



Cours Flagship sur l'économie et le financement de la santé pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes



Universal health coverage: challenges

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in collaboration with:
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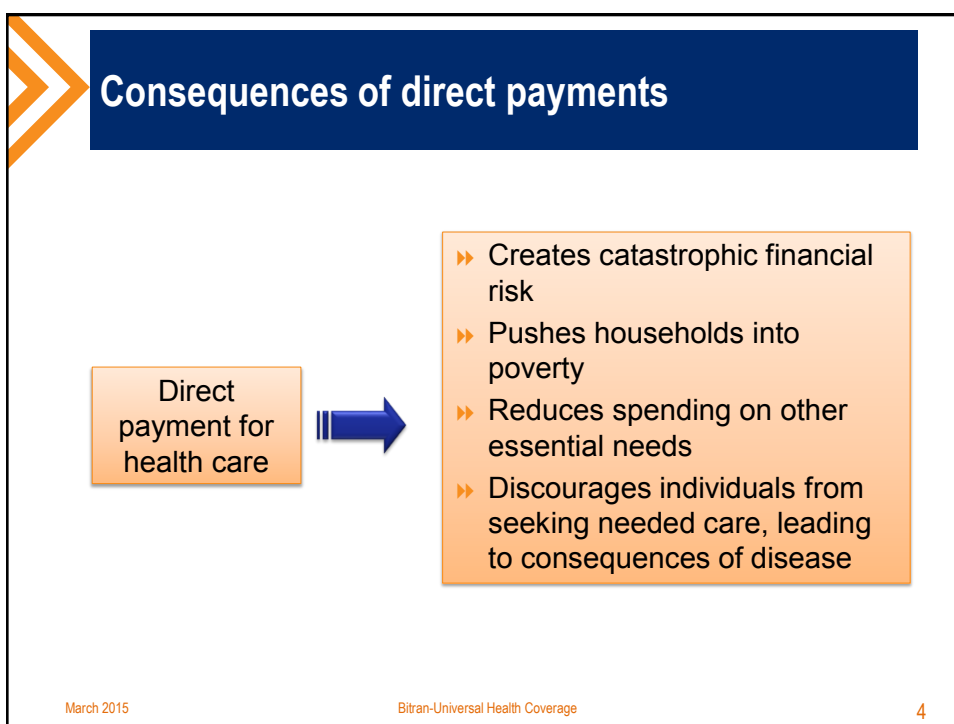
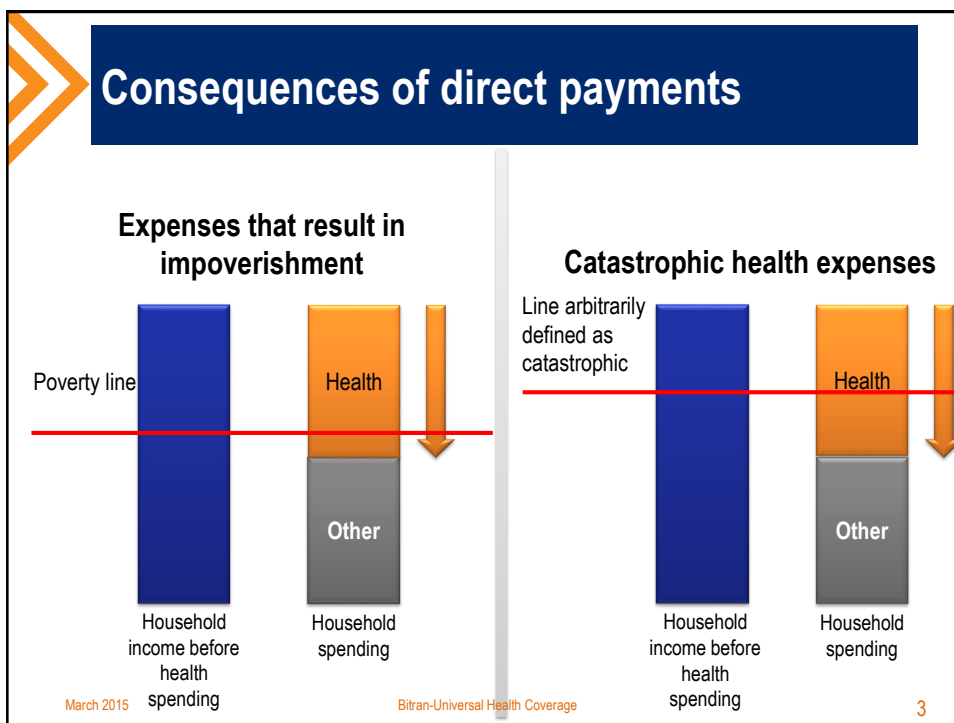
Summary

- » Defining Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- » Measuring UHC
- » Developing a strategy, roadmap, and vision for achieving UHC
- » Key points

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Consequences of direct payments

- » 1.3 billion poor individuals do not have access to the health care they need
- » 150 million individuals face financial disaster & 100 million pushed into poverty as a result of direct payments
- » 20-40% of health resources are wasted

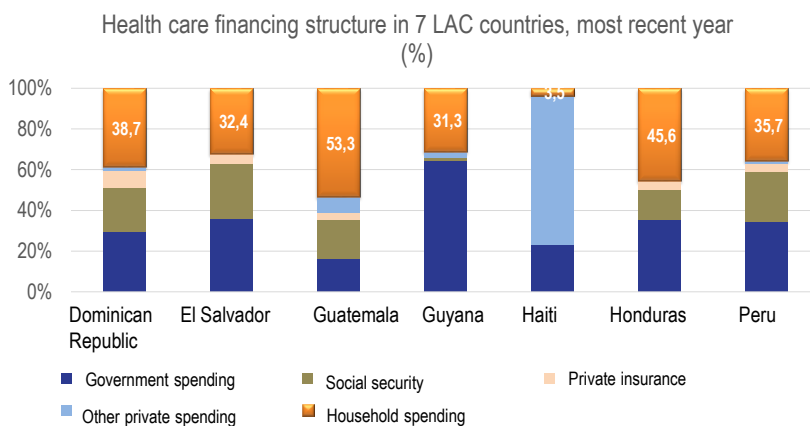
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Direct payments

- » Situation in selected Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries



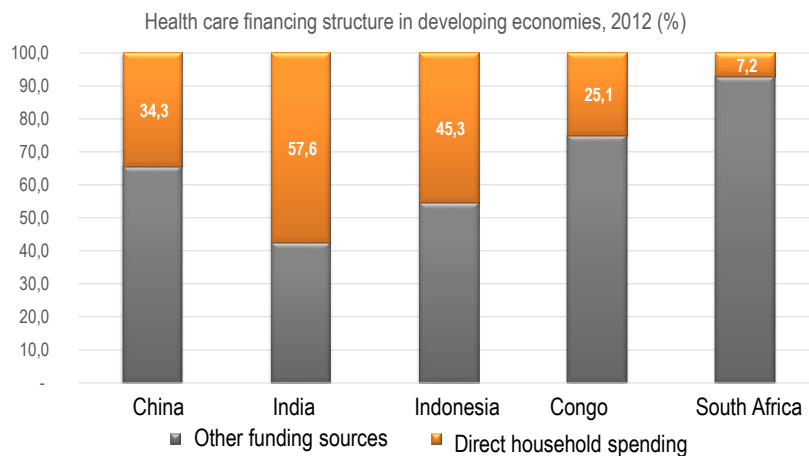
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Direct payments

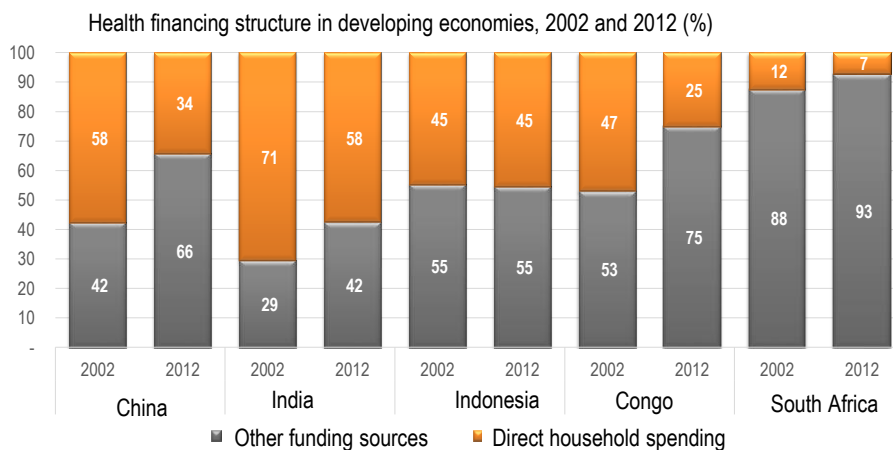
» Is this problem unique to LAC countries?



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Direct payments

» Is the situation improving?



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Direct payments

- » Is the situation improving in your countries?
- » How you we get the data necessary to determine whether the situation is improving in your countries?
 - ❖ ...
 - ❖ ...

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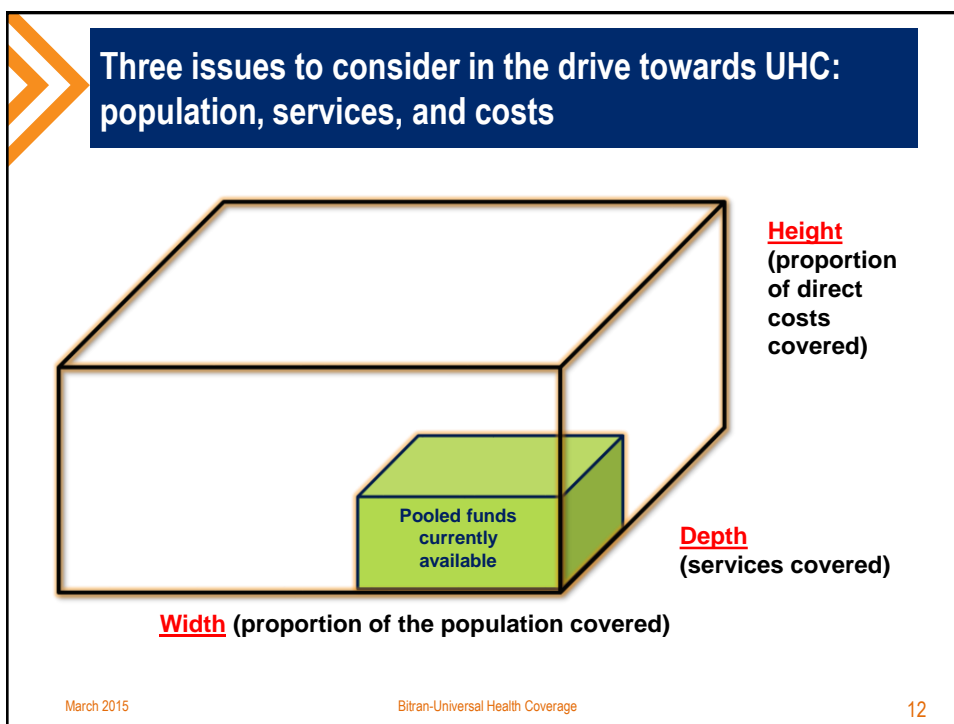
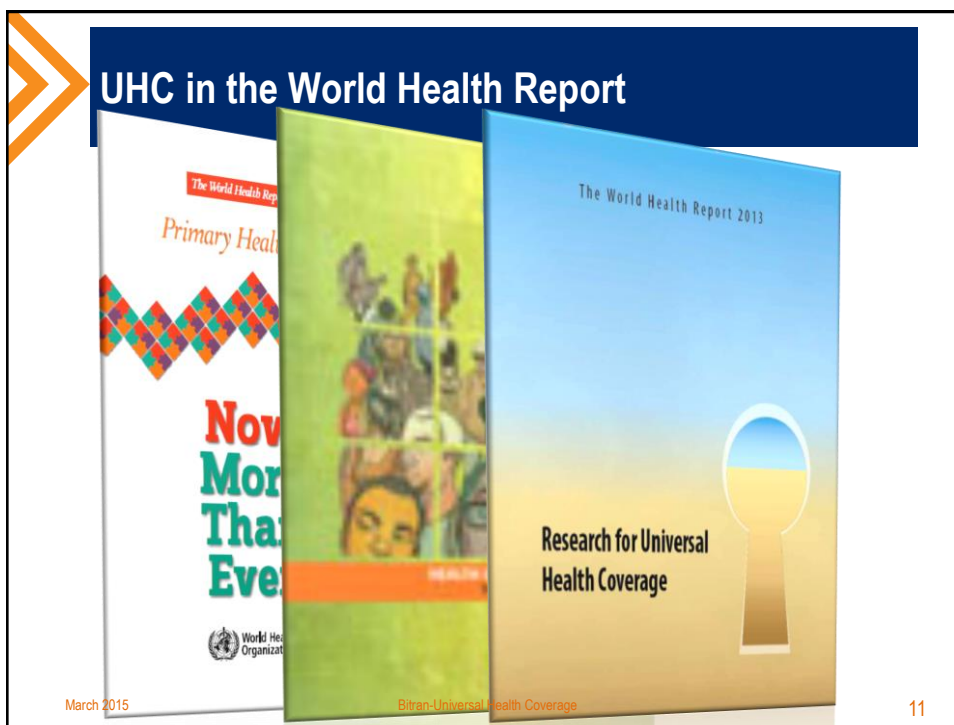
Universal Health Coverage: definition

- » Resolution of the General Health Assembly of the World Health Organization in 2005, asking member countries to develop health care financing systems that would:
 - ❖ Ensure that all citizens have access to the health care they need without facing financial risk.
- » The idea of pushing towards UHC dates back to the 1948 WHO constitution and the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata.

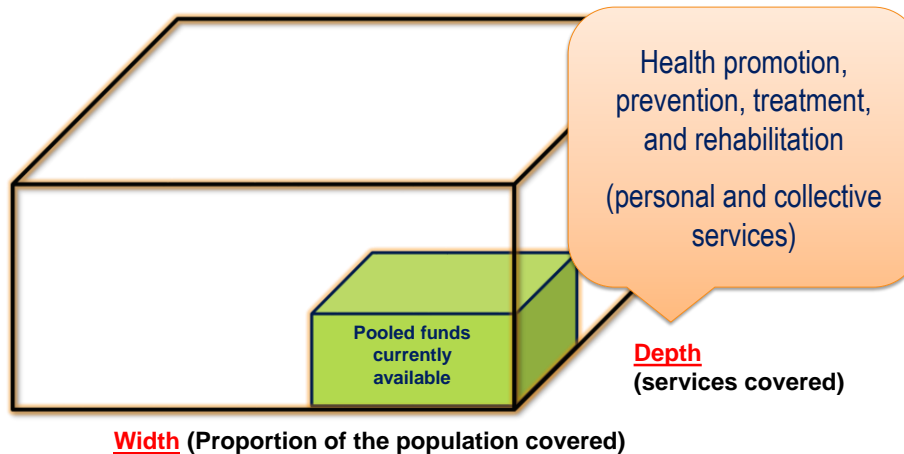
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Three issues to consider in the drive towards UHC: population, services, and costs

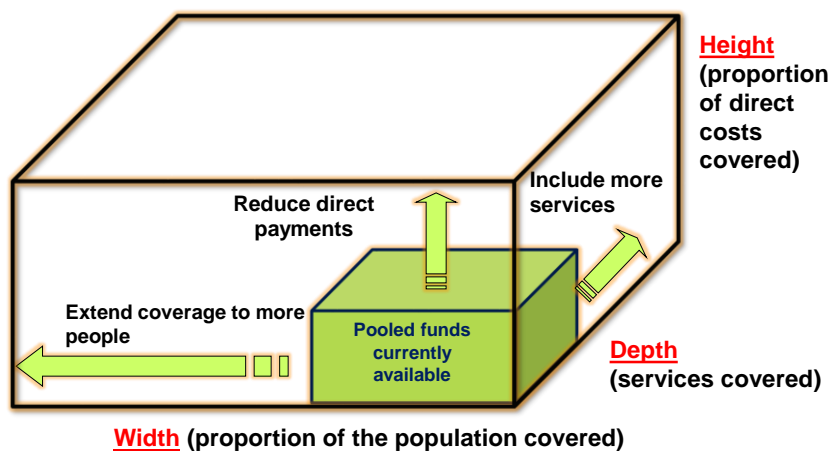


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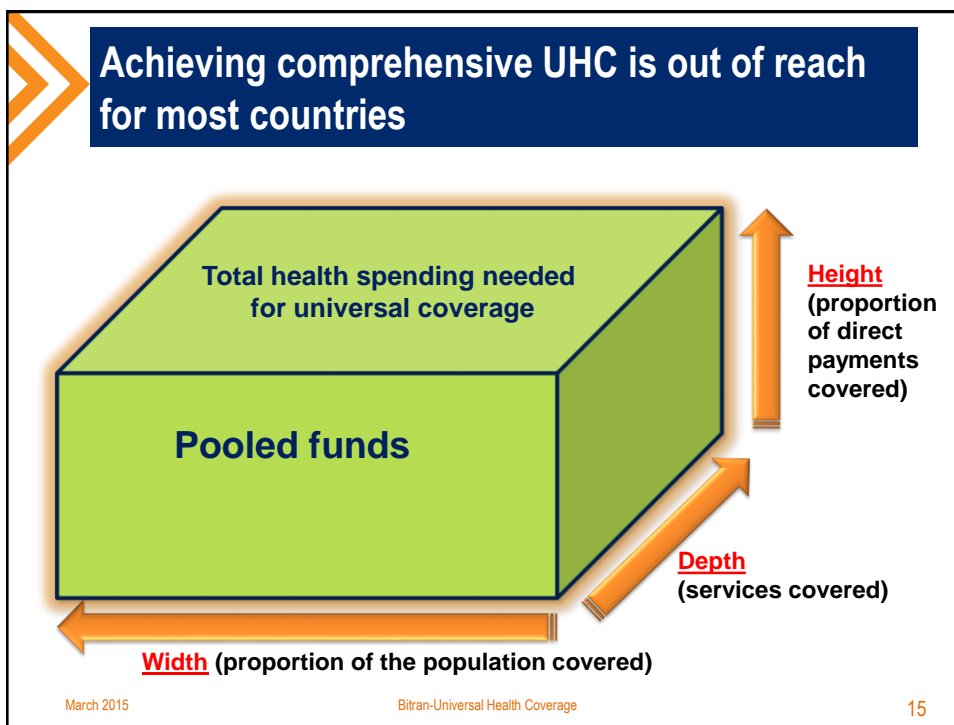
What does it mean to progress towards UHC?



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Measuring progress towards UHC

- » Coverage of direct costs
 - ❖ Incidence of catastrophic financial burden due to direct payments
 - ❖ Incidence of impoverishment due to direct payments
 - ❖ Amount of direct payments as a proportion of total health spending
- » Coverage of services/care
 - ❖ Coverage of essential services – care for transmissible diseases; reproductive health services; care for non-transmissible diseases; mental health services
- » Coverage of the population
 - ❖ Who is covered and who is not – eligibility criteria

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The Post-2015 Development Agenda and UHC

Goal: Achieve Universal Health Coverage: *i.e., everyone should have access to the health services they need, without facing financial risk*

Objectives:

- » Cover 80% of services for the poorest 40% of the population
- » Financial protection from direct payment for health services for all

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Some key points

- » All countries, at all levels of development, should accelerate and maintain their progress towards UHC.
- » LAC countries should implement concrete steps to accelerate progress towards UHC.
- » The political will of the government and the population, as well as good leadership, are necessary conditions for achieving UHC.
- » Gathering data (for example: current coverage, costs of services, funding necessary, policy analysis, etc.) and translating it into actions is necessary for progressing towards UHC.

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Political and social pressures

- » Ambitions of politicians in developing countries
 - 1. Cover the entire population, rapidly
 - 2. Cover all health care services that exist
 - 3. Provide full financial protection for everyone

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Question 1: Can countries provide all medically-available health care services to the entire population?

- » NO: The amount of health services that can be covered is limited by the financial resources available in the given country.
- » The richer the country, the more health services it can cover.

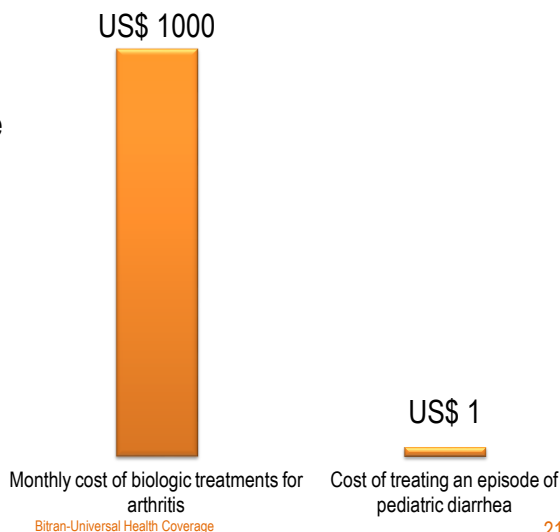
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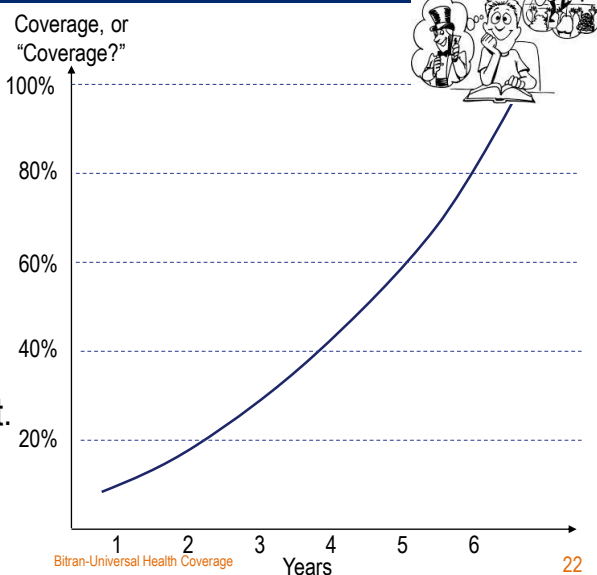
Question 1: Can countries provide all medically-available health care services to the entire population?

- » Achieving UHC implies difficult choices.
- » Everything cannot be covered.
- » If the system were to cover expensive services for a few individuals, millions of others would go without access to more cost-effective services.



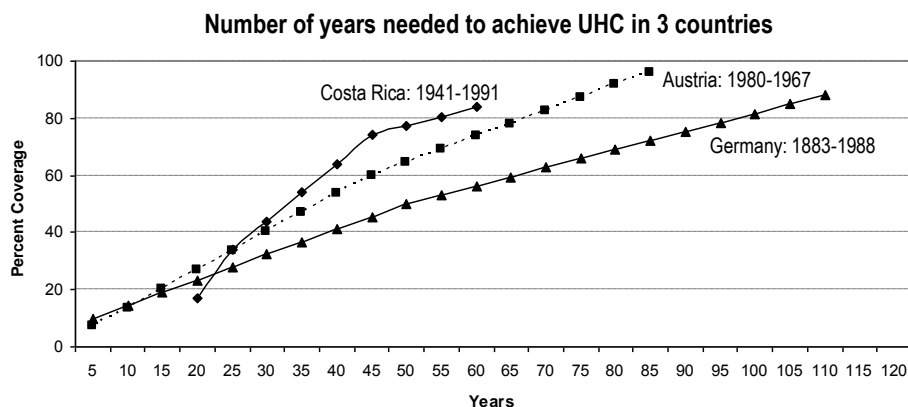
Question 2: Can the entire population be covered quickly?

- » NO. Providing effective or “true” coverage of the population may take decades.
- » However, politicians and the population are naturally impatient.



Question 2: Can the entire population be covered quickly?

- » **NO.** Even in rich and middle-income countries, true coverage takes decades.



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Question 3: Can full financial protection for the entire population be achieved in the short term?

- » **NO.** Financial protection requires financial resources.
- » Creating insurance plans spreads the risk over a larger group, reducing individual financial risk.
- » However, an insurance system that provides effective financial protection for all citizens is expensive, and most individuals are unable to pay their part. Large public subsidies are needed to fund the system.

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Given the preceding, what can we hope to achieve?

- » Some governments spend relatively little on health. In these cases, the government should be encouraged to increase public spending on health.
- » The resources available can be put to better use, by improving efficiency.
- » Creating insurance systems can help to provide financial protection for the population.
- » Governments and populations should be encouraged to prioritize public health spending in general, and to prioritize coverage of cost-effective health services as well as services that would be financially catastrophic for individual households.

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Thank you

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