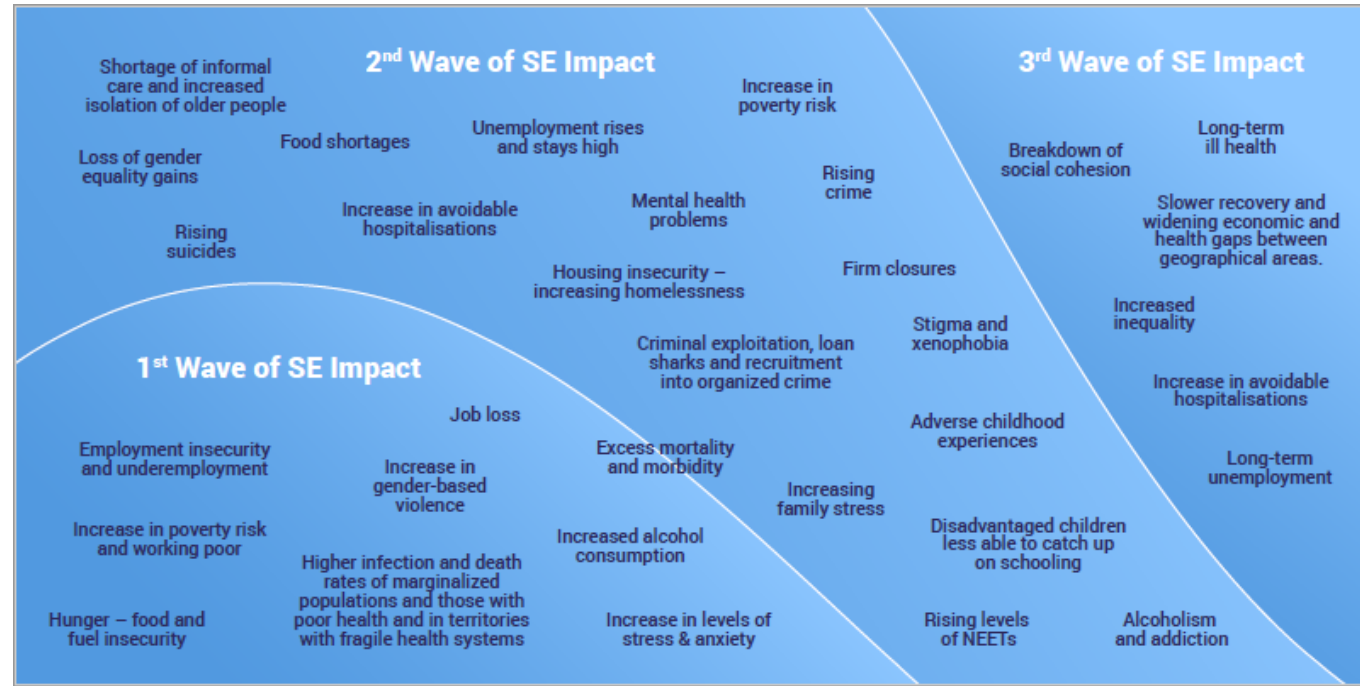


Figure: Mechanisms for the health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and its containment measures

# Current Policy Challenges

- Compounding existing inequities in health within countries
- New health and economic vulnerabilities
- Increased insecurity in access to essential health goods and services
- Increased levels and concentration of unmet health and social needs



# United in Action for Better Health for All



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**



**Organisation  
mondiale de la Santé**

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L' **Europe**



**Weltgesundheitsorganisation**

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**Европейское** региональное бюро