



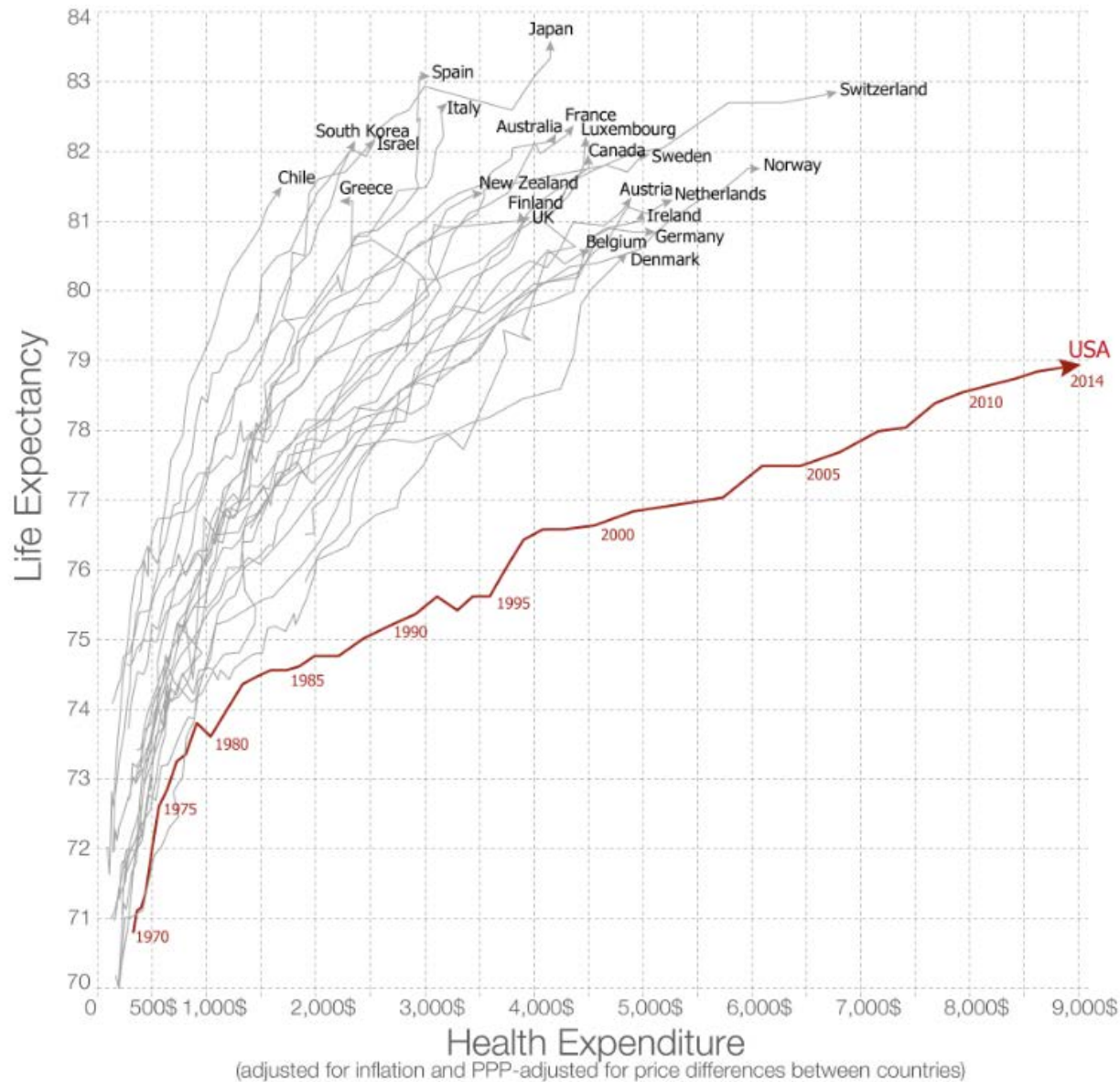
# **Innovations at Work: Working with Community, Rhode Island Department of Health Perspective**

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- The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)'s Strategic Priorities
- Two approaches to shift investments and promote health equity:
  - Clinic-to-community investments
  - Direct community investments

# Higher spending doesn't lead to better health

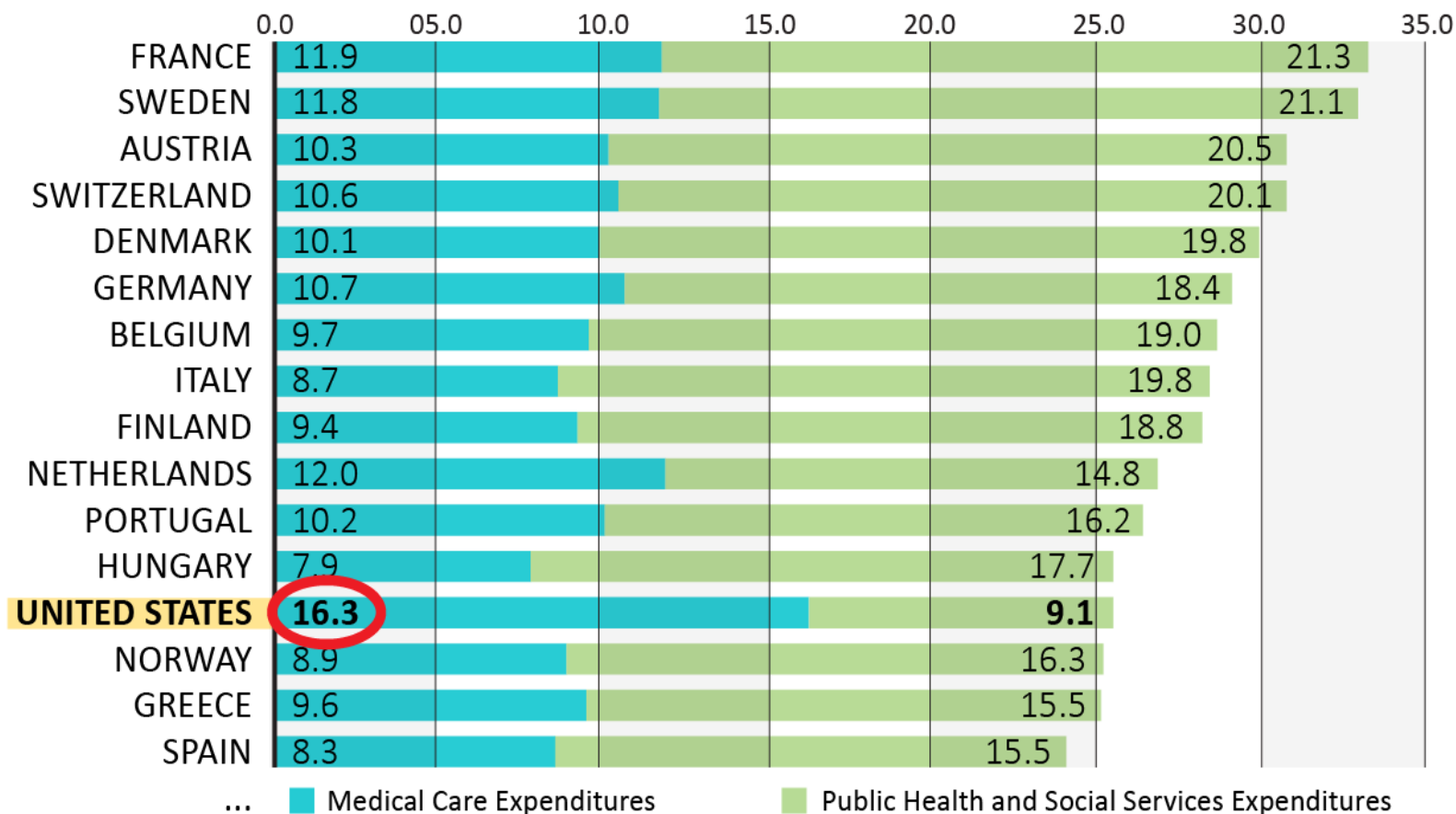


We spend a lot more on healthcare, but our life expectancy is worse.

# We don't invest enough in social services

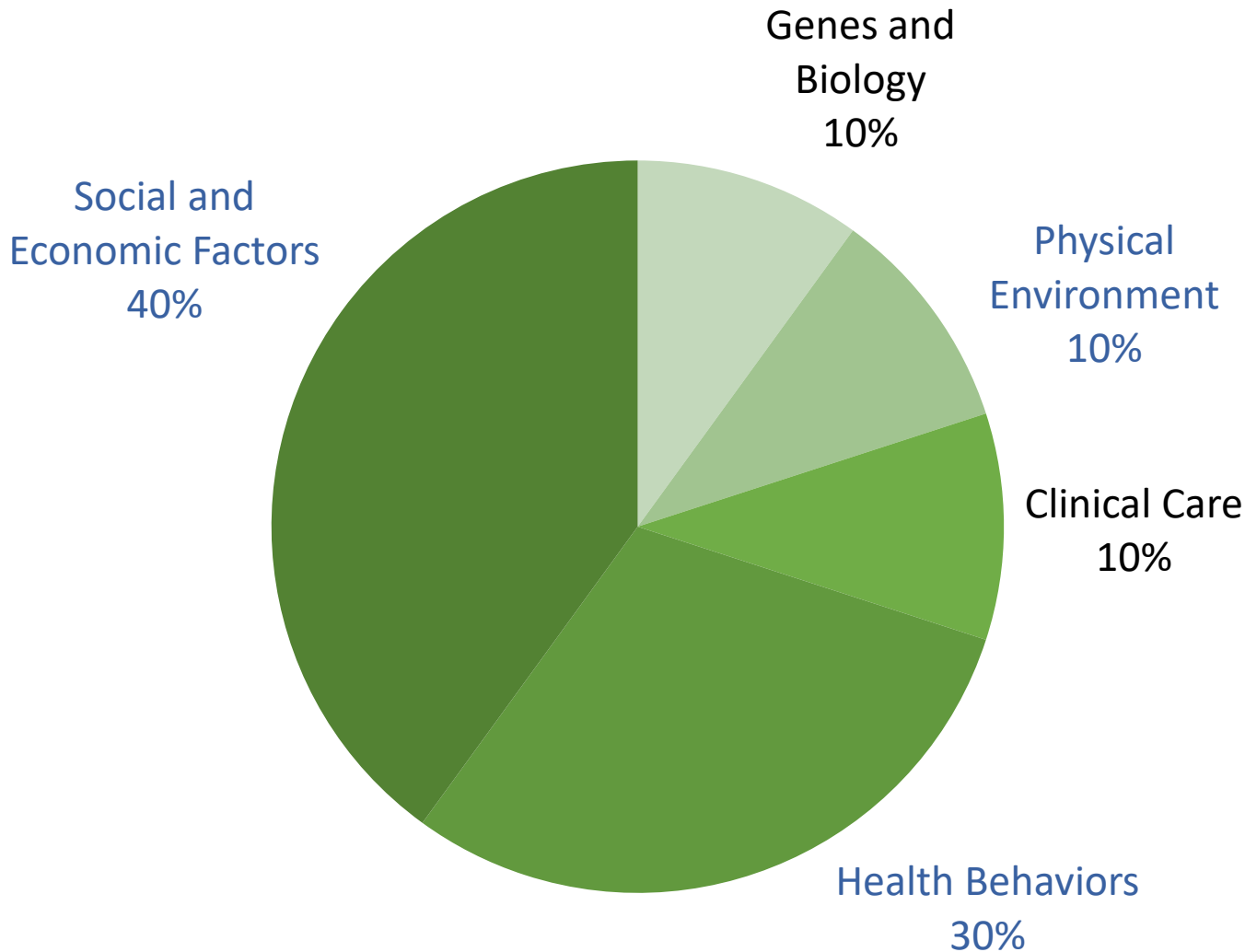


## Expenditures as a % of GDP



For every \$1 spent on healthcare, most countries spend \$2 on public health and social services. The US only spends 55 cents.

# Health Starts in our Communities



80% of health happens in the community.

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- Drug overdose prevention and intervention

# Community Health Workers



Hired for their understanding of the populations they serve (rather than just from expertise due to formal education).

Examples include:

- Family Home Visitors
- Chronic disease case managers
- Substance use disorder peer recovery coaches
- Bi-lingual health systems navigators
- Public Housing Resident Coordinators

# Important Workforce Distinction



## Community-Based Licensed Health Professionals

- Licensed Health Professional
  - May or may not obtain additional certification
- Travels out to the patient's home or community
- Focuses on clinical education tailored to the recipient

## Community Health Workers

- No previous health professional license
- Obtains CHW certification
- Travels out to the patient's home or community
- Focuses on helping to navigate social services



# Community Health Workers



## CHW Certification Credentialing

RIDOH and community partners, include Rhode Island College, established a Community Health Worker certification credential through the RI Certification Board



## Community Health Worker Association of Rhode Island

Re-established as a pathway for professional advancement

## Next Steps

Continue to develop payment opportunities for a CHW workforce pipeline in the health system

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# Health Equity Zones



**Place based**

**Community led**

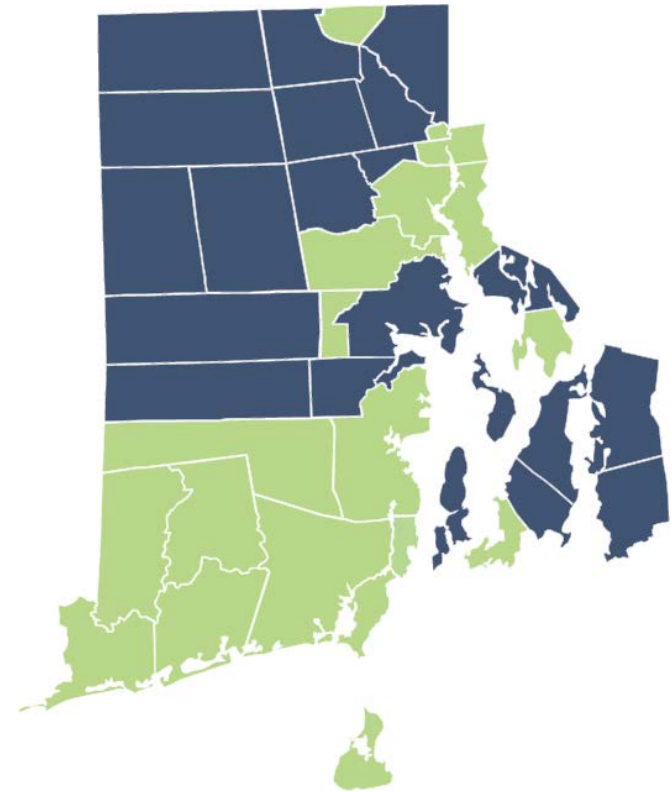
**Data driven**

**Focus on root causes**

**Represent many sectors**

**Collaborate on shared goals**

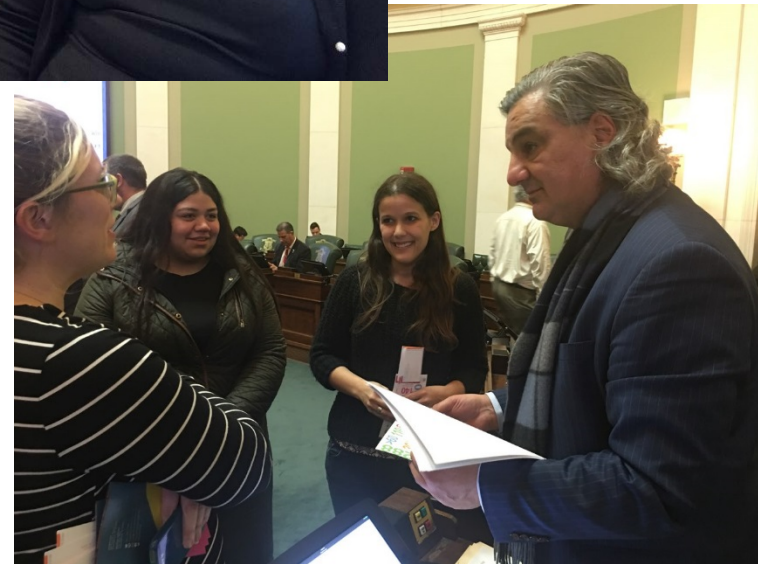
**Serving as a national model**



# Health Equity Zones: Collaborative Members



- Residents
- City planners
- Educators
- Legislators
- Faith leaders
- Business leaders
- Medical and behavioral healthcare providers
- Community health workers
- Community-based organizations



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- **Drug overdose prevention and intervention**

# Overdose Prevention and Response: Sample Early Implementation Projects



## Bristol Health Equity Zone

- Conducted opioid response and mental health first aid training for police and fire personnel
- Funding services at East Bay Recovery Center
- Developing campaign to decrease stigma

## Pawtucket Central Falls Health Equity Zone

- Developing opioid prevention educational program for middle school students
- Promoting naloxone through local bus shelter ads

# Overdose Prevention and Response: Sample Early Implementation Projects



## West Warwick Health Equity Zone

- Engaging community ambassadors with lived experience to implement action plan and promote recovery services
- Conducting critical stress management training for local police force

## Woonsocket County Health Equity Zone

- Planning motivational interview training with clinical staff who work with patients with substance use disorder

# Health Equity Zones: Mental Health Activities



## Bristol Health Equity Zone:

- Conducted suicide prevention gatekeeper and Mental Health First Aid training
- Hosting community conversation on mental health

## Washington County Health Equity Zone:

- Launched “Zero Suicide” initiative with \$2M in SAMHSA funding
- Providing Mental Health First Aid training
- Hosted “Question, Persuade, and Refer” training for local clergy and RI National Guard staff





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