

TOT 10-8-20 Transcript

Confronting Legacies of Health Disparities

00:01 Carlos Mariscal

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Sates and another 5 million around the world but this pandemic like all other health climate and natural disasters issues does not affect all equally

02:48 Carlos Mariscal

It affects us across a variety of dimensions And so I thought I'd set the scene by talking about some of these aspects, right. So, it affects us according to income. Not adjusting for other factors, people with higher incomes tend to live longer than people with lower incomes. The widest difference is among men in the 99th percentile versus the bottom 1%.

actions Not only in the ways that they may have impact on our health but in terms of the ways in which they may or may not have an impact on the health of others And I think that's why you're hearing you know - a number of directives having to do with the kinds of things that people take responsibility for that will help everyone and so that's why you hear about masking.

09:38 Françoise Baylis

It's not just to protect you In fact we're not so sure it will protect you so much as it will protect others. And that's why you hear comments about you know working towards a vaccine that again it's not just about protecting you it's about protecting others by you know over time getting to herd immunity. So, I think the main thing for us to appreciate at the beginning this isn't somebody else's responsibility It's everybody's individual responsibility for the benefit of the collective.

10:05 Carlos Mariscal

Excellent, thank you Caleb you were involved in orchestrating and organizing some of these extremely

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12:35Caleb Cage

So from an emergency management struct3 (-3.4 (r)8.1 (o-0.7 (c)5.ec -0.001 Tw 10.26 0 Td (7)-1426 (,Tc 0.0
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16:00 Kathleen Masterson

I don't know if I can speak entirely to that, but I know NPR did a really nice piece on how they name viruses. And there's actually an international committee and they work incredibly hard to choose a name that is not regional specific, because initially when these viruses break they often are like Spanish Flu - they're tied to their country that they were at least first diagnosed in. And so there's been a real effort by international medical community and then the media to follow that to call this Covid-19. To say that it's from the, you know, SARs CoV-2 virus

16:34 Kathleen Masterson

In terms of the name choice, I think those tend to be, you know, other names tend to be perpetuated by people with a political agenda, for sure. And I know we've seen that with the president, I believe actually there was some media note this week that since he's had Covid, he at least referred to it a few times as coronavirus, but that's actually incredibly new from all the coverage that I've seen. So that would be my best guess though, I must admit!

risky environment So, you know, we've lived through a time now we started calling our essential workers people who are working in grocery stores. That wasn't a thought before that they were essential workers, but we need to have food on the table, and we don't have to run the same risks as do certain people

19:33 Françoise Baylis

And then, you know, very often these are people in lower wage situations and there are people who can't afford to not go to work. That means they're people who can't afford to not put themselves in certain kinds of risky environments. I think, you know, one of the things that we see then is that often those jobs are correlated with people in certain racial and ethnic clusters or groups. Certainly, in our context we see people who work in meatpacking plants that have proven to be very much at risk. We see people that have come up from Caribbean Islands because they're the pickers, so they're working in agriculture for us and in that context, again, those have turned out to be an at-risk environment

20:17 Françoise Baylis

We have people that are doing home care work, you know, attendance in nursing homes etc. Again, often low-paid workers of particular ethnic backgrounds who are in at-risk situations. So, I think the thing to take away is that these are not new problems these are not disparities but then we have this massive health challenge come along and the people who are most vulnerable and most at risk are these same people who've already had certain kinds of challenges that haven't responded to and now the consequences that are just really dire but visible

20:51 Françoise Baylis

So, it's not to say that the consequences weren't bad before but now we see people who are dying in in great numbers and I think, you know, for many of us it's sort of, you know, shocking because we've not really thought about some of the consequences of the ways in which we've structured lives

21:06 Carlos Mariscal

Yeah! - I mean it's one of these things that just keeps getting hammered at home us every time. So, Françoise for those of you that don't know is joining us from Nova Scotia, if that's right. I looked up the statistics of Washoe county which is where I am right now compared to Nova Scotia, and we have something like 10 times the incidences that that you have something like three times as many deaths as well.

21:37 Françoise Baylis

Well, let me share the numbers with you and just put them in context. So I'm in a province So, Canada has 10 provinces I'm in one of the very small provinces and one of the very poor provinces. Our total population is about a million people, and we have zero community spread. We have three active cases. One is in ICU, okay. The other two active cases are people who traveled and came back and went into quarantine. So they actually were following the rules and that's why we haven't had any community spread even from that. So, that's pretty striking when you hear a million people and three cases. But one of the things I think is really important is that we have willingly or not willingly, depending on how

28:58 Kathleen Masterson

personal stories, showing the impact, looking at what people who are making that tough choice that, "oh I really need money, so I have to go back to my bartending job, but I have asthma and I'm scared um that this could really harm me. So, journalists work really really hard at finding that, what's the one idea that I want to take home here" and, "how do I do it in this story" and luckily we get a ly 6 1 0 0 1

37:54 Françoise Baylis

And so you know what I'm worried about globally, is the fact that what's undergirding it, think a lot of this, is still a deep commitment to something like competition rather than collaboration. And I think that's why you can sort of see people sort of like well you're not one of me, you're one of them, so we don't agree, so we don't talk. And I think the overarching thing is how did we allow something like this to become

43:57 Kathleen Masterson

It's interesting I was thinking, as everyone was discussing how much of this is a new phenomenon, and did a little reading on 1918. And the government then tried to brand mask wearing as a p]TJ 0.006c2.9 (t)-ri.6 (7)-3.0

46:30 Kathleen Masterson

wouldn't go into a nursing home without wearing a mask. Maybe if you work with the elderly [inaudible]

46:38 Kathleen Masterson

...I'm just trying to draw some of these parallels to ways that people care about their own family. But again, you have to have that trust built in if you're speaking with a family member. If you're speaking with a stranger on the street, it's a lot harder.

46:50 Carlos Mariscal

I mean I think that all sounds right, and I think the pathos is the way to do it. That's how I always think of when I talk to people disagree with. I say one of my sayings from the very first episode about Tap was you will never convince somebody anything on the day that you argue with them. So that's not the point of an argument. It should just be to like present an alternative and then later when they're mulling it over in bed like days later they might come to your side. But, so zooming out perhaps to the level of emergency response. Because I think that the individual conversation is one thing and then the conversation that you have when you're talking to the public at large or the public in particular - I want to turn to a question from an anonymous attendee that's been upvoted quite a bit

47:43 Carlos Mariscal

It says the idea of freedom always seems to be the biggest factor when coming to make decisions about laws and restrictions. How could we convince those to give some of their freedoms in order to help? And then... and question this one away, how would you in order to help others? So that it is even possible in a place that puts freedom on such a high pedestal domestically like the U.S.? These conflicting values it seems like we always talk about freedom as something that François has said before. But I want to turn it to Caleb. Like, how do you convince people that they should care about other things as well?

48:23 Caleb Cage

That is uh that is a great question. And I think it's a I think it's a cultural challenge. And I think the other speakers here have spoken about how we put the idea of individual liberty on a pedestal and I'll say I'm one who by my nature in a lot of ways I do not like people telling me what to do. And I do not like conventional wisdom winning the day when we can think for myself thank you very much. Those sorts of those sorts of thoughts I think, are pretty typical.

49:00 Caleb Cage

However, I think over the last 15 years have gone from this idea of really focusing exclusively on that to - I like the Adam analogy that François used earlier that our individual liberty has impacts on others right? The famous Robert Nozick analogy of the right to swing my fist to your nose, I think was Nozick who said that. But, you know, that's really not the practical way of how societies and communities work. One of the things that've been focusing on, from an academic perspective but from a practitioner perspective over the last few years, is this idea of disaster resilience or crisis resilience. And it's a paradigm shift from the emergency management concept because

61:31 Kathleen Masterson

We're seeing these huge divisions. And it's true, the media really is reporting from cities and they're doing a good job when they're doing that but we need more than that. We need better storytelling and we need better representation of everything from socioeconomic to class to race, and I don't just mean going to visit those people. I mean we need the media to be more diverse in those ways as well. So, maybe a little off the covid topic, but that's my takeaway on the what we can do better as media

62:01 Carlos Mariscal

That's great no. And I think I want to second everything that everybody said. That's been wonderful. You guys have been such a great panel. So, I want to begin my thanks with thanking the Thought on Tap committee, including Daniel Enrique Perez, Caitlyn Earley, Meredith Oda, Callum Ingram, Stephen Pasqualina. Special thanks to Bettina Rodriguez and special thanks to Program Chair, Katherine Fusco for help with this particular event. I want to thank Debra Modellmog, Lisa McDonald, Chris Stancik and an unknown, but almost certainly essential, undergraduate student or two

62:32 Carlos Mariscal

I want to thank our partner Laughing Planet, and I want to thank our panelists Françoise Baylis, Caleb Cage and Kathleen Masterson. But most of all, I want to thank you for joining us on this new season and on a new platform. There is a survey available now that would tell you for you to let us know what you thought of this evening. And so on behalf of Thought on Tap, I'm Carlos Mariscal. Thank you and good night.