

# What do we need to do to advance healthy mitigation policy ?

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**World Health  
Organization**

## What do we have so far?

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- Strong evidence of large and diverse health benefits from mitigation policies.
- Important policy areas where health, environment and development objectives align.
- Direct connection to people's lives.
- Emerging success stories.



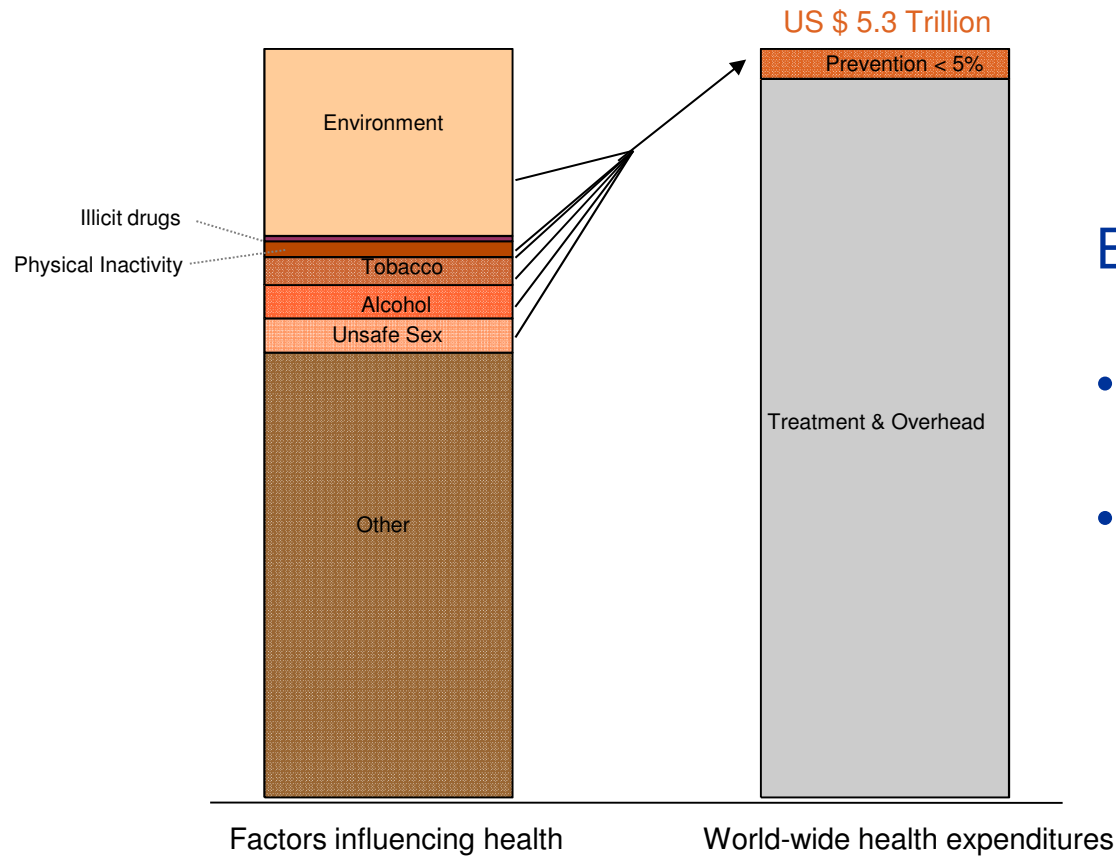
## What is in the way ?

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- Tendency to compartmentalize, and focus on "end-of pipe" solutions, in both science and policy.
- Weak use of economic arguments.
- Failure to make direct connection to policy levers, and indicators of progress.
- Public not yet making the connection between climate change and local, immediate benefits.



# More emphasis on prevention, through "health in all policies"



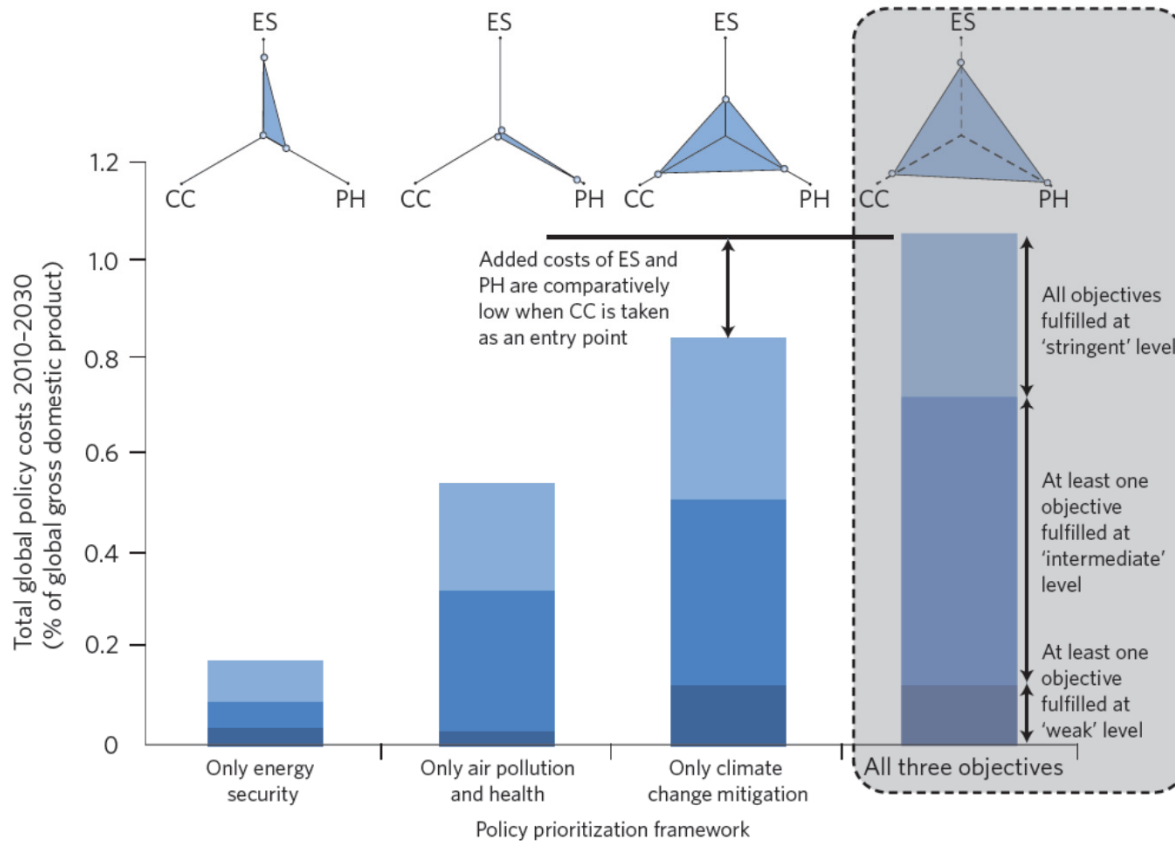
Each year from 2000-2008:

- life expectancy rose 0.5%
- health costs rose 6 %

Source: Estimated from OECD, WHO, and Prevention Institute data



# More economic evidence for coherent climate and health policy



**"Health benefits from reduced air pollution as a result of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions... may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs" – IPCC, 2007**

McCollum et al, Nature Climate Change, October 2011

# Connect to policy, and measure progress

## Broad policy goals:



## Targeted initiatives:



## Tracking progress:



### Measuring health gains from sustainable development

Sustainable cities • Food • Jobs • Water • Energy • Disaster management

**Measuring health** can tell us how well development is advancing the three pillars of sustainability – social, environmental and economic. Whether it is transport that reduces air pollution; weather-resistant housing; safe drinking-water from sustainable water resources, or clean energy for all, putting health at the heart of strategies ensures broad public benefit, particularly for the poor and vulnerable.

**Indicators** of healthy development can help identify success stories, barriers, and the extent to which benefits of greener economies are equitably distributed. Examples of health-relevant indicators for six Rio-20 themes are presented here: Sustainable cities, Food, Jobs, Water, Energy and Disaster management. For the complete set of briefs, see: [http://www.who.int/hia/green\\_economy/en/](http://www.who.int/hia/green_economy/en/)



More than two-thirds of the global population will be living in cities by 2050. The rapid rate of urban growth has created enormous challenges. The swelling number of slum-dwellers, now more than 800 million people, attests to the need for stronger urban governance. So while cities concentrate opportunities, jobs, and services, they also concentrate health hazards and risks.

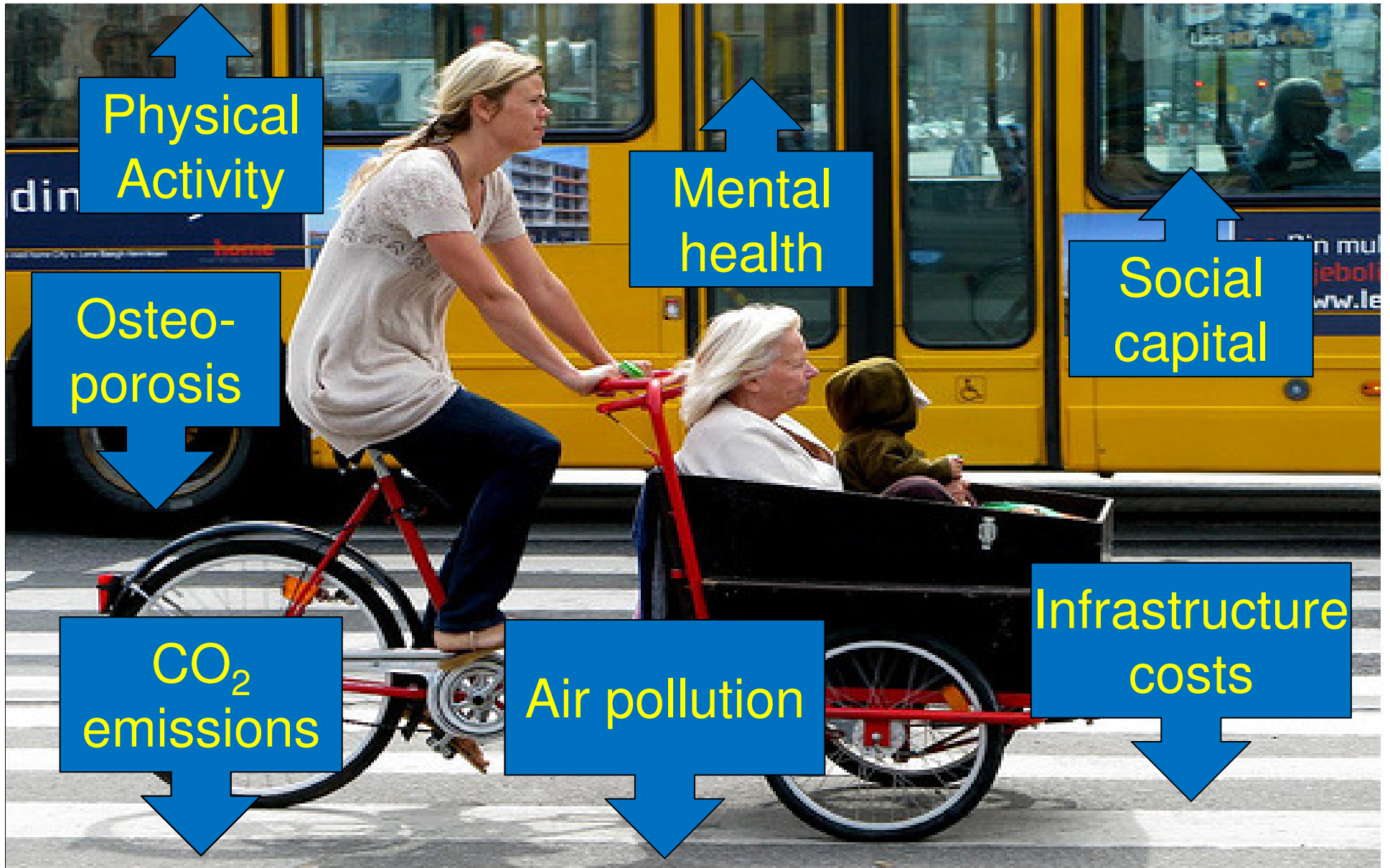
Health is an important benchmark of sustainability of urban policies. Health indicators proposed here also reflect progress on urban social equity, environment, and development. Core indicators include:

- **Slum housing improvements that benefit health** – as assessed by well-defined measures for safe, resilient, and climate-adapted structures that also have access to clean energy and basic utilities;
- **Urban air quality measures of particulate pollution** – with reference to WHO air quality guidelines;
- **Healthy, efficient transport** – in terms of safety and use of sustainable modes, including walking, cycling, and public transport;
- **Urban violence** – in terms of intentional homicides.

**Governance indicators also are important** to assess how cities account for health in urban planning and building codes, and in the monitoring of/reporting on air and water quality and sanitation risks. Indicators of **access to urban services** essential to public health and sustainable cities also are important to consider. These may include: access to health care services, green spaces, fresh food markets, and waste management.

Health in the green economy

## Create a positive vision









# More information:

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**World Health Organization**

**<http://www.who.int/>**

**Public Health and Environment**

**<http://www.who.int/phe/en/>**

**Climate Change**

**<http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/>**

**Health in other sectors**

**<http://www.who.int/hia>**

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