

COVID 19 – THE URGENT NEED FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Hani Serag

People's Health Movement

University of Texas Medical Branch

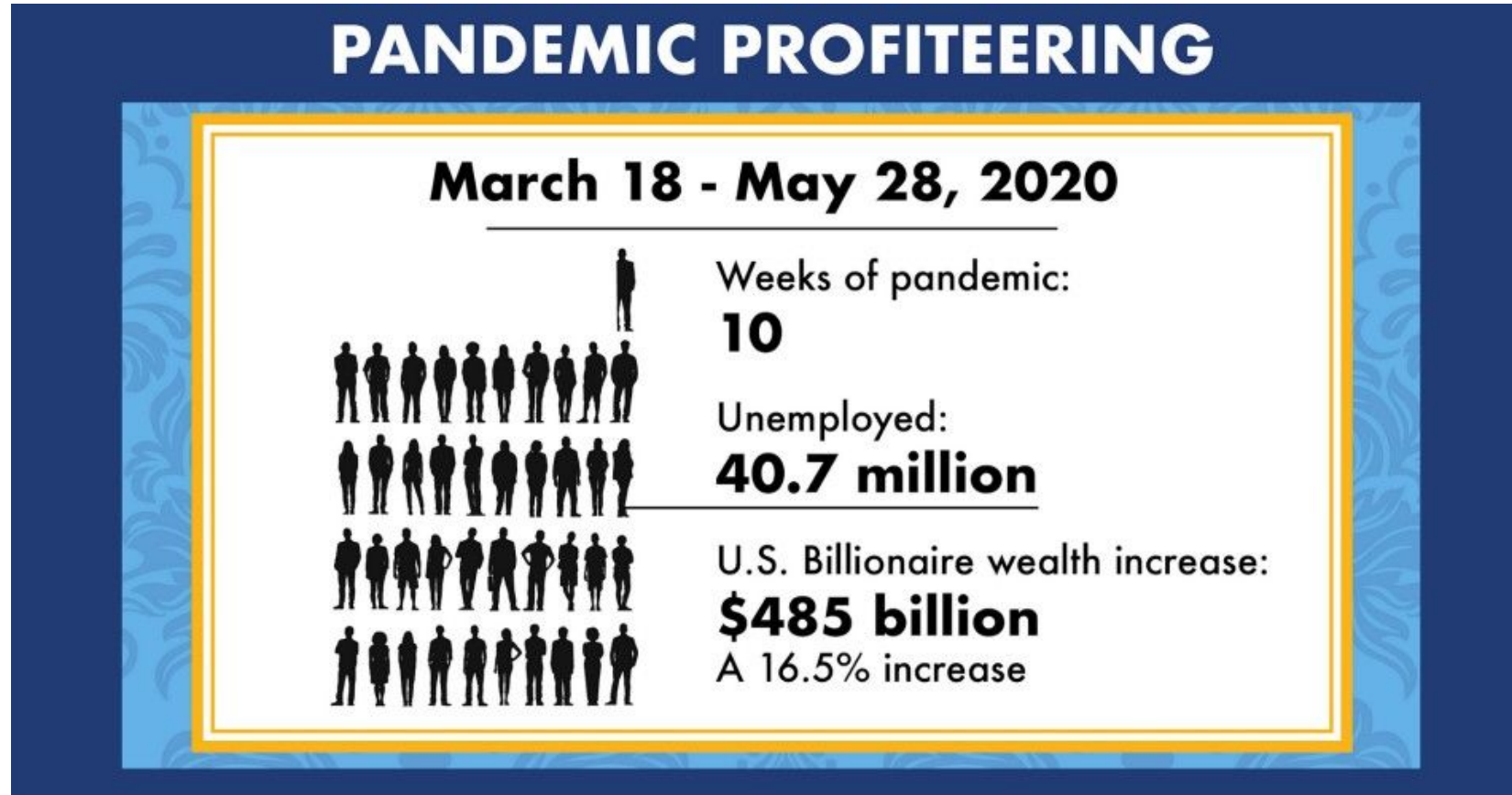


WHAT DID WE LEARN?

- Inequitable impact
- Failure of current structures of global governance for health
- Failure of health systems to provide adequate response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Lack or absence of social protection



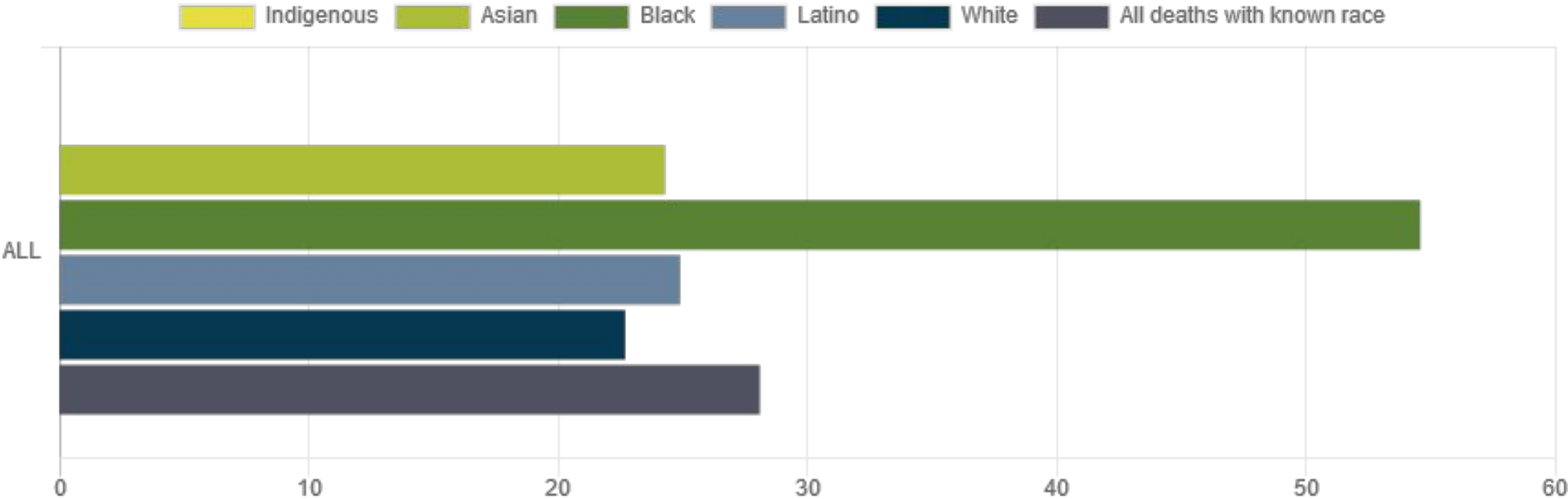
INEQUITABLE IMPACT



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg topped up their wealth by \$63 billion over the last 10 weeks, according to the Institute for Policy Studies. (Source: Institute for Policy Studies)



INEQUITABLE IMPACT



1 in 1,850 Black Americans has died
1 in 4,000 Latino Americans has died
1 in 4,200 Asian Americans has died
1 in 4,400 White Americans has died

54.6 deaths per 100,000
24.9 deaths per 100,000
24.3 deaths per 100,000
22.7 deaths per 100,000

Source: APM Research Lab



INEQUITABLE IMPACT

Who are the essential workers and frontline workers in most cities?



About 75% of health care workers are women

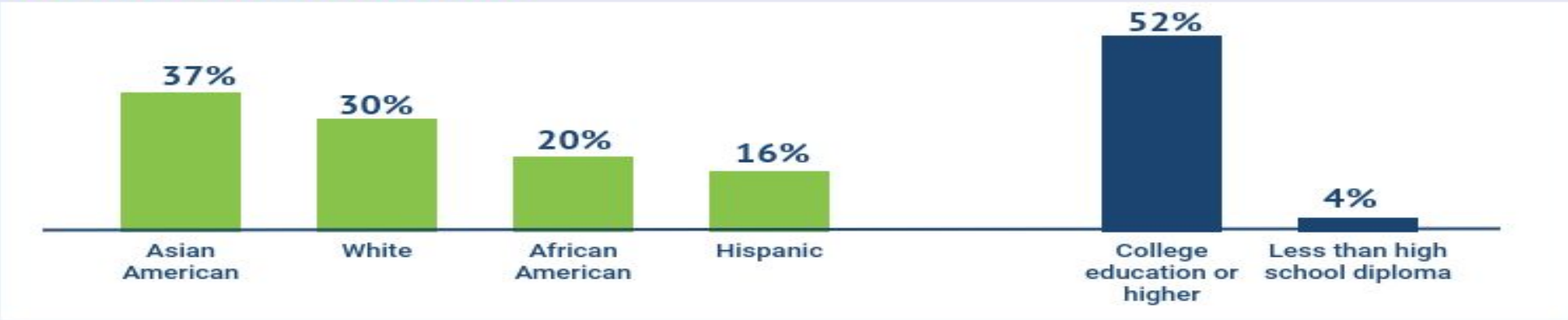


Over 60% of warehouse and delivery workers are people of color



74% of janitors are people of color

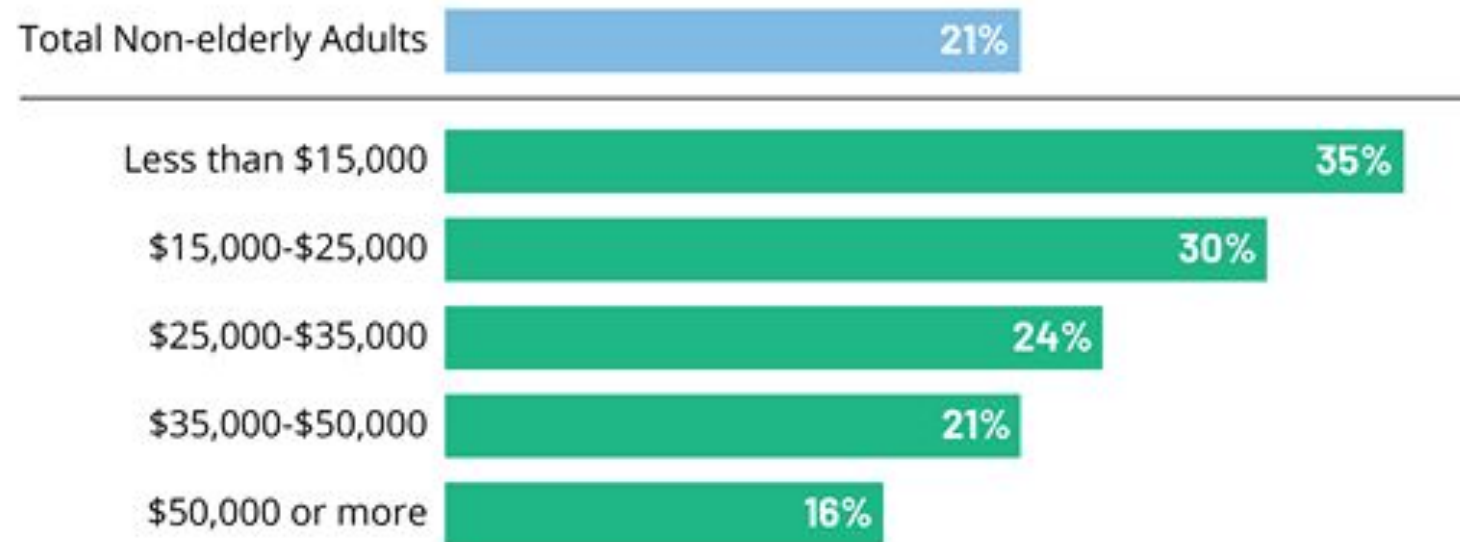
Who is able to work from home?



INEQUITABLE IMPACT

People in Lower-Income Households are At Higher Risk of Serious Illness if Infected with Coronavirus

Share of Adults Ages 18-64 at Higher Risk, by Household Income:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation



FAILURE OF CURRENT STRUCTURE OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH

- Leadership crisis
- Financial crisis
- Domination of neoliberalism
 - US and UK 'lead push against global patent pool for Covid-19 drugs' – The Guardian
 - Trumps company has received at least \$970,000 from U.S. taxpayers from room rental – The Washington Post
 - US Administration defunds World Health Organization (WHO) – just as a further step in weakening WHO and UN system in general



FAILURE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS

- Lack/absence of preparedness plans at global, national and local levels
- Weak surveillance and monitoring systems
- Pandemic management including timely, accurate and adequate information
- Shortage of healthcare workers
- Domination of profit-making health facilities



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE: PRINCIPLES

- Public finance and public service provision – Why?
- Progressive financing
- Universality and comprehensiveness
- Addressing social determinants of health
- Decentralization in terms of mechanisms of priority settings at local level
- Good governance with highest level of community involvement in planning, implementational, evaluation, and replanting



WHAT PHM IS DOING?

- Start at country level
 - Support activism at national and local levels
 - Build platforms for solidarity and exchanging experiences
- Proactively participate in debates at global level
 - Elaborate on announced interests and expose the hidden ones
 - Document and celebrate successful experiences and models
- Advocate for democratic global governance for health
- Building capacity for health activism

