

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY IN THE BAHAMAS: LECTURE SERIES

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Meet the Policy Makers Lecture Series
Government and Public Policy Institute
University of The Bahamas



OUTLINE:

- I. Defining Public Health
- II. Setting the Historical Backdrop
- III. Public Health Policy Objectives
- IV. Contemporary Issues in Bahamian Public Health Policy
- V. Pressing Priorities
- VI. Our Approach to Policy Design
- VII. Policy Outcomes
- VIII. Looking to the Future



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PUBLIC HEALTH: WHAT IS IT?

- Is focused on achieving the greater public good for the population through disease prevention, epidemiologic explorations, effective hygiene/sanitation measures and advocacy
- It is not a synonym for community clinics





Public Health Tenets

1. PREVENTION AND CONTROL
2. SURVEILLANCE
3. WATER AND SANITATION INTERVENTIONS
4. EPIDEMIOLOGY, RISK FACTORS, AND DISEASE BURDEN
5. HYGIENE PROMOTION
6. SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

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HISTORY MATTERS ...

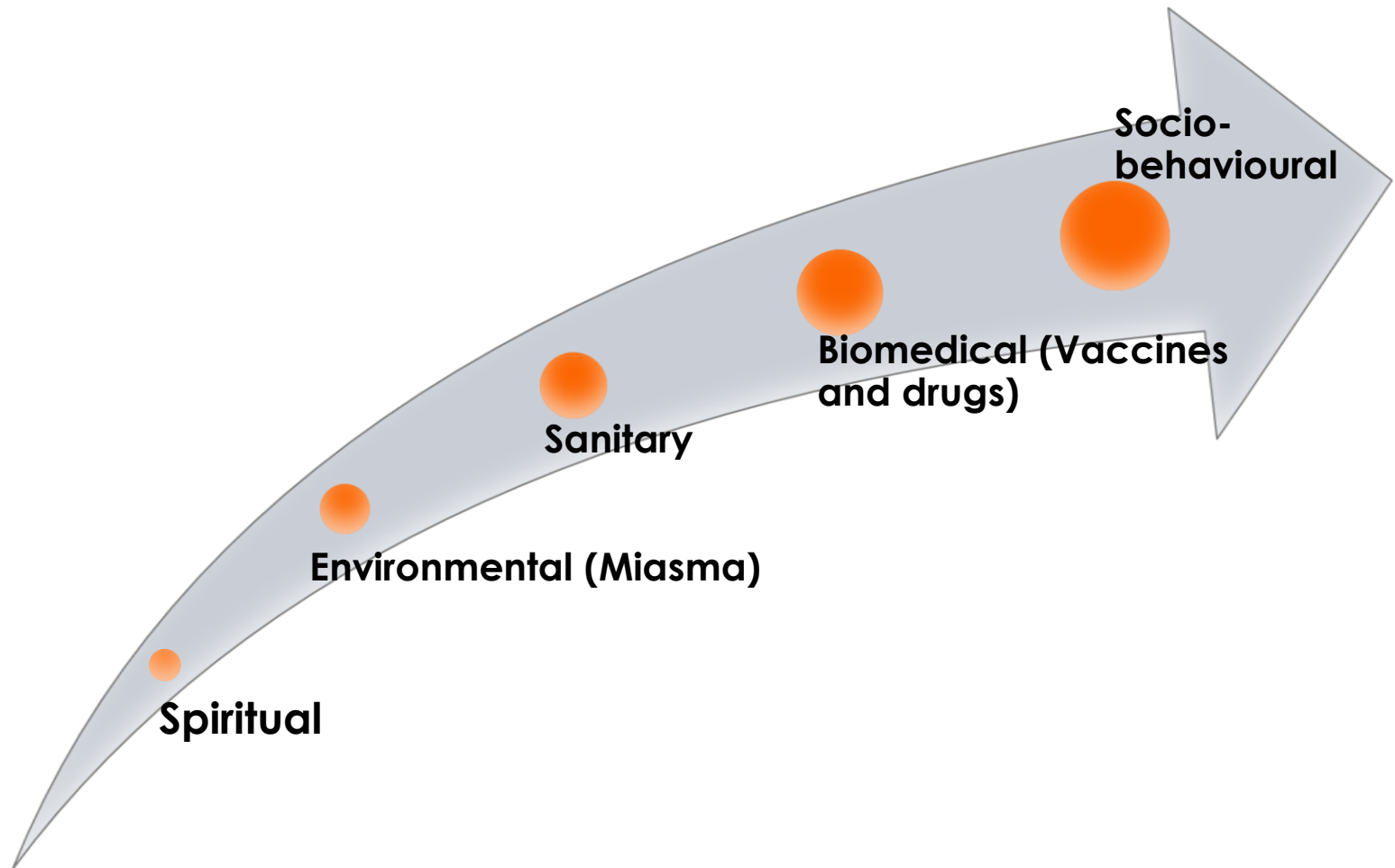


The history of public health is a story of the search for effective means of securing health and preventing disease in the population

“ Public health and its policies have evolved through many historical ideas, trials and errors along with the development of basic sciences, technology and epidemiology; and through periods of [peace, crisis,] war and natural disasters ”

- Theodore H. Tulchinsky

Public Health Theories





GLOBAL HISTORICAL MOMENTS

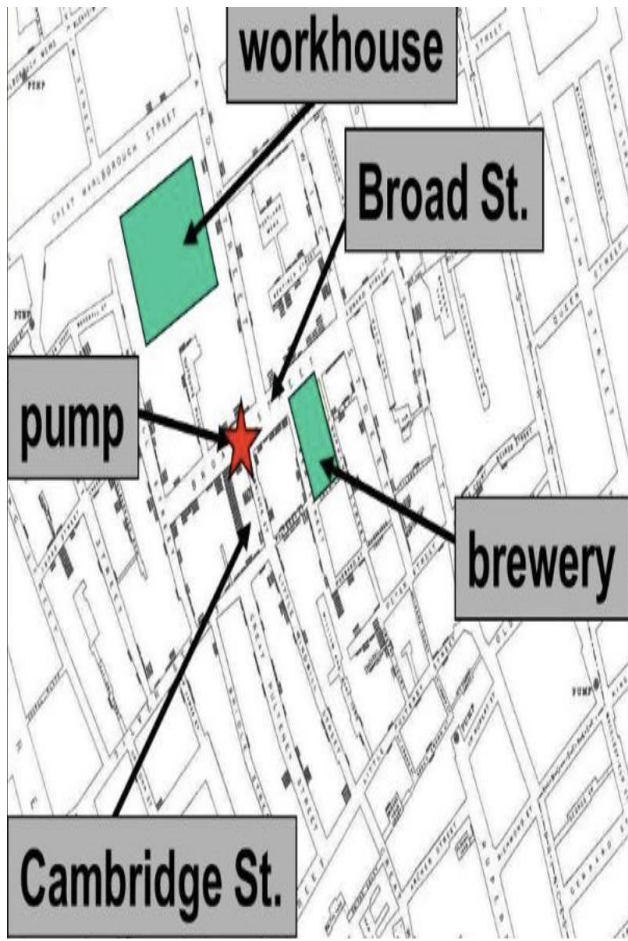
Medieval Leprosy and the Leprosaria (leprosy colony) ushered in the concept of quarantine for contagious diseases



Interior of caravanserai at Selim Pass. Notice how tight the quarters are. The closeness of people and animals staying at caravanserai such as this would have made them ideal spots for disease to spread. Image credit:

GLOBAL HISTORICAL MOMENTS

The Great Plague (Black Death) of the 14th Century gave rise to improved sanitation measures that are still practiced today.



GLOBAL HISTORICAL MOMENTS

John Snow, became known as the father of epidemiology for his work on the “Mode of Communication of Cholera” in London’s contaminated water supply crisis



GLOBAL HISTORICAL MOMENTS

Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment (1932) gave birth to the concept of bioethics in human research subjects. "Bioethics, born in scandal, raised in protectionism."

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY IN BAHAMIAN HISTORY



“ In the early years of the 20th century, public health held a position of low priority on the government’s agenda, and ... most areas ... were like a giant cesspit. The poor sanitary conditions ... meant typhoid fever and similar illnesses were endemic. ”

- *Dr. Harold Munnings*

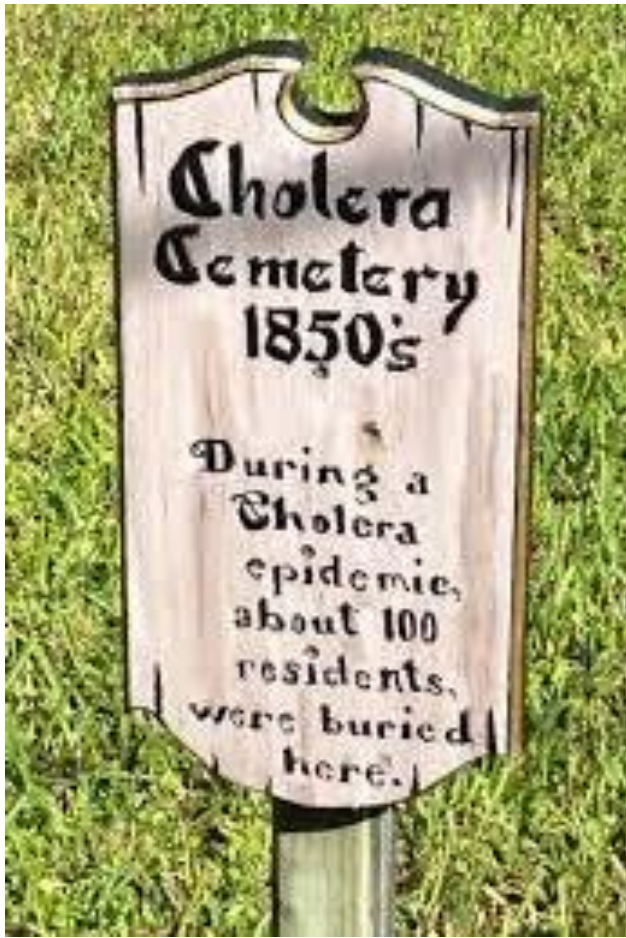
Bahamian Medical Pioneers



Dr. Thomas W. Johnson MD, JP
1837 - 1895

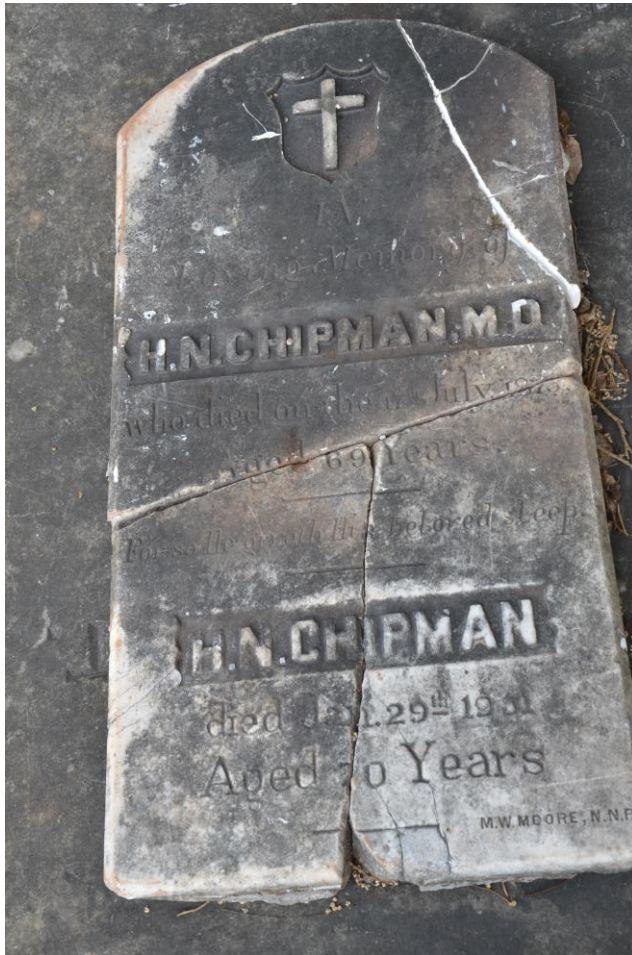


Dr. Claudius Roland Walker
1897 - 1971



Cholera Outbreak (1850s)

Cholera graveyard in Hope Town, Abaco



Headstone of Dr. Horatio
Nelson Chipman

Cuboid cholera gravestones
lining the path of St.
Matthews graveyard



NASSAU'S ONLY SEA BEACH HOTEL



"It Belongs"

A distinguished international clientele recognizes the Fort Montagu Beach Hotel as "Select", but it is much more than that . . . it is what the cosmopolitan guest discreetly indicates with the phrase, "it belongs".

Nassau and the Fort Montagu Beach Hotel provide you with sports of every kind, smart social life, thorough modern facilities in a setting of unforgettable loveliness. Write for literature.

Opens on January Tenth for the Season

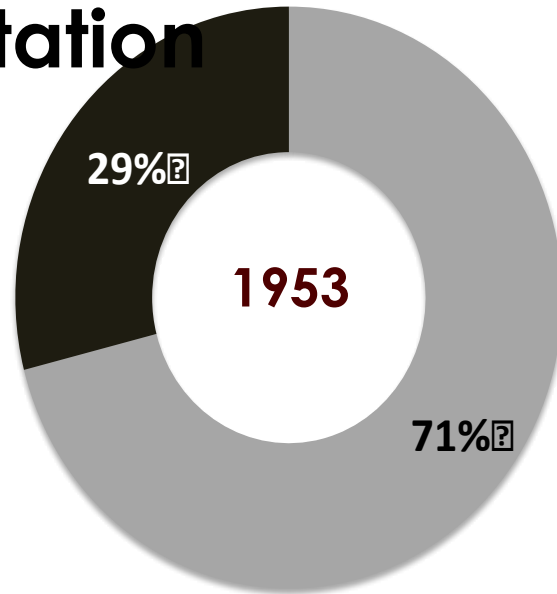
FORT MONTAGU BEACH
NASSAU BAHAMAS



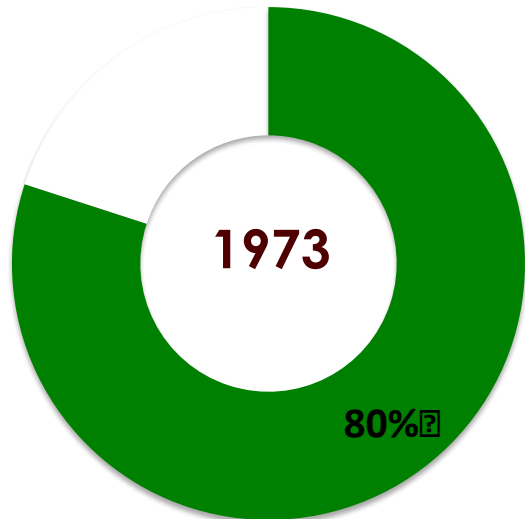
THE 1925 TYPHOID CRISIS

Typhoid fever and been endemic and worsening in The Bahamas. The death of a tourist during construction of the Montague Beach Hotel, triggered action.

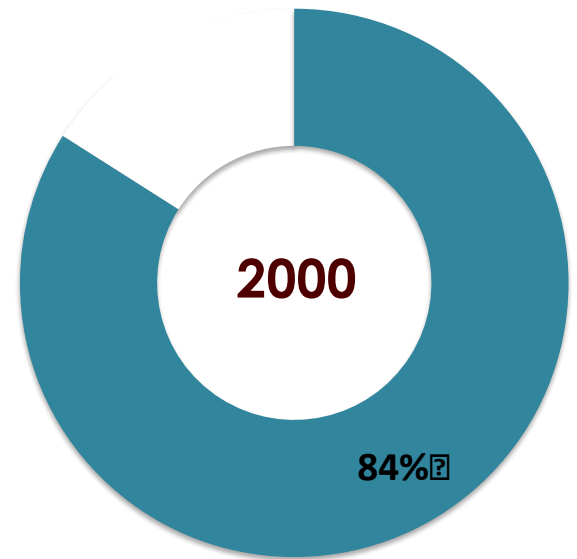
The Bahamas' Journey to Modern Sanitation



■ Pop'l using standpipes ■ Pop'l dependent on wells



■ Homes with piped water



■ Homes with indoor toilet connected to septic tanks

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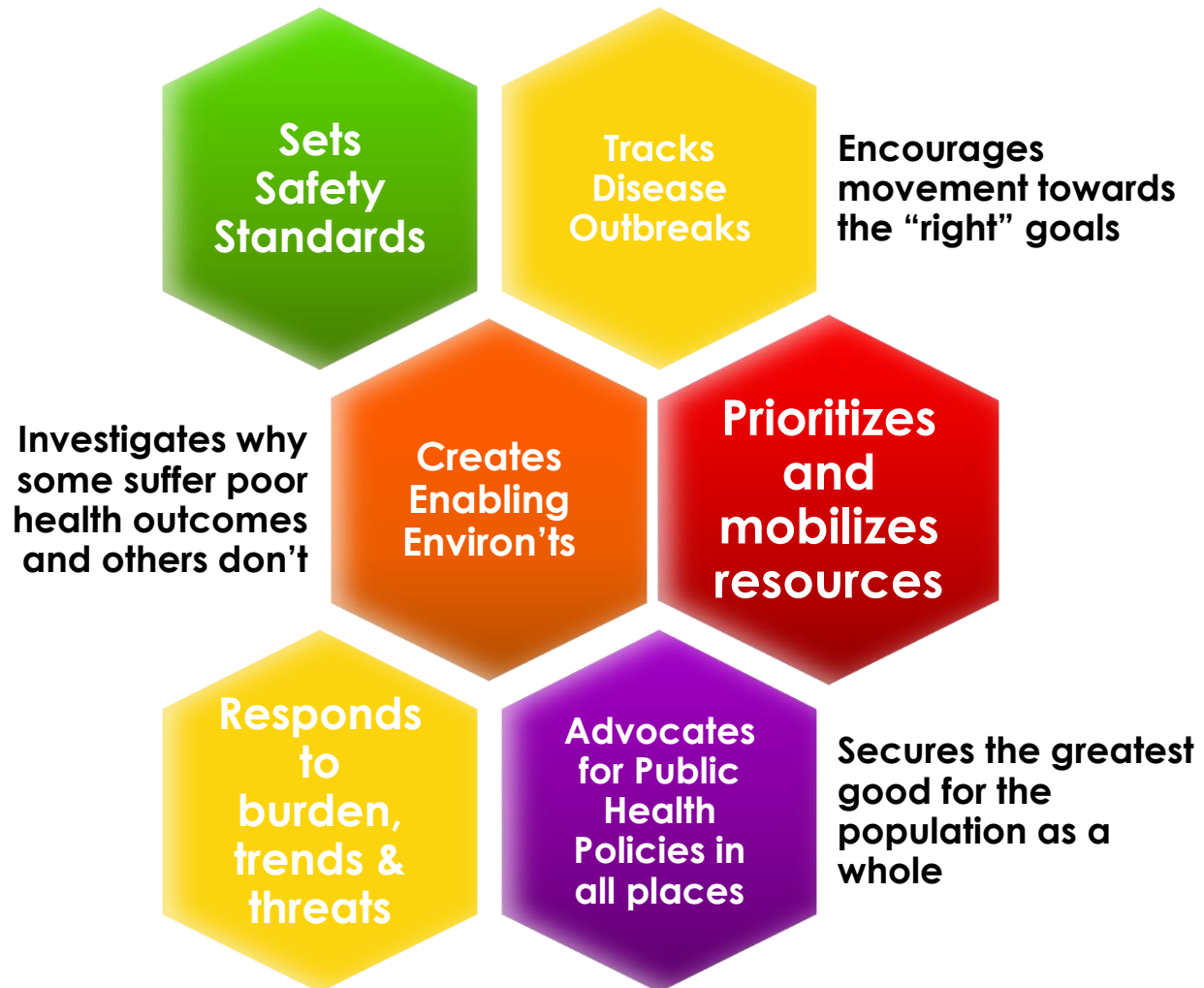
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The Responsibility of Policy: WHAT does POLICY DO?





Public Health: Its Value Proposition

- ✓ SAVES MONEY
- ✓ IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE
- ✓ HELPS CHILDREN THRIVE, AND
- ✓ REDUCES HUMAN SUFFERING

Public Health Policy is Meant to Achieve the Greatest Public Good

Measles Outbreak in New York:
Case Study of Public Health Policy In Action



Uniquely Bahamian healthcare strategies.

- ▶ I ain't claimin dat!
- ▶ “Never been sick or in hospital or to a doctor ! I never take medicines!”
- ▶ My BP “felt” normal, so stopped meds!
- ▶ I will bind that with the blood of Jesus!

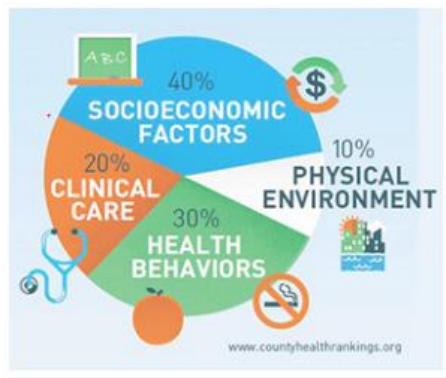


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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDH)



Childhood experiences



Housing



Education



Social support



Family income



Employment



Our communities



Access to health services

Commercial Determinants of Health

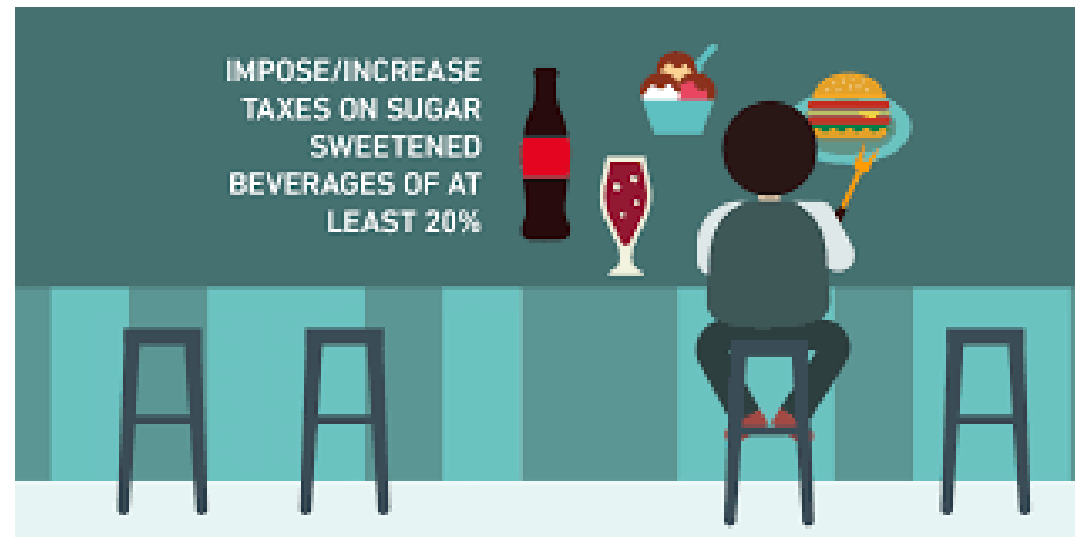
- The power of markets and business, in particular trans-national companies/corporations and their marketing has led to “industrial” epidemics based on encouraging unhealthy consumption
- There is increasing evidence that brands and associated marketing can shift consumer habits
- Persisting challenge - health dollars are nowhere near as long as the advertising dollars of such companies



Fiscal Policies

- New bodies of research support the utility of fiscal policies as one way to influence purchasing behaviour of unhealthy foods and beverages
- Bloomberg study shows the consumption of free and added sugar is contributing to the NCD burden

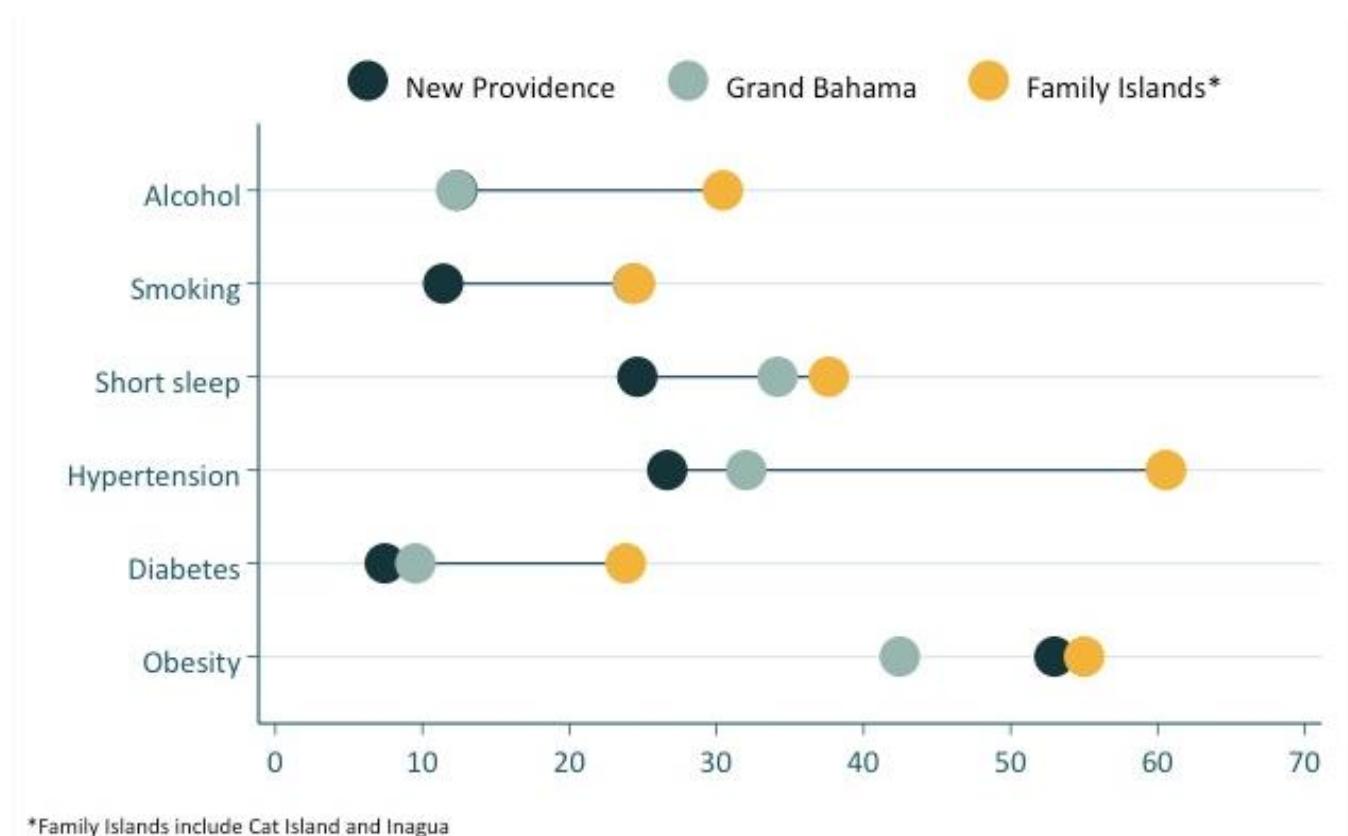
€ EU: Euro	\$ US: Dollar	¥ China: Yuan
DM Germany: Deutsche Mark	Fr France: Franc	£ UK: Pound
R\$ Brazil: Real	C\$ Canada: Dollar	₽ Russia: Rouble
₧ Spain: Peseta	A\$ Australia: Dollar	Mex\$ Mexico: Peso
f Netherlands: Guilder	TL Turkey: Lira	Rp Indonesia: Rupiah





BIG FIGHT IN BAIN TOWN!

Health Inequities





Other Contemporary Issues

- Health-In-All Policies
- Research, knowledge, innovation and expertise (Evidence-based to evidence-informed)
- Gender, human and patient rights

New and Emerging Threats

- SARS April 16th 2003 newspaper article: “There has not been one case of SARS in The Bahamas, but that doesn’t mean the nation’s economy hasn’t caught a chill”
- Ebola
- Zika
- Avian Influenza
- Zoonotic pathogens
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Vaccine hesitancy



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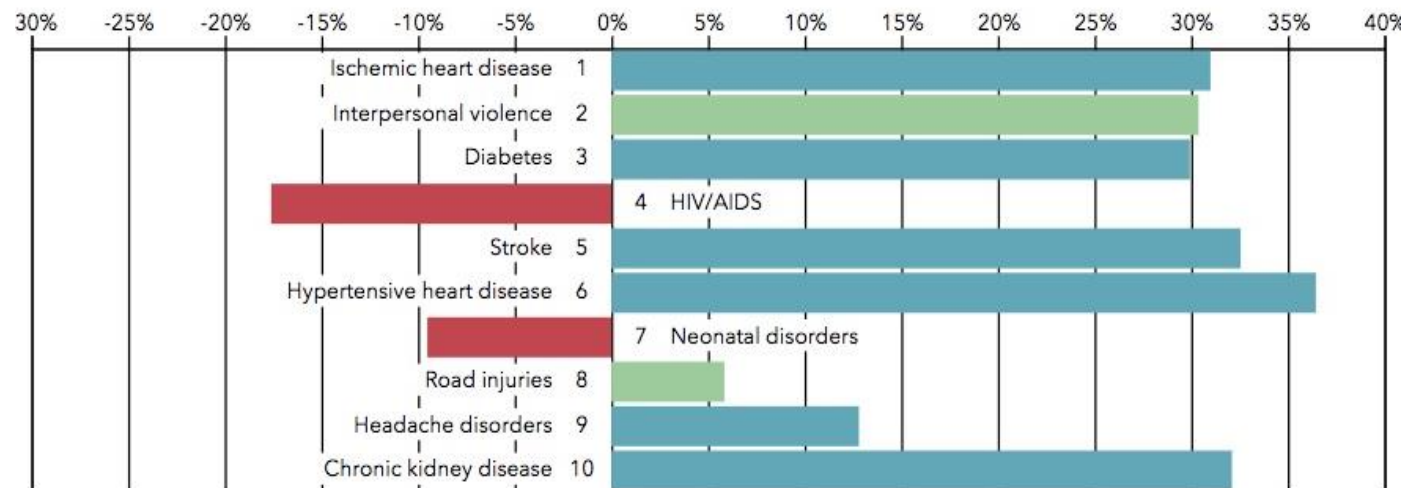
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Pressure Point: Shifting Epidemiologic Profile

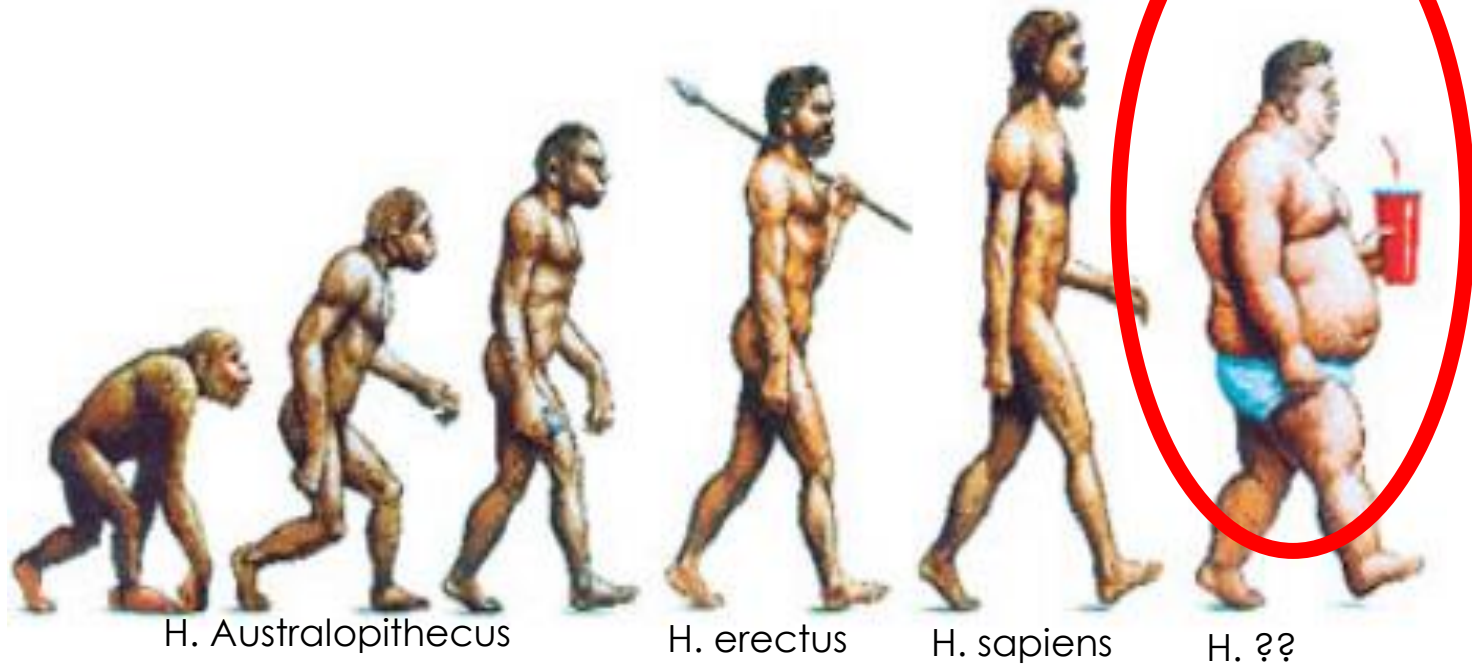
What causes the most death and disability combined?

- Communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases
- Non-communicable diseases
- Injuries



Top 10 causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2017 and percent change, 2007-2017, all ages, number

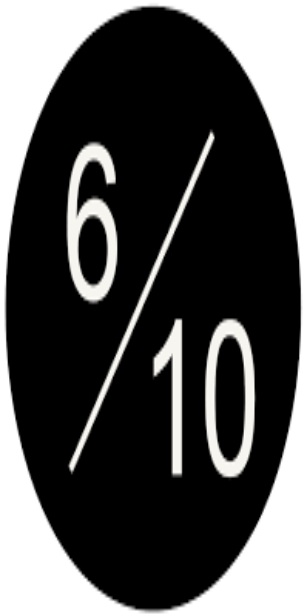
Modern Man Evolution



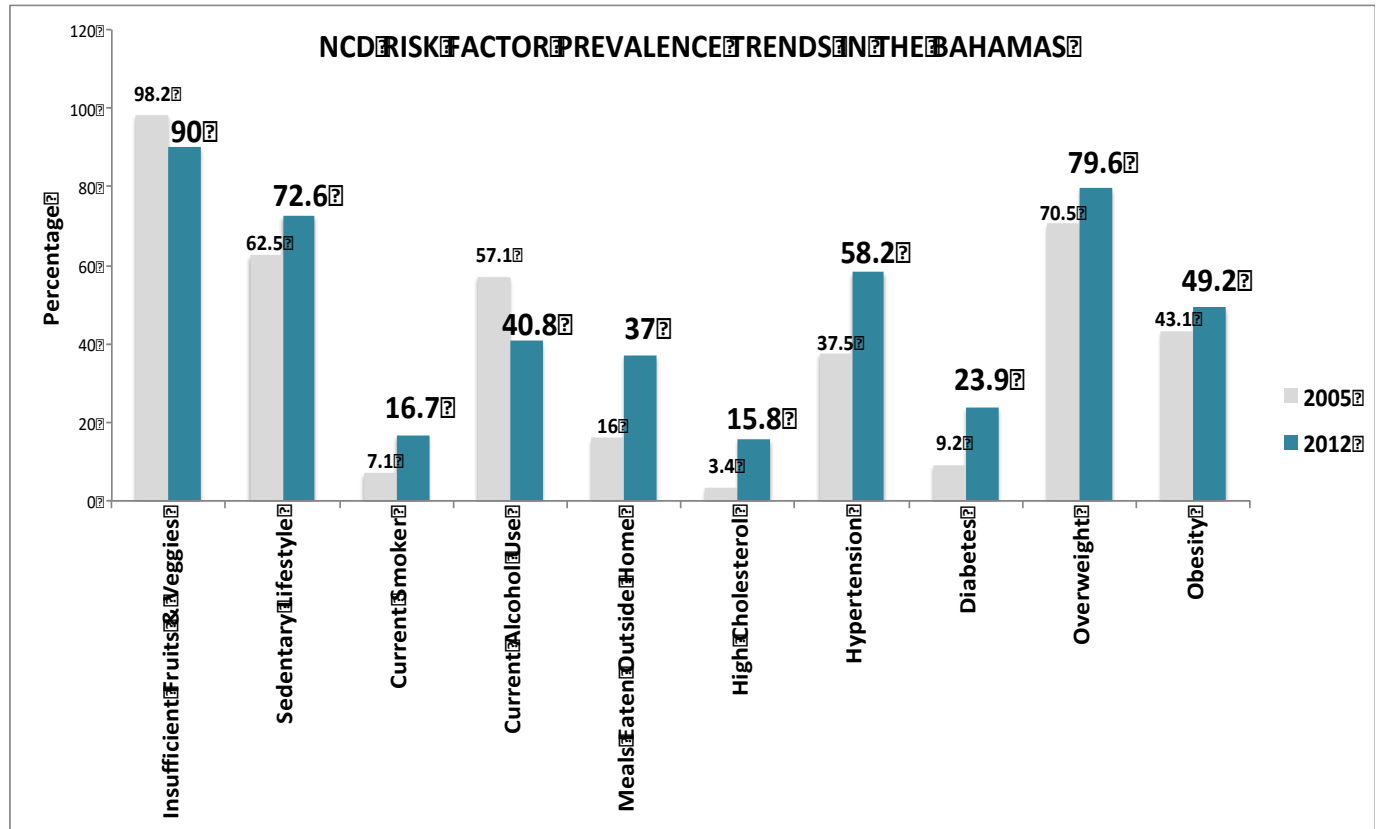




Pressure Point: Our Increasing Risk of NCDs



Bahamians
3 or more NCD
risk factors





Pressure Point: We Are Dying Too Young

Preventing and Treating
**NON-COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES:** Co-Creating Solutions to Prevent the
Preventable and Treat the Treatable
EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM: LIVE



74%

Percentage of total
deaths adue to an
NCD

38%

NCD deaths that
are premature,
ages 30– 70yrs

14%

A Bahamian's
chance of dying
too young

NCDs place significant strain on our social networks, health systems and health dollar – compromising work productivity and quality of life. Most telling is the reality the NCDs contribute twelve percent (12%) of total productive years of life lost in this country.



Pressure Point: Violence - A Public Health Problem



WEATHER

TRY OUR
BACON
CLASSIC
SANDWICH



HIGH 88°F
LOW 76°F

CLOUDS,
T-STORM

The Tribune

LATEST NEWS ON TRIBUNE242.COM

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER
Biggest And Best!



44¢/copy (incl. GST)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010

PHONE: 311 (press 1) Great Service 1-800-

TRIBUNE SPORTS

**THE DAY THE FIRST GOLD MEDAL
CAME HOME TO THE BAHAMAS**



WEDDING DREAM

ENTREPRENEUR'S GOAL • SEE WOMAN

Two murders in six hours

**AUDITOR SAYS
HOSPITAL IS
TRYING TO
DISCREDIT HIM**

By PASHA-NOLLA
COURTNEY HARRISON
PHOTOGRAPHY

ACCIDENT? Jan
Bain, executive director
of the Public Hospital Author-
ity, and Public Health
Chief, Agnes, is always in
"the back" in their trans-
actions. Bain is the supply of
pharmaceutical drugs and
medical supplies, leaving
Agnes in a state of confusion
and "thinking the new
paper."

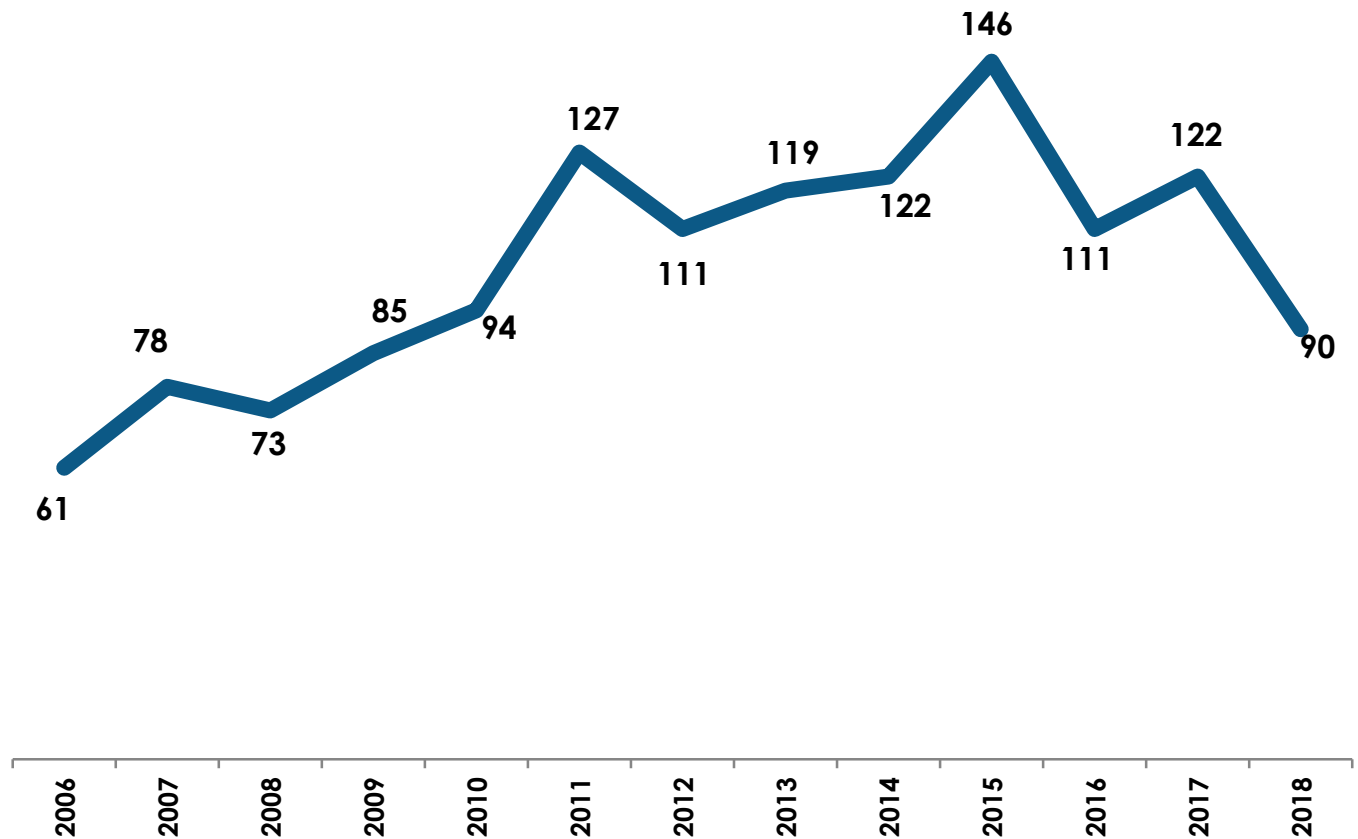
The story is ongoing and
will be covered in detail.



Pressure Point: Violence - A Public Health Problem



Murders in The Bahamas













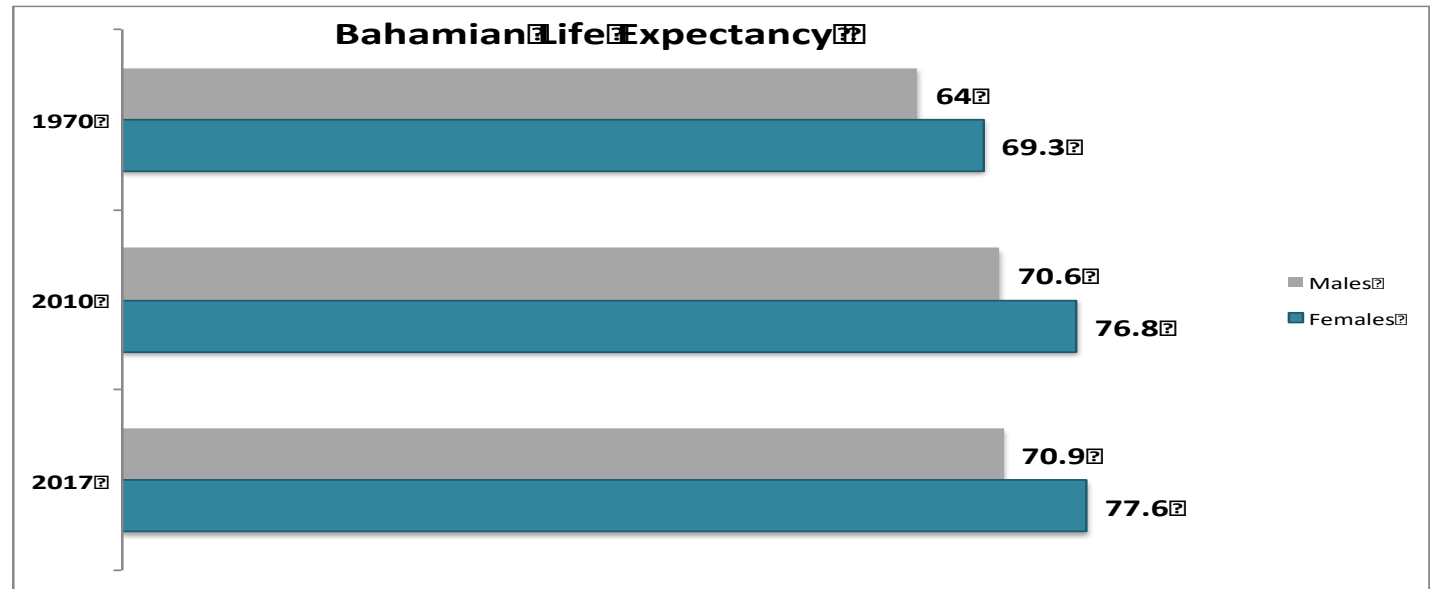


Pressure Point: We Are Living Longer



Pressure Point: Living Longer, But in 'Bad' Health

- Life expectancy (LE) at birth has been increasing.

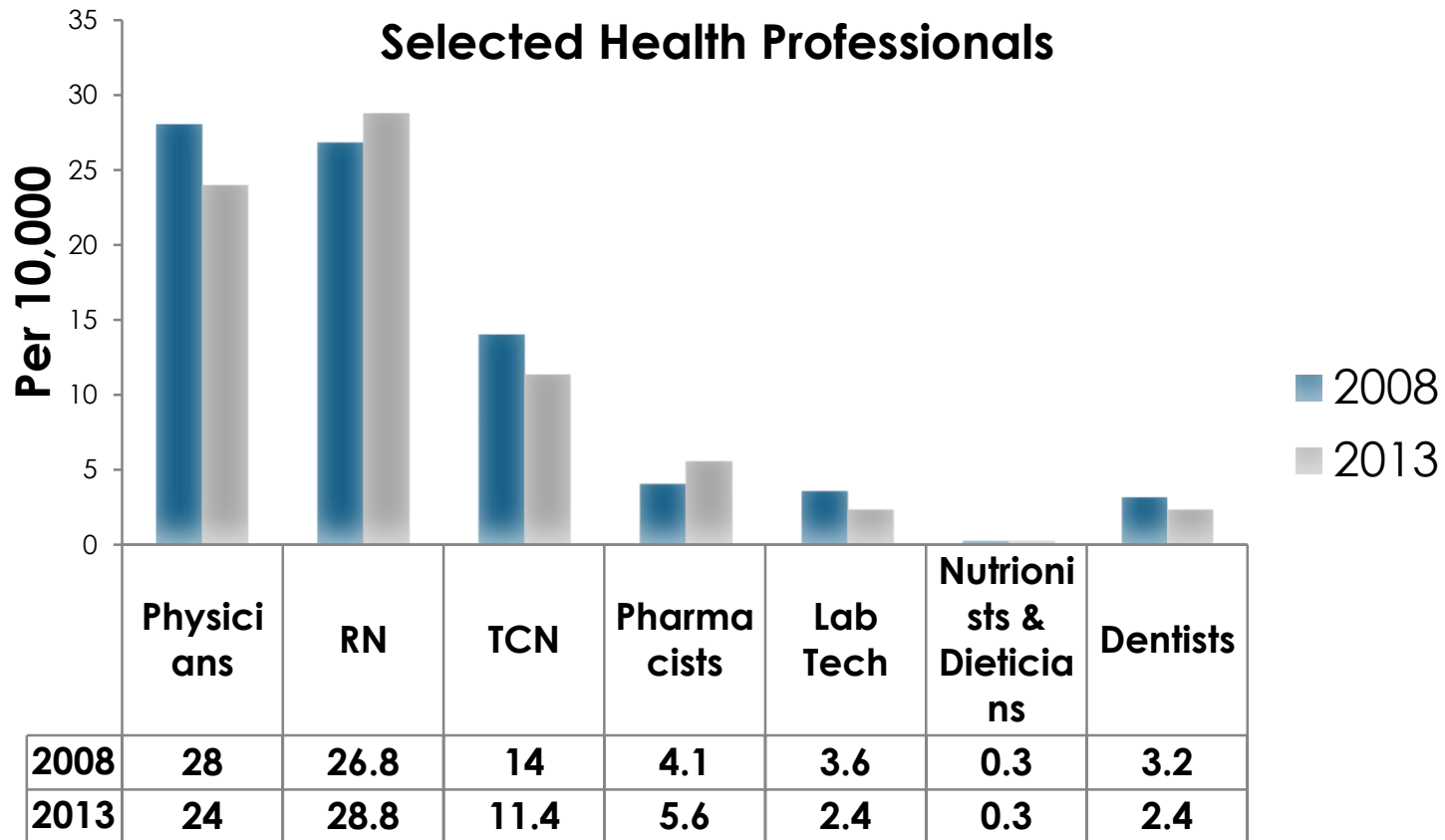


- The average Bahamian will live until age 74 years
- However, the average Bahamian could expect the latter 10 years to be lived in ill-health and/or disability



Pressure Point: The HRH Brain Drain

- Increasing attrition of registered nurses to more attractive markets/territories. 2018 recorded a 528 nurses deficit throughout the archipelago. Nursing specialty areas such intensive care, neonatal intensive care, post-anesthesia care, emergency medicine and renal care accounting for a notable portion of this deficit.
- There is an inequitable distribution of available the health professional with resultant persistent shortages in public health clinics, especially those on the Family Islands.
- Chronic shortages in the allied health professions, with no government scholarship opportunities for these, like doctors, nurses and pharmacists



Human resource deficits in allied health professions are pronounced – if not widening, the rates have remained stagnant not even reaching a minimum threshold.

With a worsening NCD profile, there has been no growth in the number of licensed nutritionists and dieticians. The same holds true for podiatry.

Pressure Point: Climate Change Impacts Public Health

- In the early 1990s there was little awareness of the health risks posed by global climate change. By 2001 this had changed
- “Overall, climate change is projected to increase threats to human health ... predominantly within tropical and sub-tropical countries” - IPCC 3rd Assessment Report
- Direct human health effects:
 1. Death, injury and loss due to floods and storms
 2. Changes in agro-ecosystems compromising food availability and production
 3. Introduction of new and modification of existing pathogens



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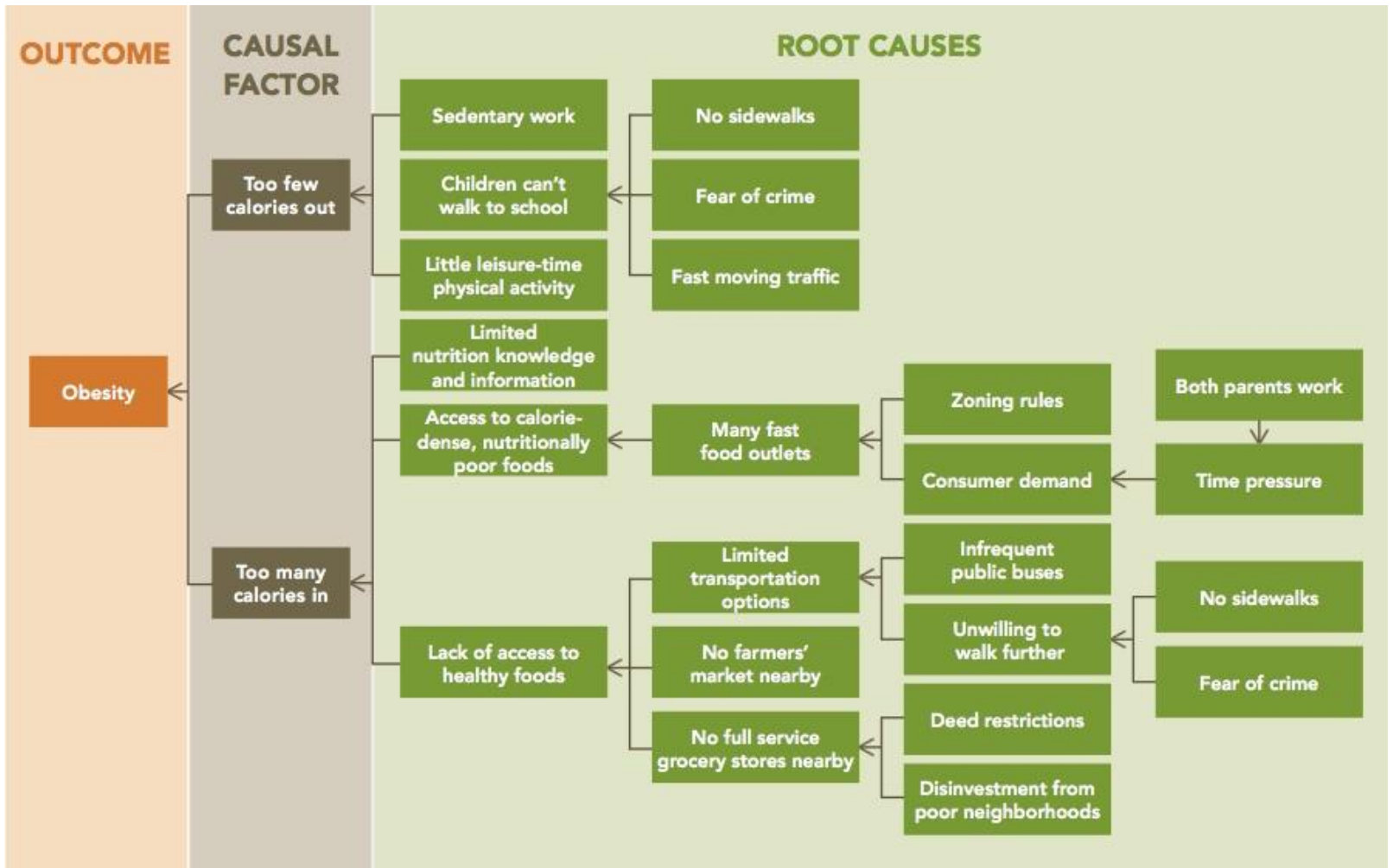
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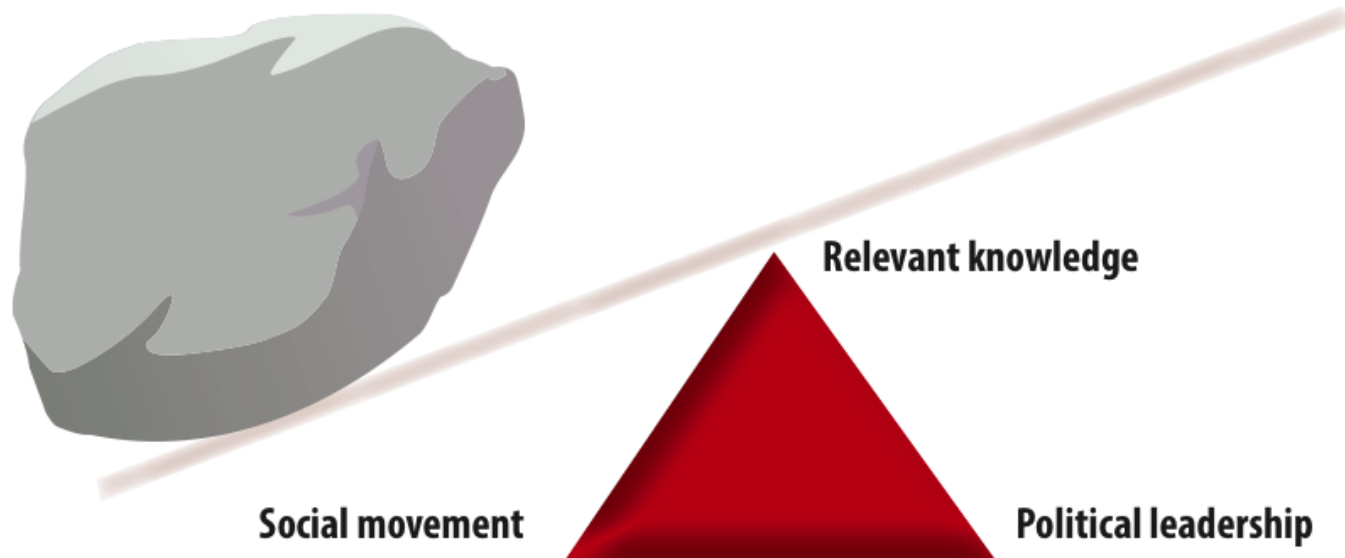
Policy Cycle



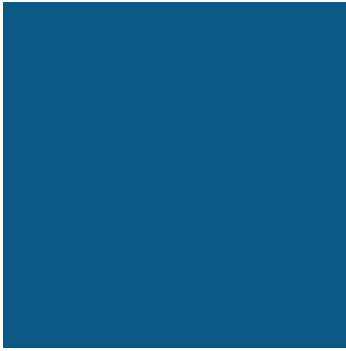
Root Cause Mapping



Triangle That Moves Mountains



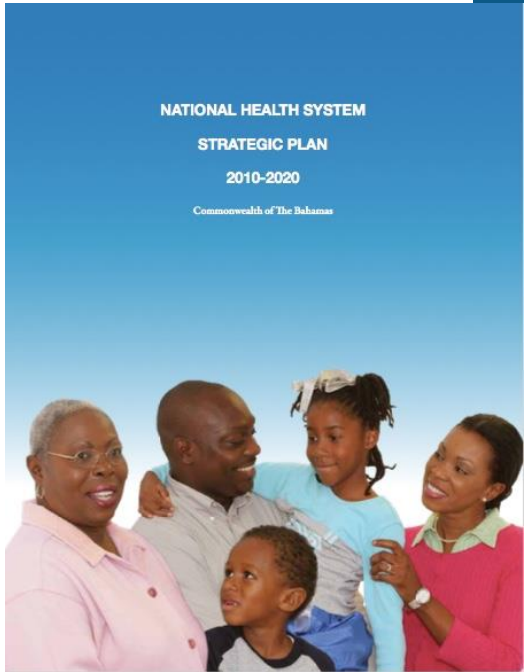
Based on Wasi P (2000) Triangle that moves the mountain and health systems reform movement in Thailand. *Human Resource Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 106–110 (http://www.who.int/hrh/en/HRDJ_4_2_06.pdf).



THUKRAL AND TAGRA *

“Windows of Opportunity”

Arise from changing realities; and, are short periods of time in which, simultaneously, a problem is recognized, a solution is available and the political climate is positive for policy change.



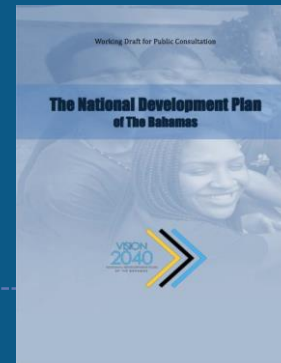
NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM
STRATEGIC PLAN
2010-2020
Commonwealth of The Bahamas

2010

2014

2015

PAHO CCS (2014-2019) & BwP



The National Development Plan
of The Bahamas

VISION
2040



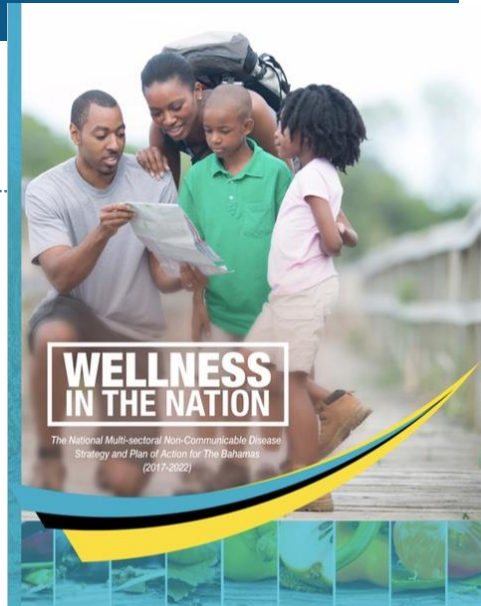
- G1: Inter-sectoral Action to Protect Health
- G2: Integrated People-Centred Services
- G3: Improved Information Use for Decision-
- G4: Strengthened Health Workforce
- G5: Health Technologies, Infrastructure &
- G6: Accountable Leadership &
- G7: Sustainable Health Systems

2016

2018



MoH Priorities



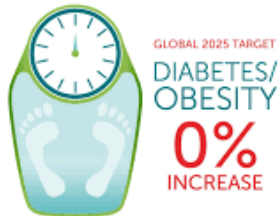
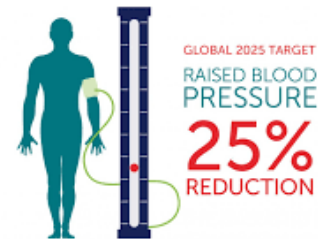
WELLNESS
IN THE NATION

The National Multi-sectoral Non-Communicable Disease
Strategy and Plan of Action for The Bahamas
(2017-2022)

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



Non-Communicable Disease Global Monitoring Framework



Other International Mandates & Calls for Action

INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH
REGULATIONS
(2005)



Caribbean Cooperation
in Health Phase IV (CCH IV)

Summary of the Regional
Health Framework
2016 – 2025

90-90-90

An ambitious treatment target
to help end the AIDS epidemic

90%

diagnosed

90%

on treatment

90%

virally suppressed

**MENTAL
HEALTH
ACTION PLAN
2013 – 2020**



GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

to strengthen the role of the health system
within a national multisectoral response
to address interpersonal violence, in particular
against women and girls, and against children

**UNITE TO
→ END
TB**

Regional Public Goods for
Sustainable Health Development



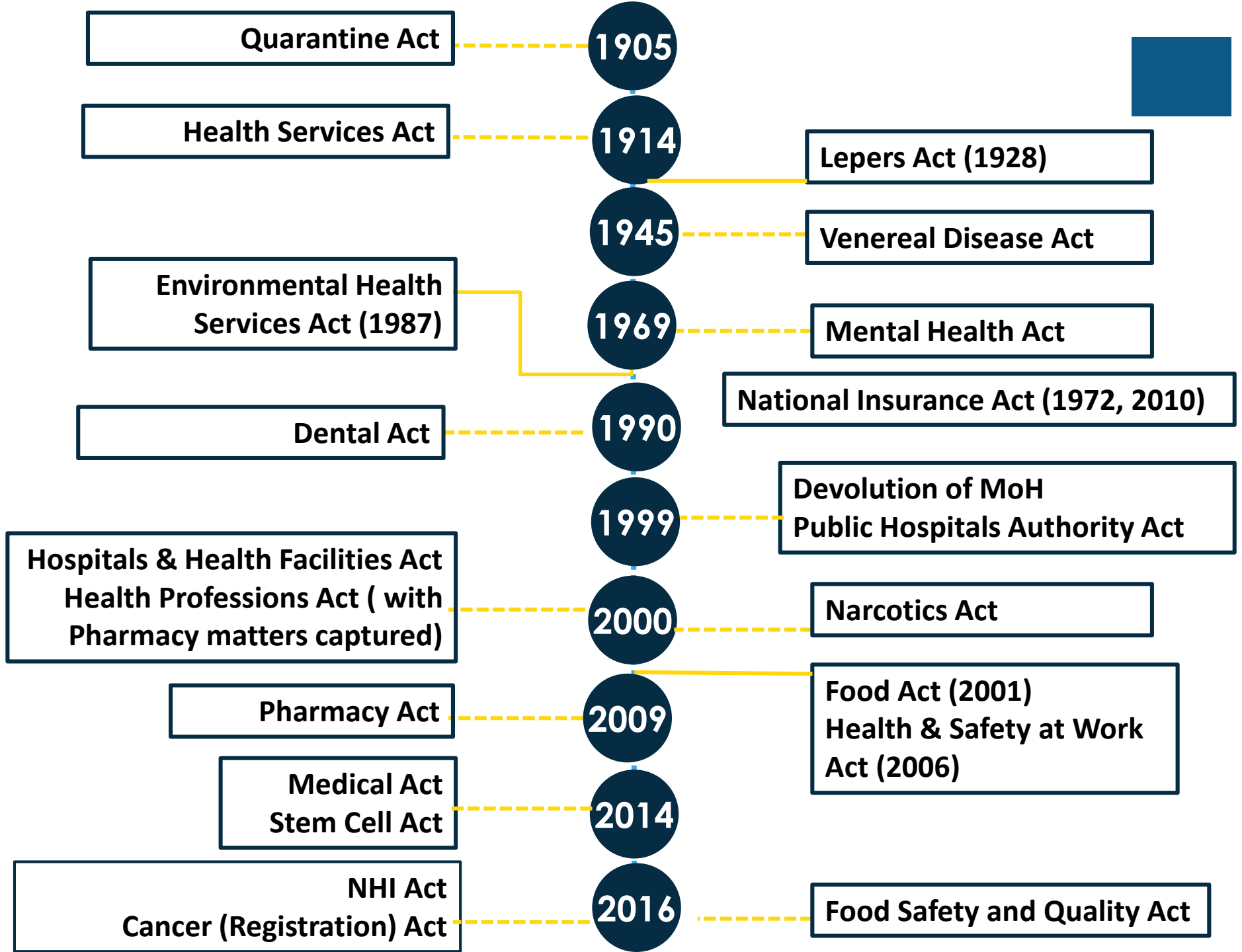
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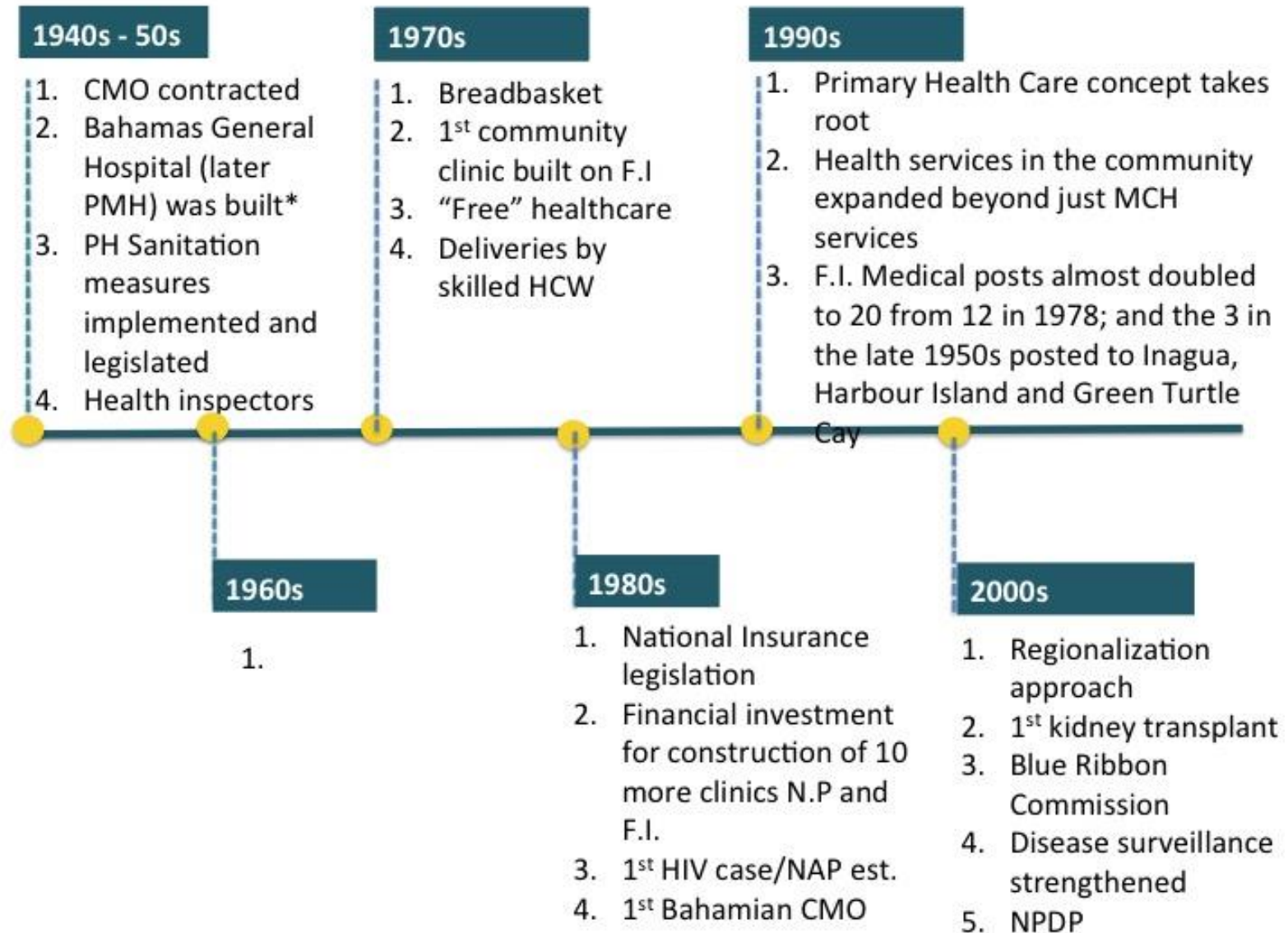
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The Chronicles of Public Health Policy Outcomes



Policy Outcomes



- Conch poisoning events in the early 1970s lead to the establishment of the Food Handlers Programme

Policy Outcomes: Nutritional Literacy & Community Engagements

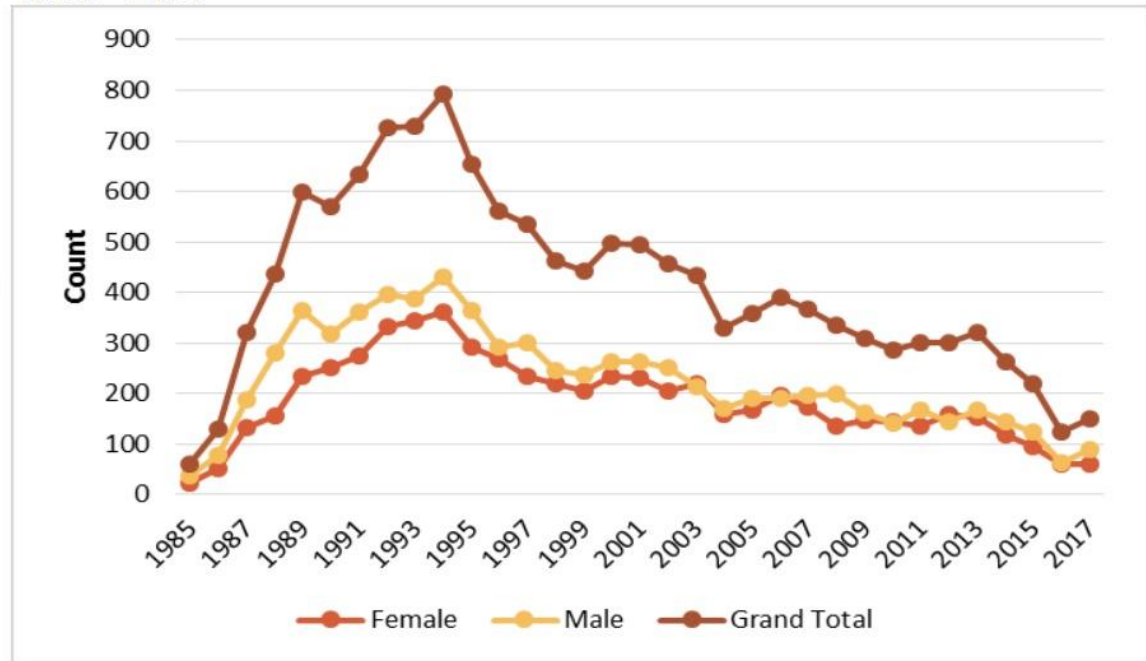


BREADBASKET REVISION

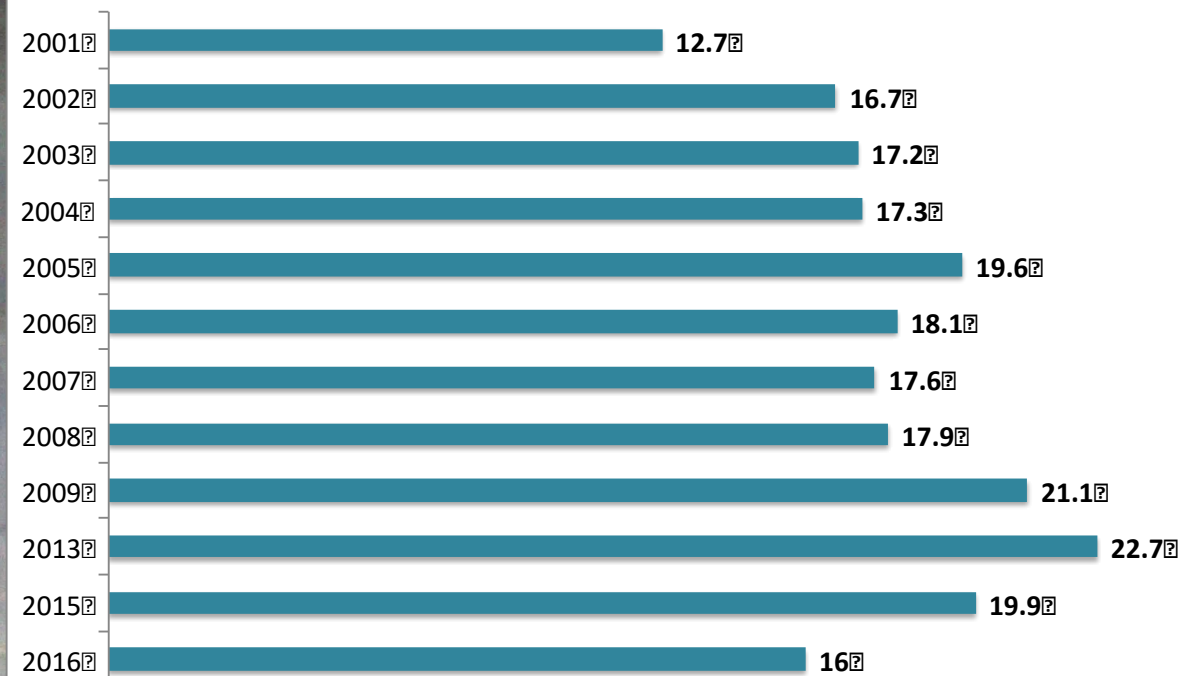
Policy Outcomes: Declining HIV Cases

- 1985**
 - HIV testing (ELISA) first made available in The Bahamas
 - Bahamas AIDS Secretariat established
- 1988**
 - Samaritan Ministry established for PLHIV
- 1992**
 - Bahamas AIDS Foundation established
- 1995**
 - Zidovudine therapy (AZT) offered to PLHIV through the Lyford Cay Foundation and Bahamas AIDS Foundation
- 1998**
 - Focus on Youth HIV/AIDS Education Comprehensive Life Skills Programme established
 - ART made available for HIV/TB Co-infected cases
- 2002**
 - Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) introduced to The Bahamas
 - National HIV/AIDS Centre commissioned
- 2004**
 - Focus On Youth Curriculum introduced in government schools
- 2011**
 - Rapid Testing introduced at NAC
- 2013**
 - NAC HIV Reference Laboratory accredited
- 2015**
 - Defaulter clinic established by NAC
 - Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) made available through the NAC
- 2016**
 - Treat All Policy* introduced by the NAC

Number of Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Sex, The Bahamas, 1985 - 2017



Infant Mortality Rate



Increasing rates, prompted policy decision to establish MCH TAG; all births happen in N.P; and all antenatal F.I clients travel to capitol be 32/40.

Policy Outcomes: Immunization Successes

- Expansion of the immunization schedule to include more antigens such as HPV, meningococcal and pneumococcal vaccines
- Coverage is maintained within the internationally set limits, though slippage has been noted within sub-populations
- On the path to verification of the elimination of congenital syphilis (and EMTCT)



Vaccination

For health protection



Policy Outcomes: Capacity Building

- Locally available training
 - 4th & 5th years of medical school
 - Post graduate training in seven specialty disciplines
 - Nursing programmes (RN, midwifery and community health nursing)
 - Pharmacy programme
- Attention must be placed on our critical allied health professionals
- Several Bahamians have benefited from the Leaders in International Health Program
- Access to online training that meet the needs of the 21st century healthcare professional
- Raising the standard for quality of care



- Mal-distribution of the physician pool has triggered policy decisions to establish OMSD; to restrict the number of intern and SHO slots at PMH, a teaching hospital; and to encourage upward movement within the physician ranks
- Improved quality of medical education translating into improved care

Policy Outcomes: Infrastructure



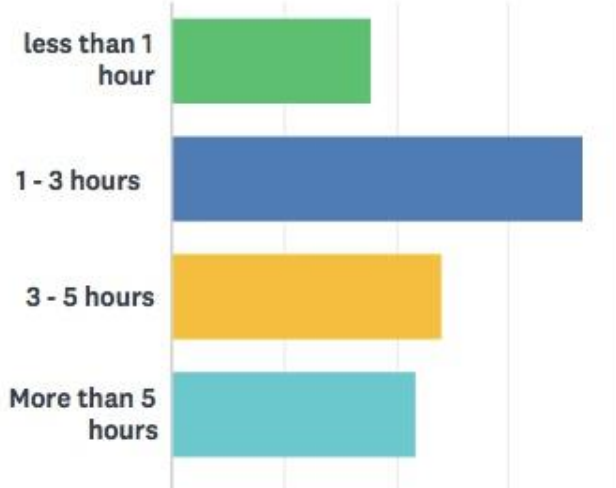


- International accreditation of the National Reference Lab (2013, 2015 & 2017), along incorporation of DNA PCR testing and the expansion of lab test menu

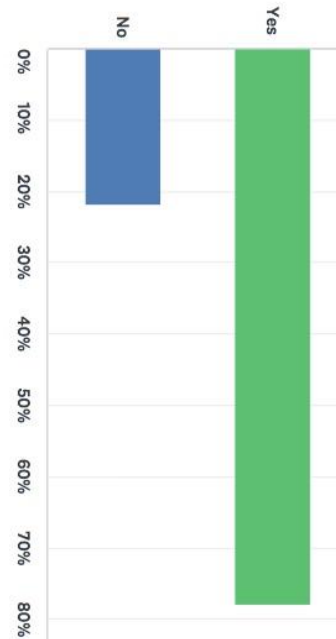
Policy Outcomes: Responding to Health Needs

EMS SERVICES

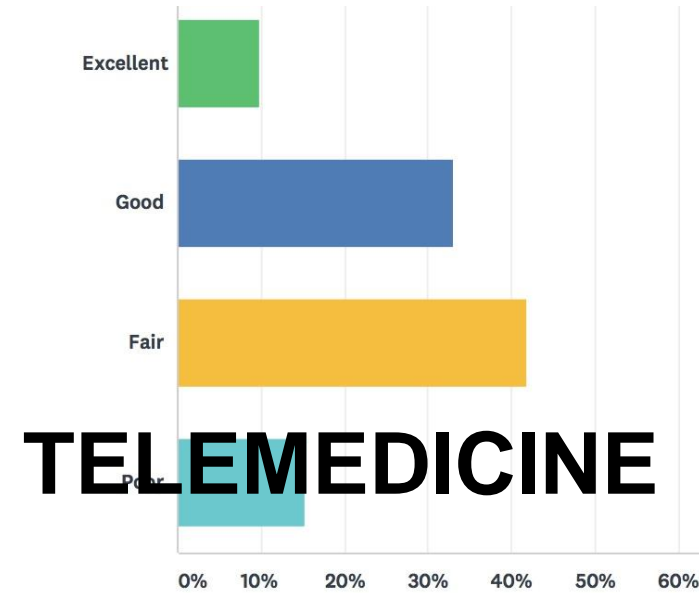
Declining response times
and community out-stations



Wait time to see a doctor
or have a procedure
(PMH)



Medical condition
explained in a way you
could understand it (PMH)



TELEMEDICINE

In general, how would
you rate your visit or stay
(PMH)

Policy Outcome & Challenges: Removing Financial Barriers to Coverage and Access



Of Bahamians **strongly agree** with the statement

"Bahamians should have access to Universal Health Coverage"



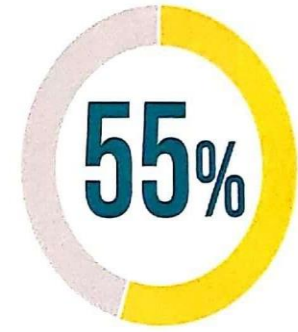
Of Bahamians **agree or strongly agree** with the statement

"Private health insurance offerings are too expensive"



Of Bahamians **agree or strongly agree** with the statement

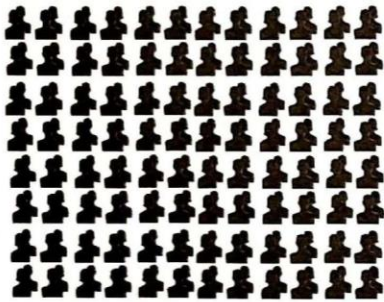
"I am willing to contribute more to the cost of healthcare if it would guarantee quality of care would improve"



Of Bahamians **completely agree or somewhat agree** with the statement

"I have personally chosen to not seek health coverage when I should have due to the cost of accessing care"

Policy Outcome: NHI – Making A Difference



50,000

Bahamians have enrolled in NHI since its launch last Spring, and are now receiving access to Primary Care Physicians and Lab Services.



>80

Primary Care providers, including 4 private labs are providing care across New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Exuma.



95%

Of NHI patients are satisfied with the quality of service they received from their NHI primary care provider¹

Policy Outcomes: International Recognition





PHA News

Public Hospitals Authority "Working Together for Best Quality Healthcare"

Website: <http://www.phabahamas.org/>
[FACEBOOK PAGES:](#)
 Public Hospitals Authority
 Princess Margaret Hospital
 Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre
 Grand Bahama Health Services
[publichospitalauthority242](#)
[Public Hospitals Authority](#)

Tuesday 25th September, 2018

BAHAMIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S 56TH DIRECTING COUNCIL

Washington, D.C., 23 September 2018 (PAHO/WHO) – The Bahamian Minister of Health, Duane Ernest Lascelles Sands, has been elected President of the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) 56th Directing Council, which convenes the Region's health authorities to discuss and analyze regional health policies and set priorities for technical cooperation and collaboration among countries.

Sands will preside over the Directing Council, which begins today until 27 September, where representatives of health, from all countries of the Region of the Americas, will discuss a series of health issues in order to improve the health of the people and improve the health systems.

Sands is a "distinguished and experienced" president of the Council. He hopes that "the Council will be an opportunity to share experiences and to share information that "has been instrumental in the achievements in the Region of the Americas in the area of health."

Sands is a vascular surgeon. He was the Minister of Health and Population of the Bahamas until May 2017, and is currently the Minister of Health of the Bahamas.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PAHO)

Prior to this role, he was Chairman of the Bahamas Medical Council from 2007 until 2010. He holds diplomas from the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Sands, who succeeds Octavio Sanchez Midence, Minister of Health of Honduras, is also a member of the Caribbean Cardiac Society, the Wayne State Surgical Society, and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is also a lecturer at the University of West Indies.

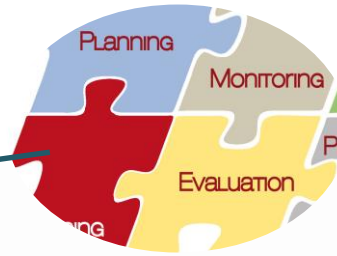
The Minister of Public Health of Ecuador, Verónica Espinosa, and the Minister of Health and Population of Haiti, Marie Gréta Roy Clément, were both elected vice-presidents of the Directing Council.

OUTLINE:

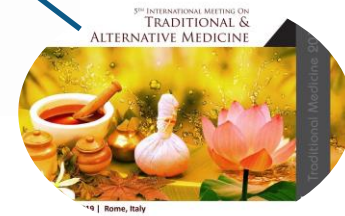
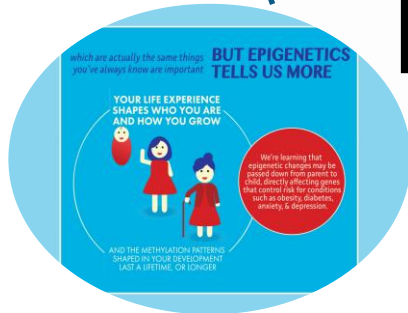
- I. Defining Public Health
- II. Setting the Historical Backdrop
- III. Public Health Policy Objectives
- IV. Contemporary Issues in Bahamian Public Health Policy
- V. Pressing Priorities
- VI. Our Approach to Policy Design
- VII. Policy Outcomes

VIII. Looking to the Future





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY gives



**“
Something to look up to
Something to look forward to
Something to chase ”**

- Matthew McConoughey (2017)





Thank You for Your Attention!

Questions