



NSF AND CARDIAC RESEARCH

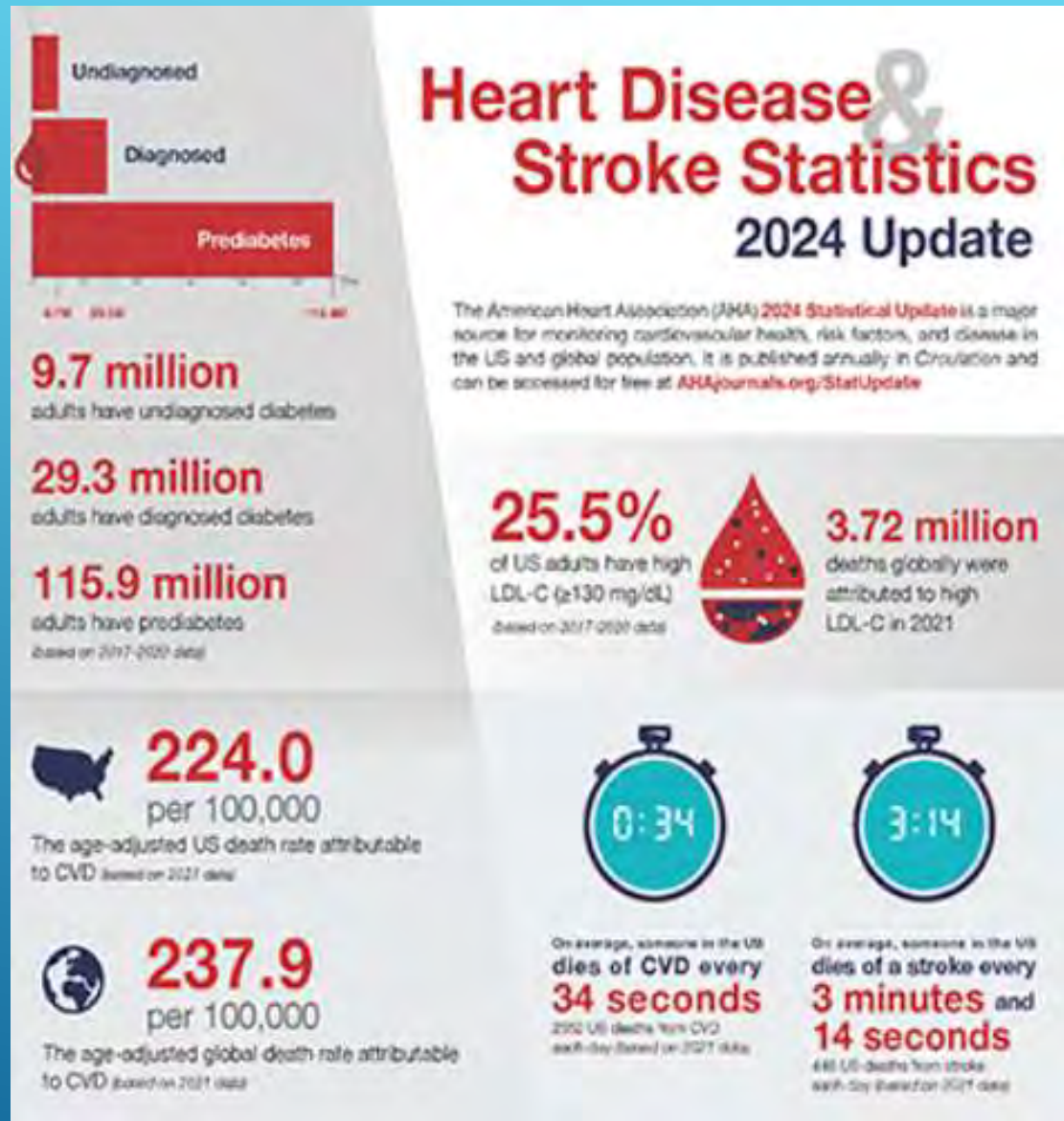
Wendy Nilsen, PhD

National Science Foundation

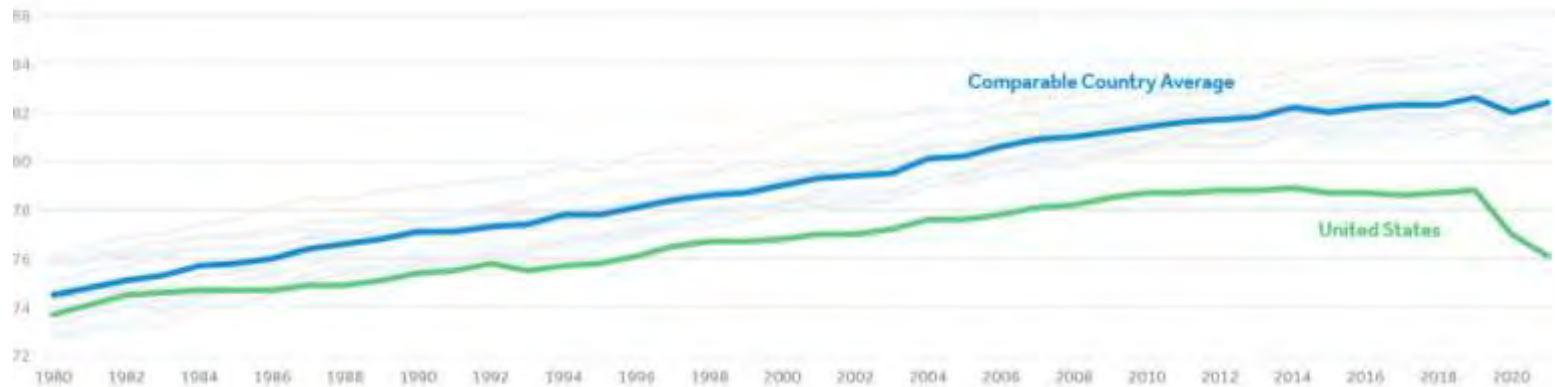
Computer & Information
Science & Engineering
Directorate



Heart Disease and Stroke 2024



Martin et. al. 2024 Heart disease and stroke statistics: a report of U.S. and global data from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*.



Notes: Comparable countries include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada (except for 2021), France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K. See Methods section of "How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?"

Source: KFF analysis of CDC, OECD, Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and UK Office for Health Improvement and Disparities data • [Get the data](#) • [PNG](#)

Peterson KFF
Health System Tracker

FROM 2020 TO 2021, LIFE EXPECTANCY CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN THE U.S. WHILE REBOUNDED IN MOST COMPARABLE COUNTRIES

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth by sex, in years, 2021

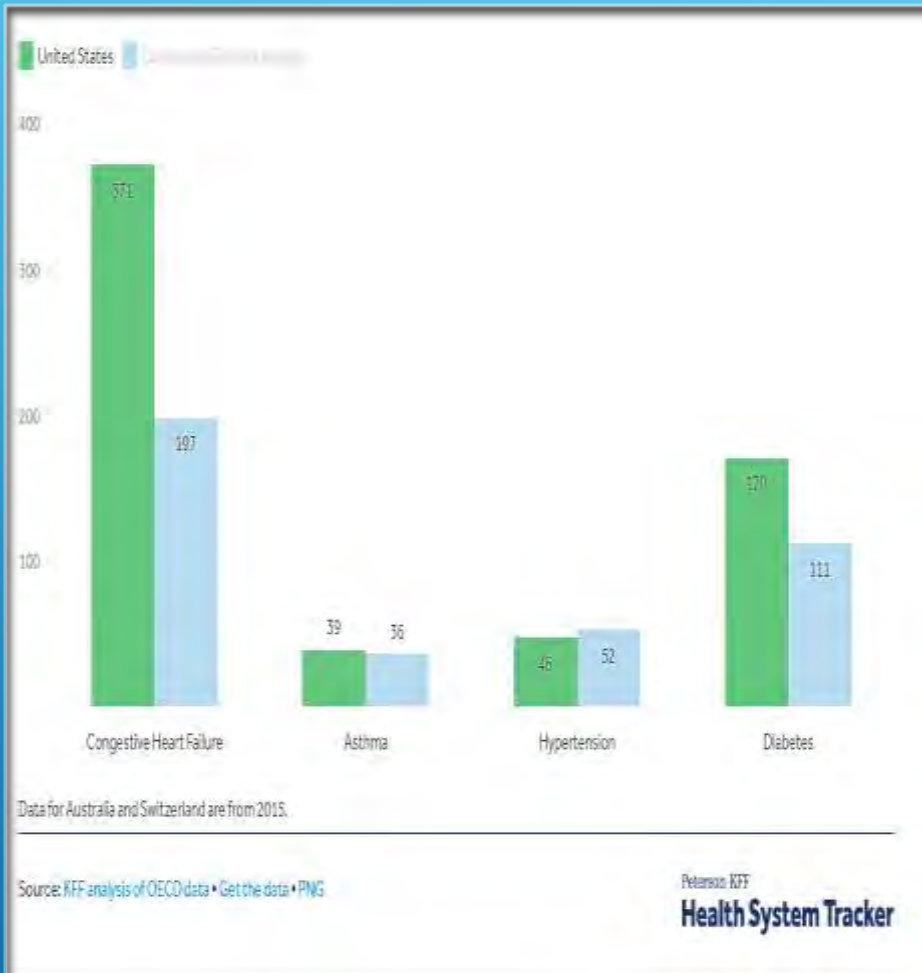
Male Female



Note: See [Methods section](#) of "How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?"

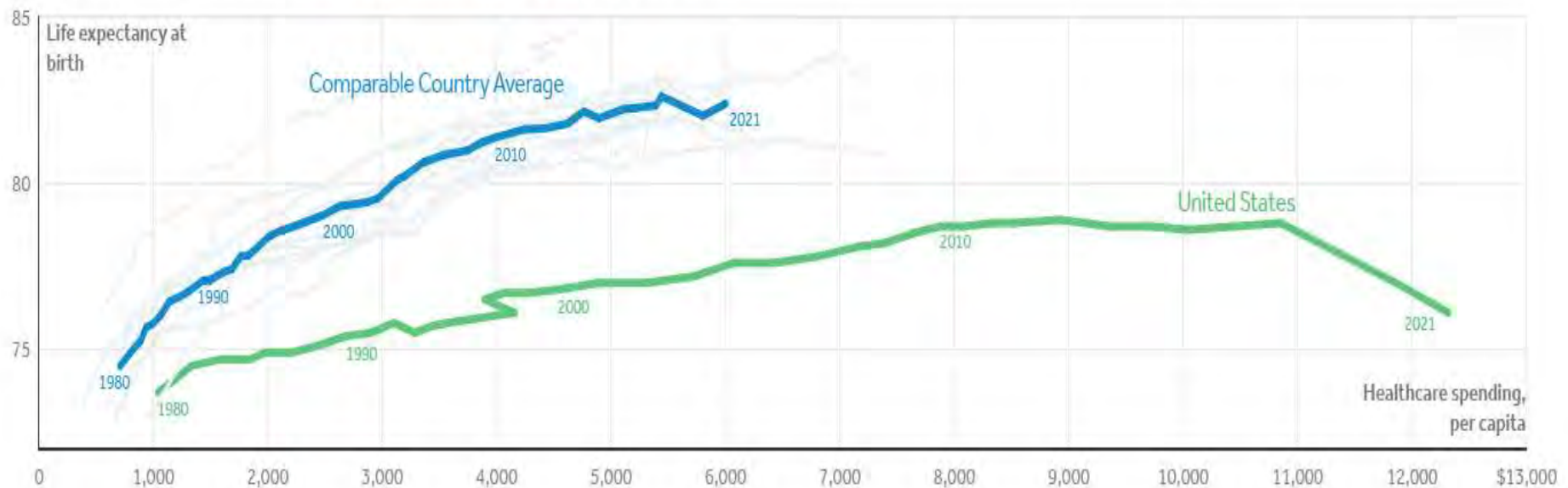
Source: KFF analysis of CDC, OECD, Australia Bureau of Statistics, German Federal Statistical Office, Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare, and UK Office for Health Improvement and Disparities data • [Get the data](#) • [PNG](#)

HOSPITAL RATES IN THE US AND COMPARABLE COUNTRIES



In 1980, the U.S. and comparable countries had similar life expectancies and health spending, but the trends have diverged in the last few decades

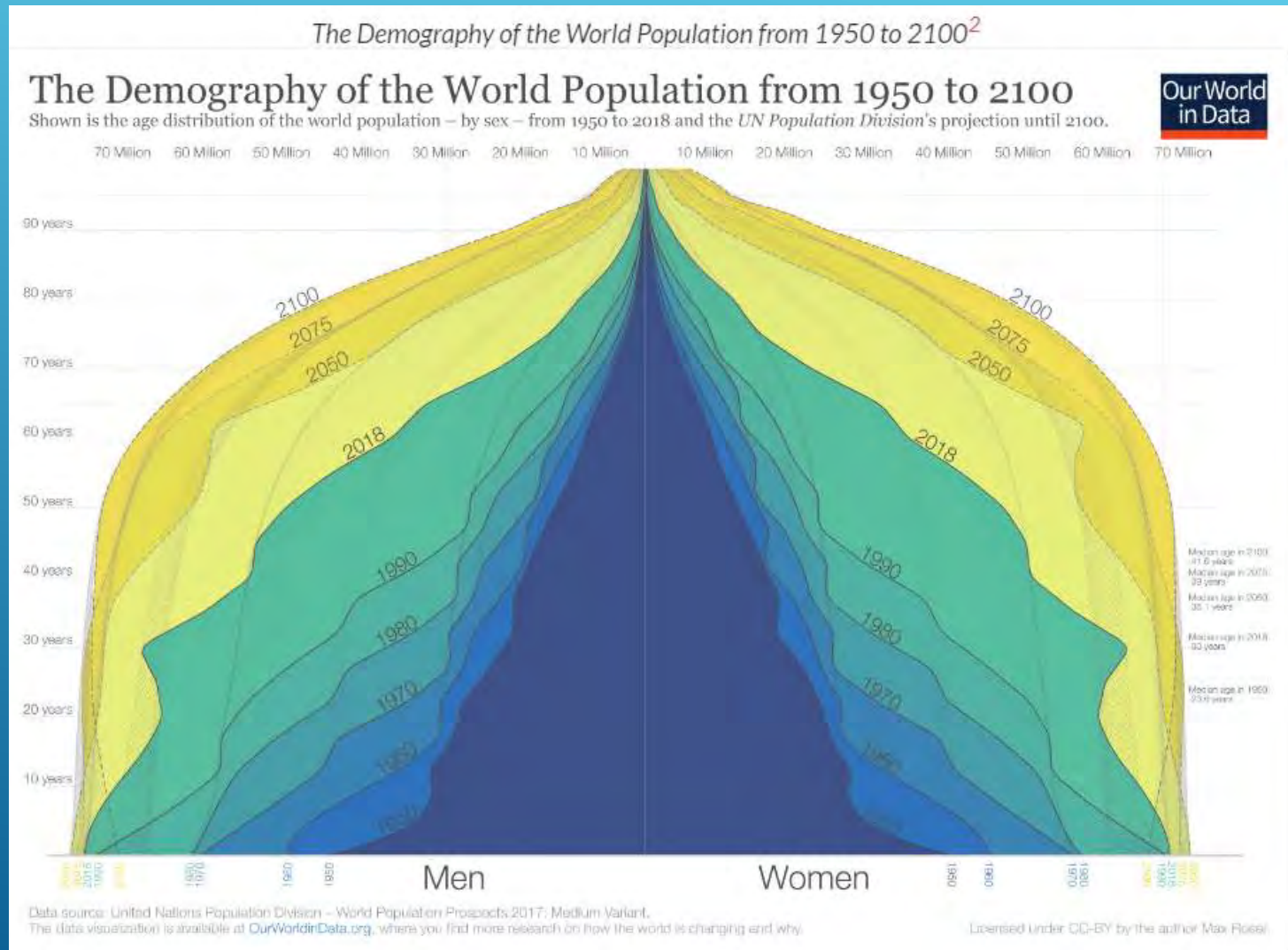
Life expectancy and healthcare spending per capita, 1980-2021



Notes: Comparable countries include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada (except for life expectancy average in 2021), France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K. See Methods section of "How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?"

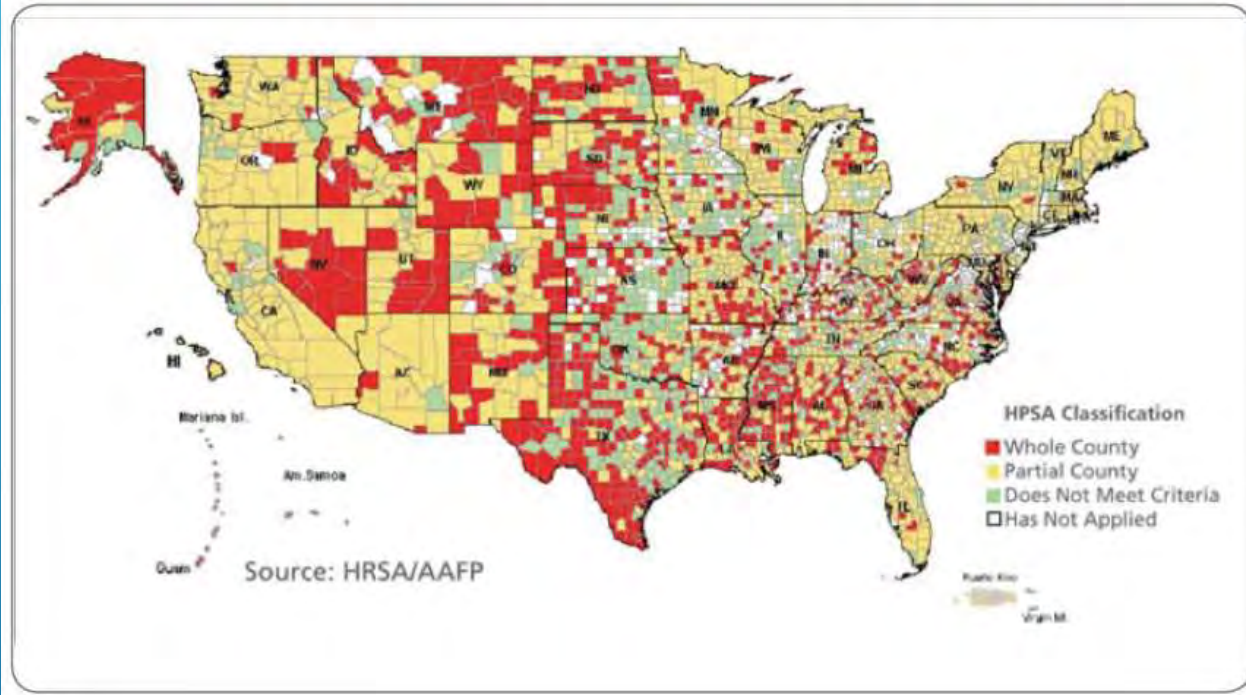
Source: KFF analysis of CDC, OECD, Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and UK Office for Health Improvement and Disparities data • [Get the data](#) • [PNG](#)

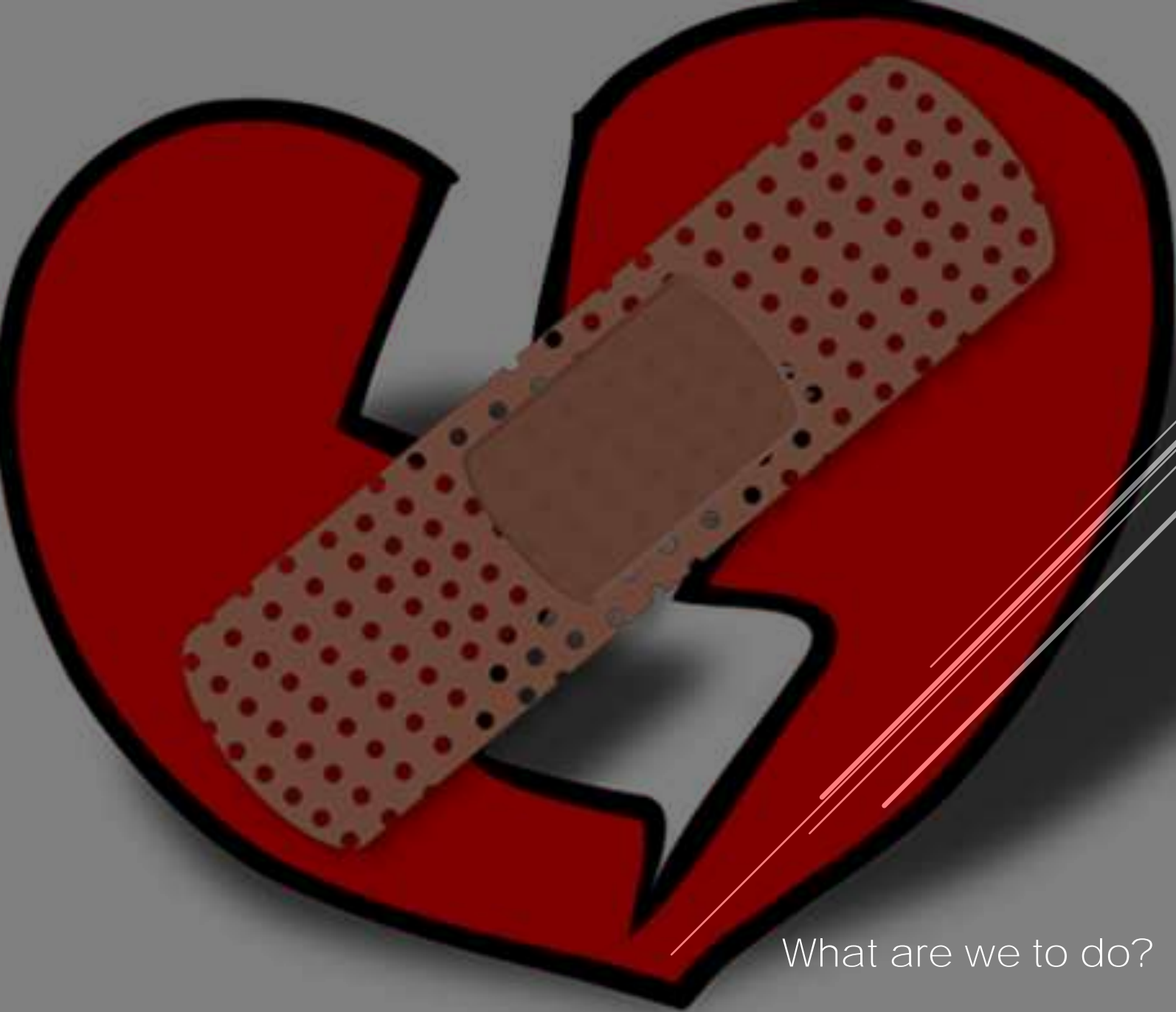
AGING DEMOGRAPHICS ARE NOT ON OUR SIDE



NOR IS THE WORKFORCE

Federally Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas by County





What are we to do?

AI to the Rescue?





CREATE MORE PERSONALIZED TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE DIVERSE POPULATIONS, WHILE CREATING EVIDENCE-BASED, GENERALIZABLE SOLUTIONS FROM WHICH TO ADAPT.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES TO EMPOWER PATIENT, CAREGIVERS AND PROVIDERS WITH TIMELY AND ACTIONABLE INFORMATION.



ENSURE TECHNOLOGY INCREASE ACCESS AND DOES NOT ENHANCE DISPARITIES



HAVE AN EVIDENCE BASE TO SUPPORT USAGE



BE SAFE AND TRUSTWORTHY



RECOGNIZE THAT MULTIPLE APPROACHES ARE NEEDED TO ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND THAT CONTEXT MATTERS

SUCCESSFUL TECHNOLOGY SHOULD



Capture a wide array of data



Create methods to reduce the need for annotation



Ensure analytic methods are robust



Balance utility and discovery – both are needed



New methods are good, interpretable, valid and reliable methods change practice!

DATA,
DATA,
DATA.

AI in health should not fall into the biomedical trap of building for the average and then tweaking for specific populations

- ▶ Develop the first principles that are needed to engage people in their health
- ▶ Identify those factors that will impact the user experience in different populations
- ▶ Personalize for optimal engagement
- ▶ Remember no one is average

PERSONALIZATION





FUTURE PROOFING

Building technologies that
will not need expensive
revisions frequently.



EMPOWERING USERS

- ▶ Technologies should empower users with understandable and actionable information. Need to explore the principles for what information is included and how it should be presented,
 - ▶ Providers/care team
 - ▶ Patients
 - ▶ Caregivers
- ▶ Ensure the timing meets the biomedical mandates and users needs.

Technology should increase access to healthcare and services.

- ▶ Ensure access in resource poor settings.
- ▶ Increase bandwidth and reduce latency for real-time communication.
- ▶ Ensure the usability of systems for those with less digital literacy.

INCREASE ACCESS





Working with biomedical researchers to appropriately test and evaluate new technology



Need data and ground truth



Only an evidence base changes practice



Evidence reduces liability

GENERATE
AN
EVIDENCE
BASE

SAFETY

The current lax privacy and security standards will not last. To sustain progress:

- Access control and authentication
- Confidentiality and anonymity
- Trustworthy control
- Accountability
- Medical device security



TRUSTWORTHY



- Real-time assessment of problematic data
- Dealing with biases for fairness
- Does the data represent what we think it does?
- Is the variance signal or noise?
- Cause and effect

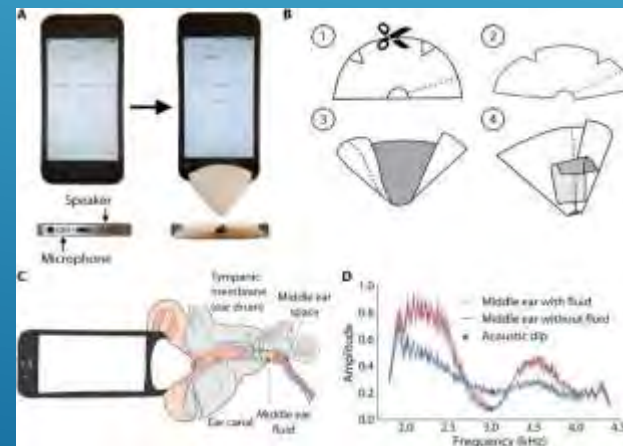
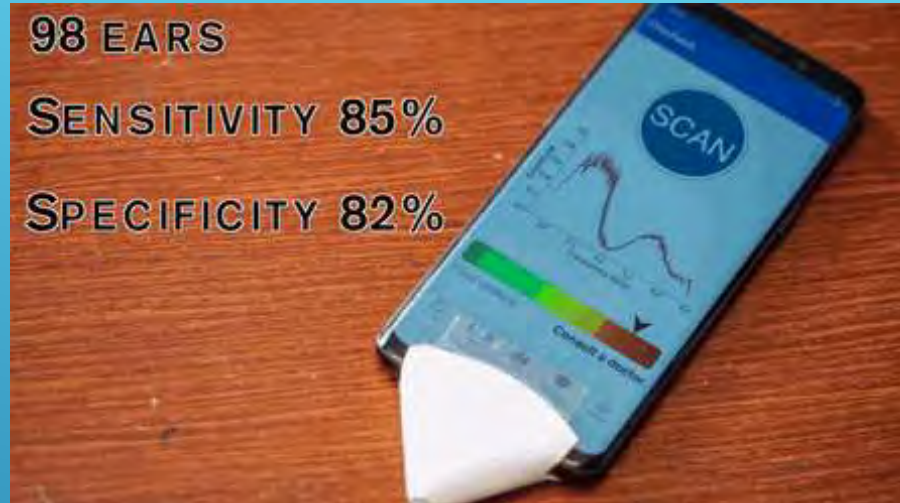
MULTIPLE APPROACHES

- ▶ Recognize that multiple approaches are needed to address individual needs. Not all people need the same approach
- ▶ Context matters in both assessment and approach



EXAMPLES OF NEXT STEPS

Early Smart Health Research with Sound



- ▶ The objective of is to synthesize acoustic models and experimental optical analyses to understand the limits of an innovative robotic photoacoustic imaging system for guiding cardiac surgeries and interventions.
- ▶ 1) Generate new acoustic models to predict the likelihood of photoacoustic signal visualization and segmentation during photoacoustic-based robot control, which will be used to advocate a novel paradigm of reduced reliance on x-rays.
- ▶ 2) The currently nonexistent optical properties of multiple phrenic nerves will be characterized in order to create realistic expectations for the challenging task of nerve visualization and avoidance during cardiac procedures.
- ▶ 3) The integration of theoretical acoustic models, deep learning methods, vision-based robot control, and nerve characterization results will be evaluated



SCH: INT: Photoacoustic-Guided Cardiac Intervention
Award Number: 2014088,
Muyinatu Bell

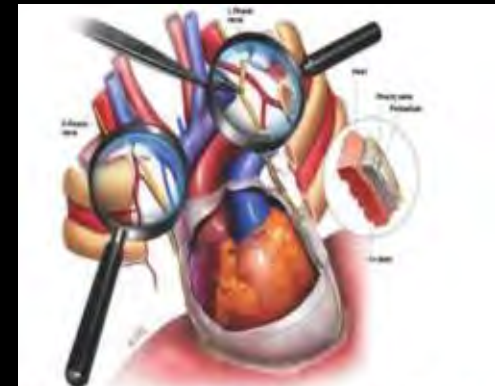
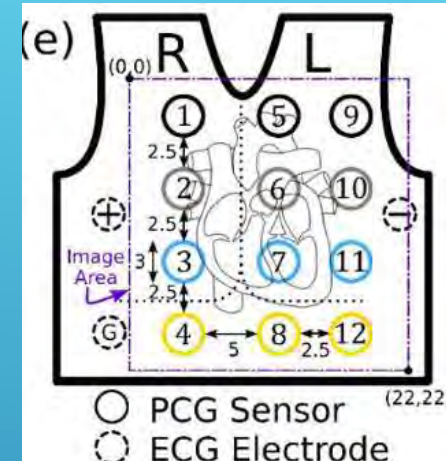


Figure 4: Schematic diagram of left and right phrenic nerves (see magnified regions) and their proximity to the heart.

SCH: INT: MAPPING THE CARDIAC ACOUSTEOME: BIOSENSING AND COMPUTATIONAL MODELING APPLIED TO SMART DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING OF HEART CONDITIONS

IIS-2014506; Raj Mittal,

- The project develops fundamental science, knowledge, tools, and technologies for smart diagnosis and monitoring of heart conditions based on automated cardiac auscultation by using an innovative wearable multimodal acoustic array (the StethoVest).
- This sensory array localizes and separates acoustic broadband sources in space by measuring spatial and temporal derivatives of the acoustic field. Using this StethoVest, first-of-their-kind maps of the cardiac acousteome are generated. These maps include not only 4D (3D space and time) measurements of heart sounds; they are accompanied by high-fidelity hemoacoustic simulations that delineate cause-and-effect, as well as simulation-guided source-identification algorithms that provide unprecedented diagnostic sensitivity and specificity.



THANKS!

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Effective Research is a Relay between basic and applied science



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