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RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE IN SA

Health Well Being and People's Engagement

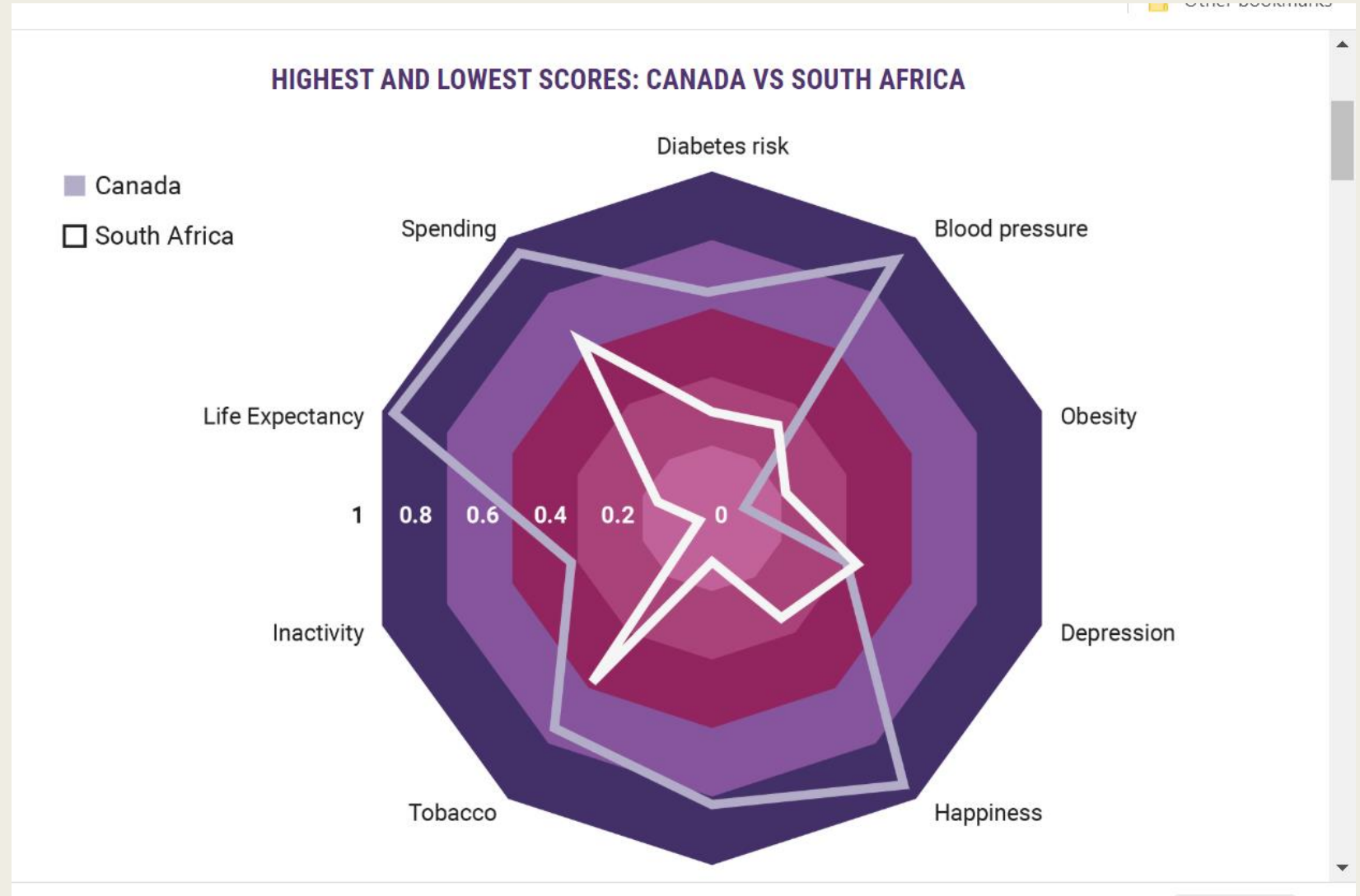
7th Annual ACSPN Conference 2020

Prof Susan Goldstein

Context

Ranked most unhealthy in the world

Sixteen percent (**16%**) of government spending goes to health but in 2019, South Africa was considered the unhealthiest country in the world.



And
highest
inequality



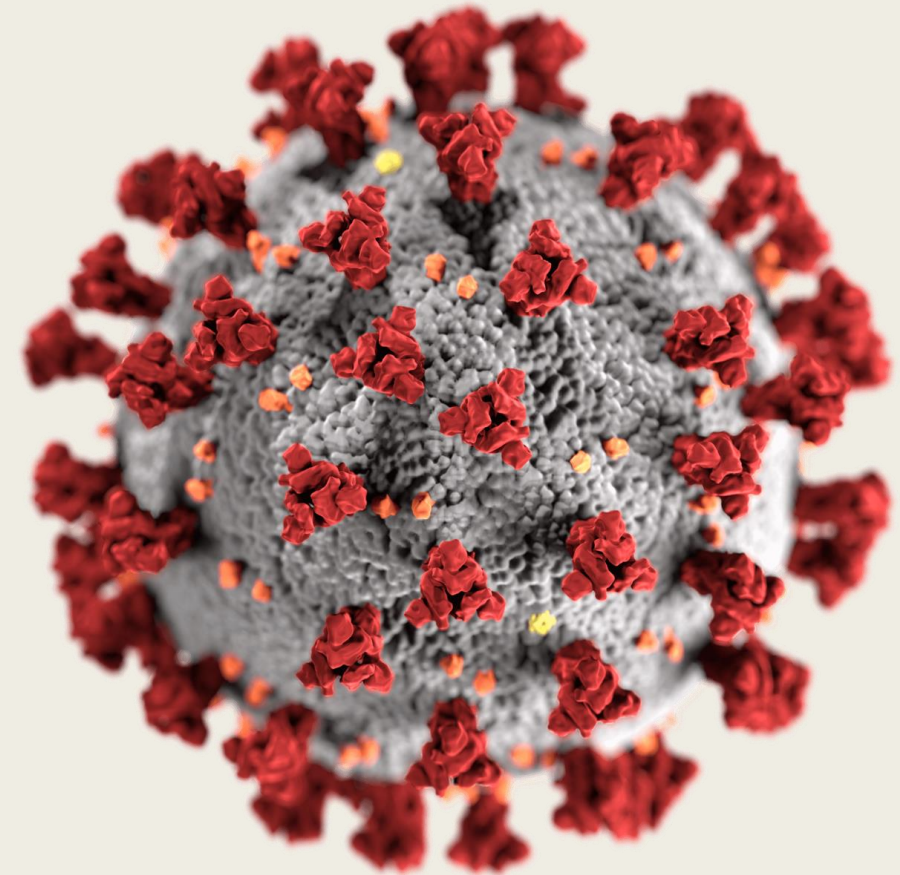
Health sector

- Overuse over served high cost pvt sector
- Under resourced highly challenged public sector



Enter COVID 19

- All of government response
- Emphasised the need for addressing the social and economic determinants
- Policies in all sectors
- Only able to control COVID 19 with Non Pharmaceutical Interventions dependent on behaviours – norms, living conditions, transport, social security, water, et



Highlighted

- NCD's including obesity, hypertension and diabetes
- Lack of basic services
- Poor living conditions
- Food insecurity
- Role of alcohol abuse in trauma



SA Communication response

- Rapid action
- Uncertainty
- Initially some trust BUT rapidly deteriorated
- Online – misinformation / rumours
- Inability to contact many of those needing info
- **No listening – local solutions for local problems**
- Some surveys electronically – leave out poor



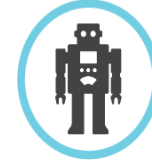
Lessons

- Pandemic **emphasises** problems – poverty, inequality, poor services, poor communications, lack of trust, fraud, corruption
- To prepare is
 - *to ensure good governance,*
 - *functioning health and basic services (WASH, transport)*
 - *health literacy,*
 - *good communication channels,*
 - *trust in government.*
- Lots of goodwill and civil society stepping in
- Mental health issues – result of interventions

4th IR → 5th IR

- Digital space a tool is a tool is a tool
- **Opportunities** – leapfrog things like landlines – online buying – using any transport,
- Voices previously unheard can be heard
- Universal access to digital
- **Challenges** – any “crazy” idea can get traction – hard to know the facts (often change in a new epidemic)
- Equity-May exclude the poorest

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS



1ST

18-19th Century in Europe and North America, featuring steam engines

2ND

1870-1914, featuring steel, oil, electricity, and combustion engines

3RD

1980s Digital Revolution, featuring personal computers and the internet

4TH

21st Century advance of AI, big data, robotics, IoT, blockchain and crypto

5TH

Responsive 21st Century connection of innovation to purpose and inclusivity