

CARDIOLOGY
2025

28th Annual Update on
Pediatric and Congenital
Cardiovascular Disease

Hope. Heal. Learn.

Global

Perspectives on Pediatric and Congenital Cardiovascular Health

Néstor Sandoval MD

Fundación Cardioinfantil-La Cardio
Colombia 2025

No conflict of interest or
political conflict.

CARDIOLOGY
2025



The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) state that All United Nations Member States have agreed to try to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

This includes financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Universal health coverage (UHC) means inclusion and empowerment for all people to access medical care, including treatment and prevention services.

Goal Update.

The proportion of the population not covered by essential health services decreased by about 15% between 2000 and 2021, with minimal progress made after 2015.

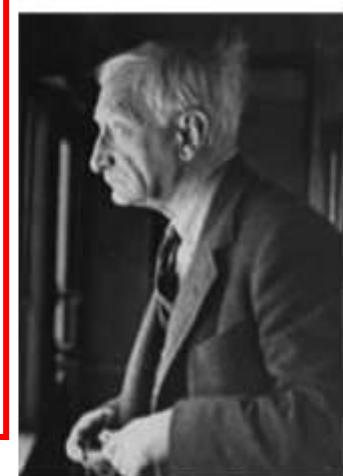
In 2021, about four and a half billion people were not covered by essential health services.

state-operated health services

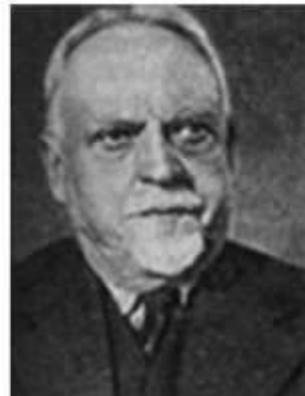
1883



Otto von Bismarck (1815–1898), Chancellor of
Financed by employers and
employees through payroll
deduction



1917



Nikolai Alexandrovich Semashko
(1874–1949), founder of the Soviet health
system 1917. Source: *Marxists Internet
Archive* <https://www.marxists.org/archive/semashko/1917/>

. Out-of-pocket model

1946-1971



Thomas Clement (Tommy) Douglas (1904–1986);

National Health insurance.
Beveridge and Bismarck
models..
Cost control by limiting
medical services,
patients wait to be treated



Juan Luis Londoño
Colombia 1993

1965



US President Lyndon Baines Johnson
Mixed public-private system and
struggles with closing the gap between
the insured and the uninsured
population (Medicare and
Medicaid)(Lindon B: Johnson 1965)

2010



US President Barack Obama (1961) 44th

The Affordable Care Act (ACA).
abolish pre-existing condition”

History through the years of the medical health system in LATAM.

- Beginning in the 1930s and 1940s, Bismarck systems were introduced in South American countries for those who were formally employed (informal work).
- 1970s, most countries – starting with Brazil in 1964 –were authoritarian regimes of military dictatorships.
- The 1980s and 1990s brought with them the “debt crisis.” Cuts in public social spending, causing an increase in poverty, inequality and violence.
- During the 1990s, Latin America underwent numerous neoliberal State reforms,
- 1993 2021 one of the best Health system in the world. (Colombia Chile)
- Around the 2000s, left-wing and centre-left governments in many of the countries, expanded social policies and worked to reduce poverty and social inequalities and improve access to health care services for **limited time**

Military dictatorship in South America

The typical military dictatorship in Latin America is led by a junta or committee made up of the leadership of the military's general staff.

Brazil, from 1964 to 1985,

Bolivia, between 1964 and 1982,

Paraguay, from 1954 to 1989,

Peru, from 1968 to 1980,

Argentina, between 1976 and 1983,

Uruguay, between 1973 and 1985,

Chile, between 1973 and 1990,

Dominican Republic, from 1930 to 1961,

Ecuador, from 1972 to 1979,

Nicaragua, between 1936 and 1956, (2007-2025)

Venezuela, between 1948 and 1958. (1999-2013; 2013-2025)

→ **Colombia**, between 1953 and 1956,



Artist ,Fernando Botero. Colombia 1973

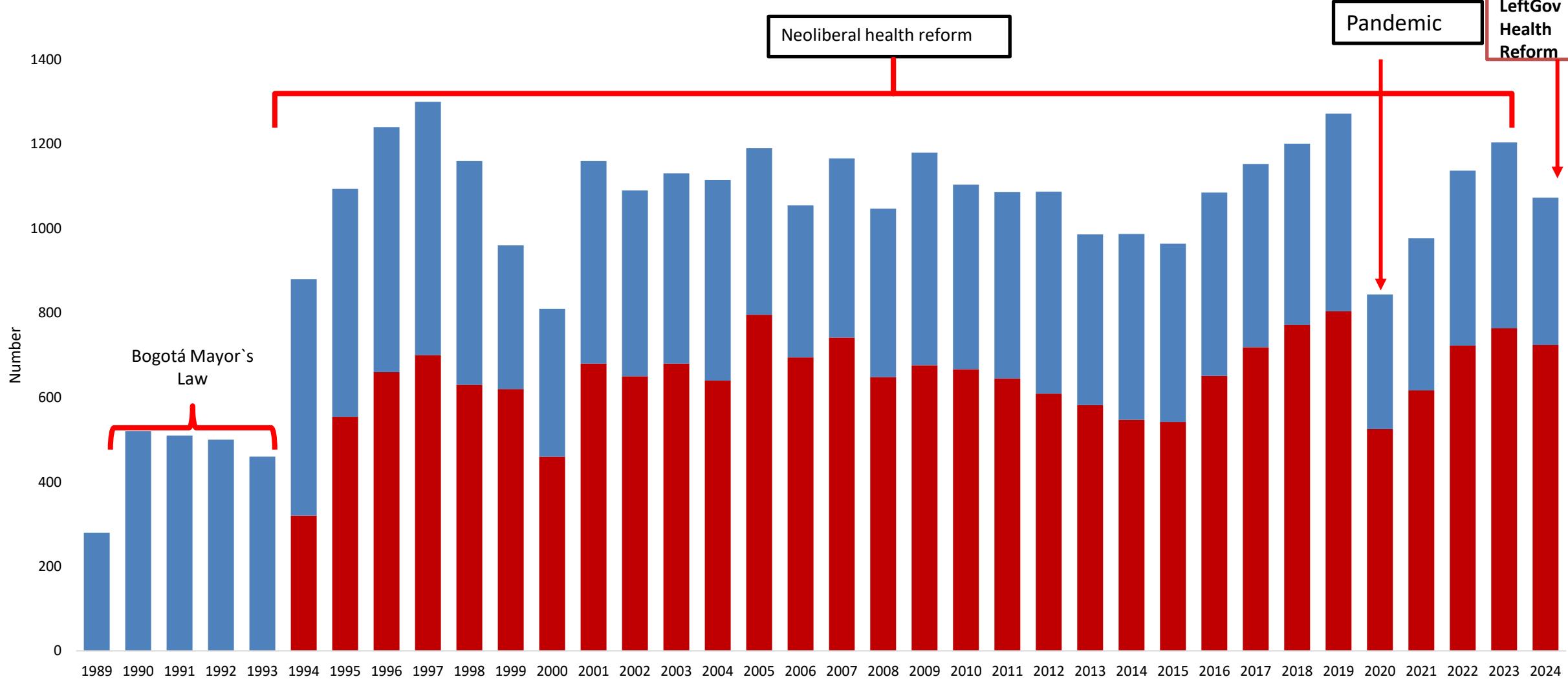
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Cardiac Surgery procedures at Fundación Cardioinfantil.

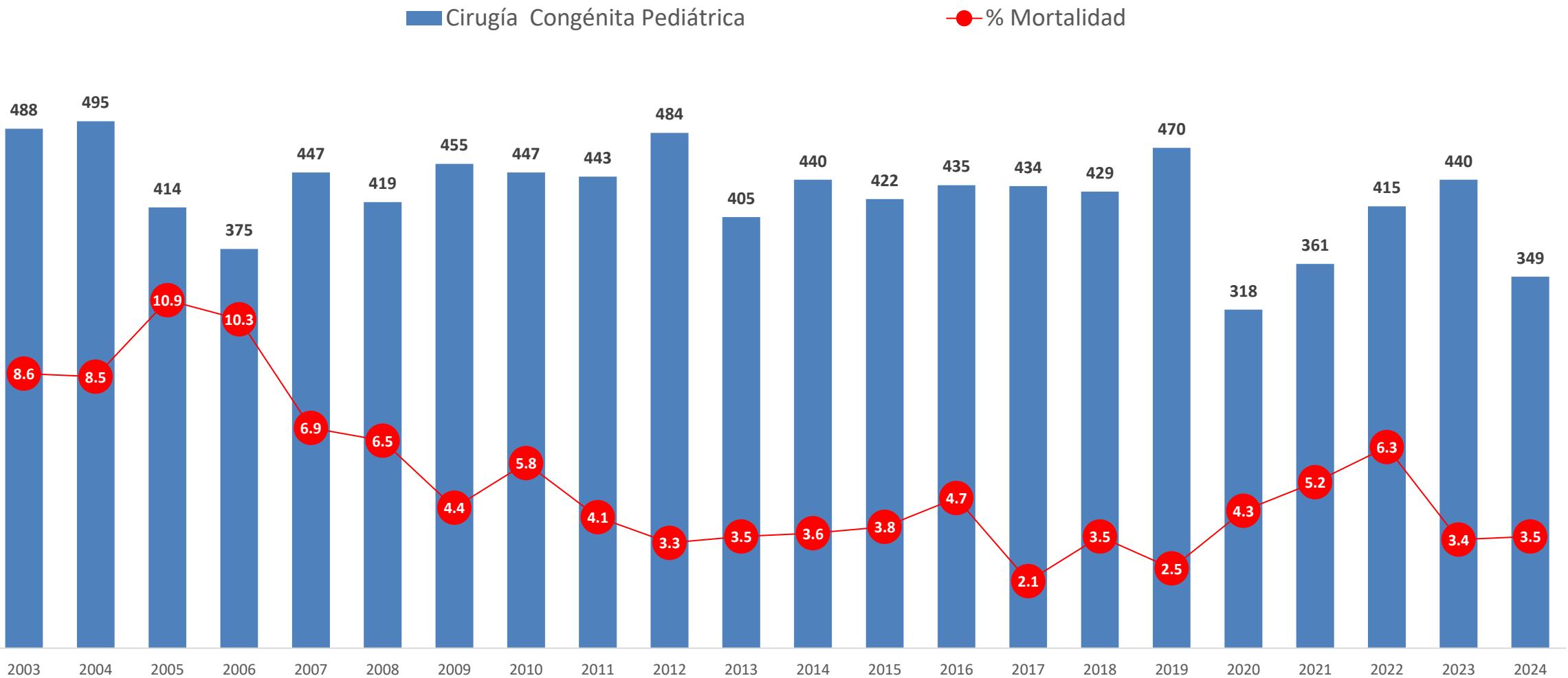


■ ≥ 18 years (640 mean/per year)

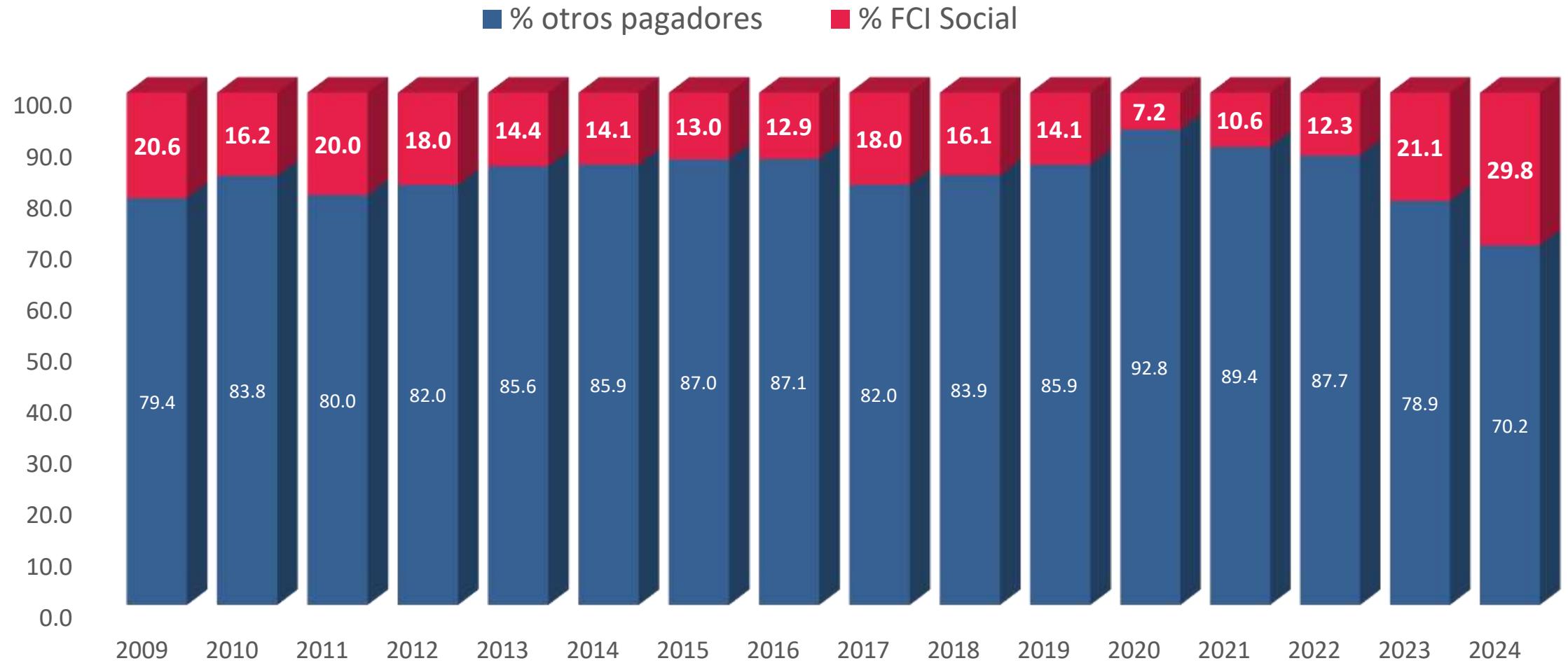
■ < 18 years (443 mean/per year)



Volume vs % Mortality



Social Responsibility program. "Regale una Vida "



Challenges in Access to Quality Care in Children with CHD



1 Limited Resources

Health expenditure by government specially in developing countries. No specific programs for children with CHD

2 Geographic Barriers

Families often have to travel long distances to access the limited number of pediatric cardiac surgery facilities.

3 Socioeconomic Disparities

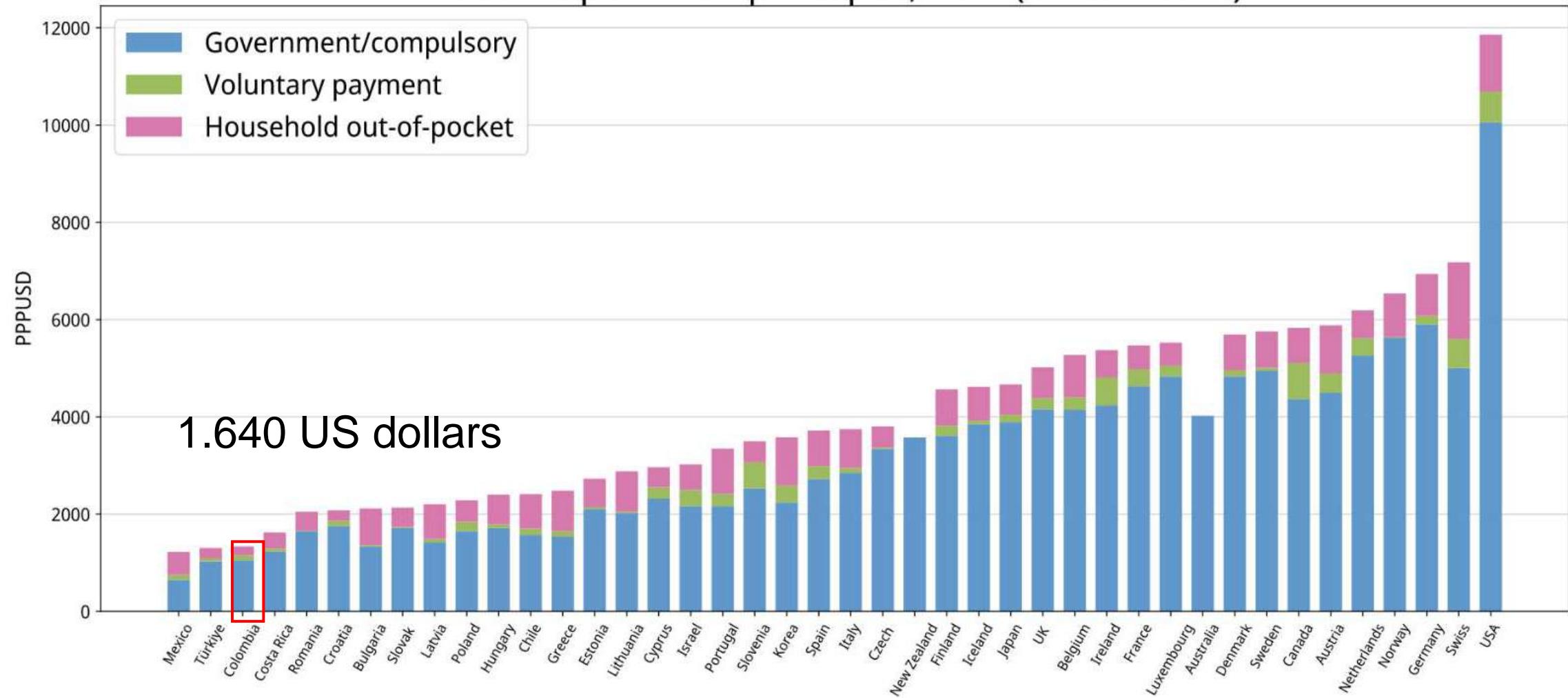
Patients from low-income backgrounds may struggle to afford the necessary treatments, leading to disparities in healthcare access.

“Out of pocket expenditure in moderate to severe CHD



1

Health expenditure per capita, 2020 (OECD Health)





América del Sur

Mapa físico



Challenges in Access to Quality Care in Children with CHD



4 Migration

Migration can affect health systems in many ways, including through the health of migrants and the communities that receive them

5 Corruption

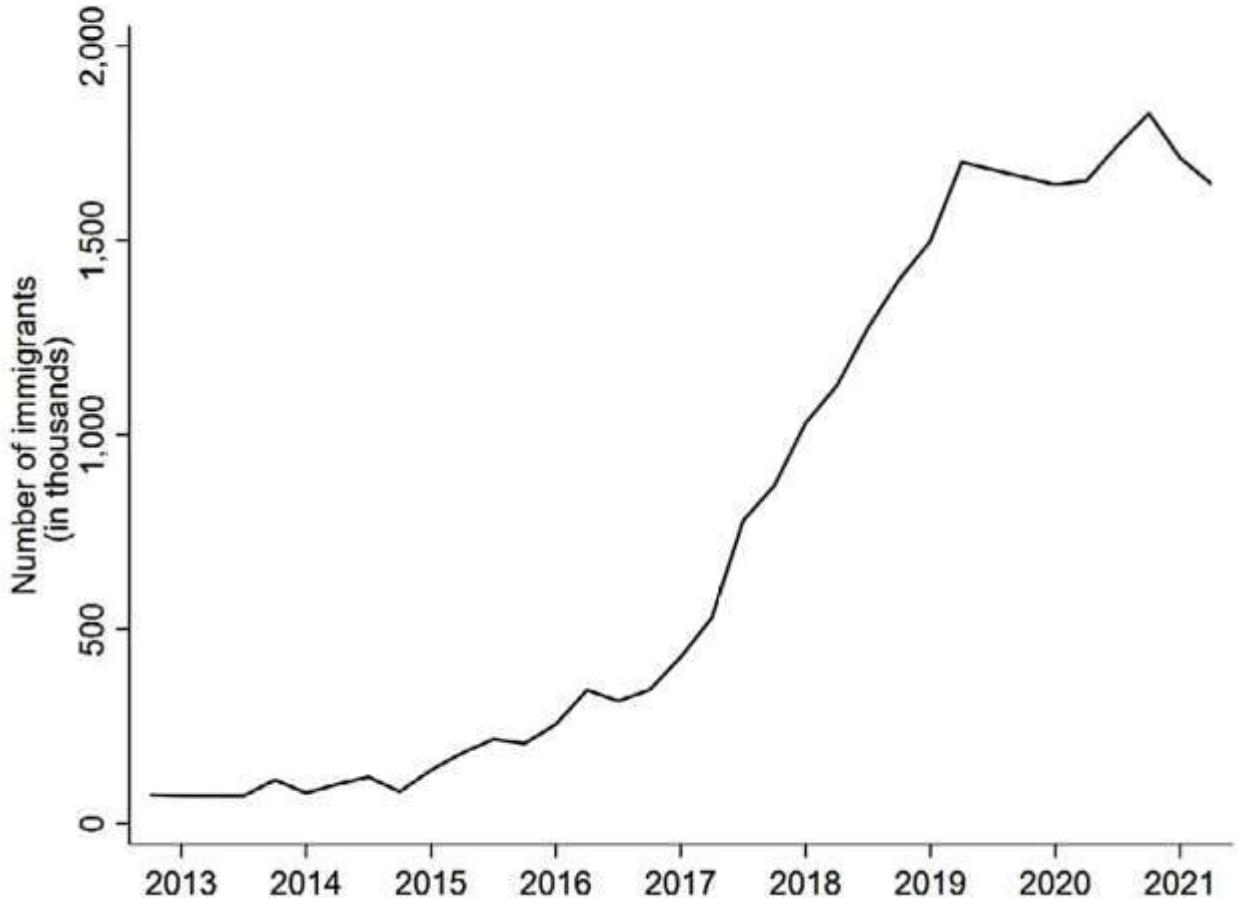
Health systems are particularly susceptible to corruption due to:
large amounts of resources,
information asymmetry.
large number of actors.
System complexity and fragmentation.
Globalized nature of the supply chain for drugs and medical devices.



Migration

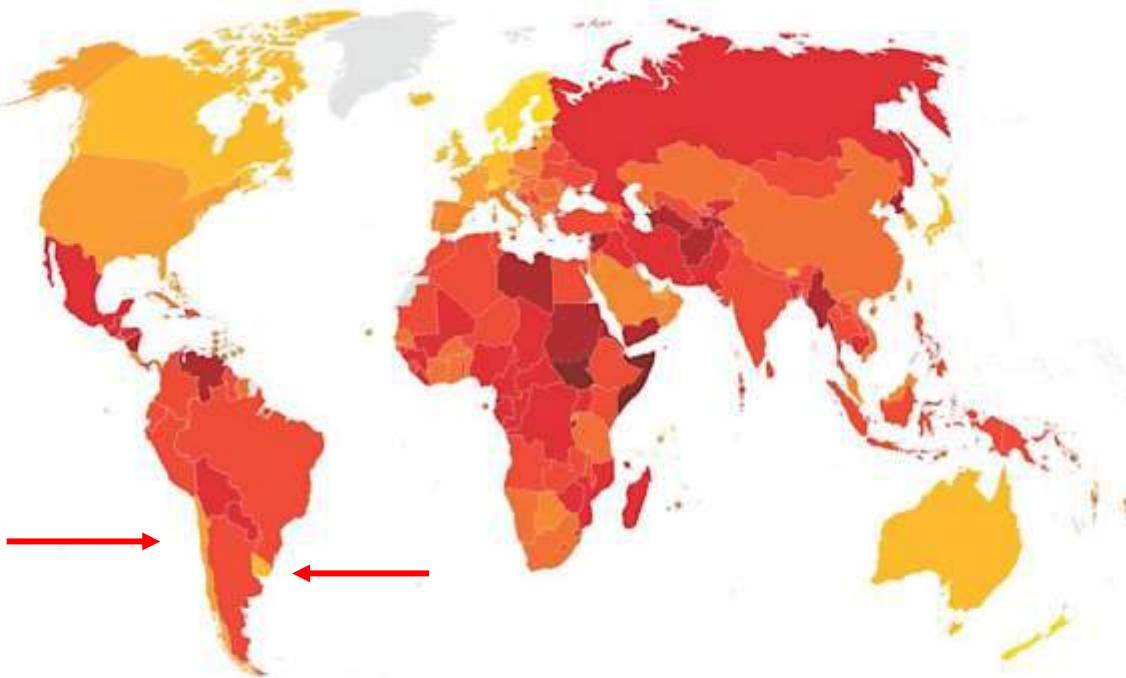
Colombia hosts the highest population of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, with over 2.8 million people

Figure 1: Stock of Venezuelan immigrants in Colombia



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2024

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.



SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY
90	Denmark	67	Taiwan	53	Georgia	42	Ghana	24	Algeria	28	Bolivia
88	Finland	65	Bahamas	51	Poland	41	Burkina Faso	34	Brazil	28	Guinea
84	Singapore	65	United States	51	Mauritius	41	Cuba	34	Malawi	27	Eswatini
83	New Zealand	64	Israel	50	Malaysia	41	Hungary	34	Nepal	27	Gabon
81	Luxembourg	64	Korea, South	50	Vanuatu	41	South Africa	34	Niger	27	Liberia
81	Norway	63	Chile	49	Greece	41	Tanzania	34	Thailand	27	Pakistan
81	Switzerland	63	Lithuania	49	Jordan	41	Trinidad and Tobago	34	Turkey	27	Belarus
80	Sweden	63	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	49	Namibia	40	Kazakhstan	33	Bosnia and Herzegovina	26	North Macedonia
79	Netherlands	63	Cabo Verde	47	Slovakia	40	North Macedonia	33	Mongolia	26	Suriname
77	Australia	60	Dominica	47	Armenia	40	Suriname	33	Panama	26	Vietnam
77	Iceland	60	Slovenia	47	Croatia	40	Vietnam	33	Philippines	26	Angola
77	Ireland	60	Kuwait	46	Malta	39	Colombia	33	Sierra Leone	25	Zambia
76	Estonia	59	Latvia	46	Montenegro	39	Guyana	33	Ecuador	25	Gambia
76	Uruguay	59	Qatar	46	Romania	39	Tunisia	32	India	25	Maldives
75	Canada	59	Saint Lucia	46	Benin	39	Zambia	32	Kenya	25	Maldives
75	Germany	58	Saudi Arabia	45	Côte d'Ivoire	38	Gambia	32	Sri Lanka	24	Argentina
74	Hong Kong	58	Costa Rica	45	Sao Tome and Principe	38	Indonesia	32	Togo	24	Argentina
74	Bhutan	57	Botswana	45	Senegal	37	Ethiopia	32	Uzbekistan	23	Zimbabwe
72	Seychelles	57	Portugal	45	Jamaica	37	Indonesia	31	Djibouti	23	Central African Republic
71	Japan	57	Rwanda	44	Kosovo	37	Lesotho	31	Papua New Guinea	23	Paraguay
71	United Kingdom	56	Cyprus	44	Timor-Leste	37	Morocco	31	Peru	23	Sri Lanka
69	Belgium	56	Czechia	44	Bulgaria	37	China	30	Dominican Republic	23	Togo
68	Barbados	56	Grenada	43	Moldova	37	Moldova	30	Egypt	23	Uzbekistan
68	United Arab Emirates	55	Spain	43	Serbia	37	Solomon Islands	30	El Salvador	23	Djibouti
67	Austria	55	Fiji	43	Ukraine	37	Albania	30	Mauritania	23	Papua New Guinea
67	France	54	Oman	42						22	Azerbaijan
		54	Italy	42						22	Honduras
		53	Bahrain	42						22	Peru
		53		42						22	Lebanon
		53		42						22	Russia
		53		42						21	Cambodia
		53		42						21	Chad
		53		42						21	South Sudan

Challenges in Access to Quality Care in Children with CHD

6

Fewer newborns with CHD and more adults with CHD

Decreased fertility rate and consequently fewer live births



DECLINING GLOBAL BIRTH RATES

Fertility Rate
(Live births per Woman)

Africa Asia Europe LATAM N/America Oceania World

7.0

6.0

5.0

4.0

3.0

2.0

1.0

0.0

“ Since 1950, global fertility rates have halved, from almost 5 children per woman to 2.3. This is linked to increased access to education and labor market participation of women, declining child mortality rates and rising cost of childcare
- UN, World Population Prospects (2024)

Replacement level. This is the level at which a population replaces itself from one generation to the next. It's generally defined as a rate of 2.1 children per woman

1.0

0.0

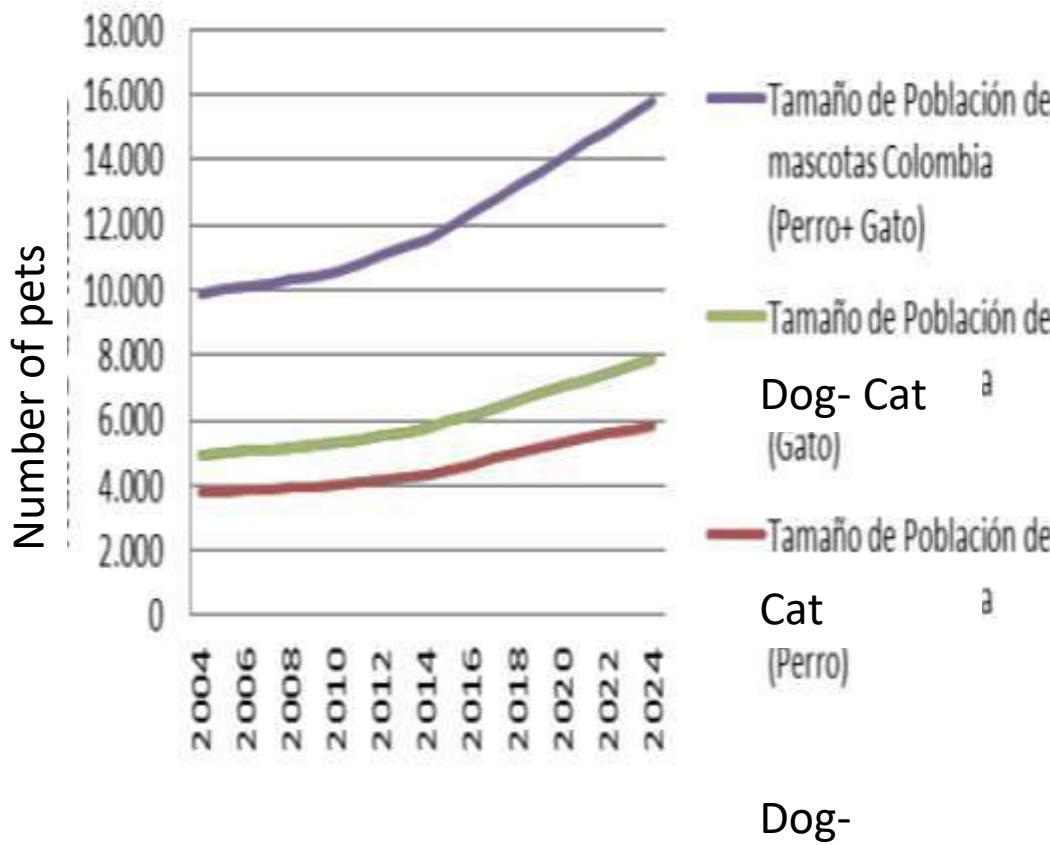
1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2023

Based on 2023 estimates, 130 countries
(out of 239) currently have fertility rates
BELOW REPLACEMENT LEVELS

Source:
Our World In Data



1 Pet market growth (Cat or Dog)



In Colombia 67% of households have at least one pet, which amounts to 4.4 million families.

Number and variation in livebirths in Colombia Total



LR

In Colombia, livebirths have been reduced by 43.6% over the last 10 years

CARDIOLOGY
2025

SOUTH AMERICA Annual birth average with CHD

= (ABA – IMR) x 0.009-0.008



New children with CHD every year



Challenges in Access to Quality Care in Children with CHD

7 Lack of training

There are several limitations to training in pediatric cardiac surgery, heart team globally, including a lack of centers, limited access, and training barriers.

8

Globalization and Partnership. Technology and Artificial Intelligence



Pediatric cardiac surgery in South America

Sandoval et al

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Table I. Demographic and Descriptive Data of the Population/Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery Ratio in South America

Country	Population ^a	Born Alive per Year ^a	No. of New Surgeries Required per Year ^b	No. of Surgeries Performed per Year ^b	No. of Surgeons ^b	No. of Cities ^b	No. of Centers ^b	PCVC per Million	No. of Surgeries per Million
Brazil	191 791 000	3 697 000	20 247	8113	83	46	81	2.3	42
Colombia	46 156 000	890 000	4905	2434	24	8	20	2.3	52
Argentina	39 531 000	696 400	3853	3000	31	8	10	3.9	76
Peru	27 903 000	586 000	3189	600	8	1	2	13.9	21
Venezuela	27 657 000	597 800	3293	871	15	4	7	3.9	31
Chile	16 635 000	251 000	1394	1200	9	1	3	5.5	73
Ecuador	13 341 000	281 000	1538	215	7	2	5	2.6	16
Bolivia	9 525 000	262 000	1387	250	6	3	3	3.1	26
Paraguay	6 127 000	153 000	842	116	5	1	4	1.5	19
Uruguay	3 340 000	50 500	277	220	6	1	2	1.6	73
Guyana	2 500 000	32 000	175	—	1	1	1	2.5	—
Total	384 506 000	7 496 700	41 100	17 019	195	76	138	2.7	44

PCVC = pediatric cardiovascular center.

^a Source: World Health Organization report, 2007.¹⁶

^b Source: Group of pediatric cardiovascular surgeons in South America.

2434
2115

Current Status of Training and Certification for Congenital Heart Surgery Around the World: Proceedings of the Meetings of the Global Council on Education for Congenital Heart Surgery of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery

goal of assessing current training and certification and ultimately establishing standardized criteria for the **training, evaluation, and certification** of congenital heart surgeons around the world.

Table I. The Status of Pediatric and Congenital Cardiac Surgical Training in Several Countries in Latin America

Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Three pediatric cardiac surgery training centersResidency and Fellowship program supported by the National Cardiac Surgery Society and the Health MinistryFour-year program—no requirement of prior training in General Surgery or Adult Cardiac SurgeryCertification controlled by the Health Ministry
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seven pediatric cardiac surgery training programsResidency and Fellowship program supported by individual institutionsNational Society supports Adult Cardiac Surgery training programsPediatric Cardiac Surgery training programs are one- or two-year programs, requiring prior training in Adult Cardiac SurgeryNo certification for Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Training programs (Universidad de Chile and Universidad Católica de Chile)Pediatric Cardiac Surgery is a two-year program, requiring previous training in General Surgery, Adult Cardiac Surgery, or General Pediatric SurgeryCertification is required to practice cardiac surgery and is controlled by an autonomous National Medical Specialities Committee.

Christo I. Tchervenkov, MD, Claudia Herbst, MD, Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD, Zohair Al-Halees, MD, Frank Edwin, MD Joseph A. Dearani, MD, Kirsten Finucane, MD, Nestor Sandoval, MD, George E. Sarris, MD, Jose Fragata, MD Hafil B. Abdulgani, MD, Miguel Arboleda, MD, Emile A. Bacha, MD, David J. Barron, MD, Pedro Becker, MD Drissi Boumzebra, MD, Jorge Cervantes, MD, Adel Elgamal, MD, Morten H. Helvind, MD, Krishna S. Iyer, MD Marcelo B. Jatene, MD, Tae-Gook Jun, MD, James K. Kirklin, MD, Christian Kreutzer, MD, Cheul Lee, MD Attilio A. Lotto, MD, Valdano Manuel, MD, Bohdan Maruszewski, MD, Hani Najm, MD, David Overman, MD Budi Rahmat, MDDarshan Reddy, MD, Kisaburo Sakamoto, MD, Piya Samankatiwat, Sivakumar Sivalingam, MD, James D. St. Louis, MD, Giovanni Stellin, MD, Elizabeth H. Stephens, MD, PhD Justin T. Treter, MD, Nguyen Ly Thinh Truong, MD, James S. Tweddell, MD, Vladimiro Vida, MD Susan Vosloo, MD, Hao Zhang, MD, Bistra Zheleva, and Richard A. Jonas, MD

Colombia

- One Pediatric Cardiac Surgery training center in a single institution in the process of accreditation by the Universidad del Rosario and supported by the Ministry of Education and Colombian Medical College
- Duration of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery training is 1.5 years, with the requiring prior training in General Surgery (four years) and Adult Cardiac Surgery (two to three years)

Mexico

- Two Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Fellowship Programs endorsed by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM).
- Program A requirements: prior General Pediatric Surgery.
- Duration: Three years
- Program B requirements: prior Adult Cardiac Surgery
- Duration: One year
- The National Council for Thoracic Surgery is Certification Council that is endorsed by the national health authorities. The certification must be validated every five years

Peru

- The Instituto Nacional Cardiovascular, National Medical Resident Council and National Superintendence of Higher University Education.
- In 2019—Residency of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery was initiated.
- General Surgery and Cardiac Surgery training required prior to training in pediatric heart surgery

Pediatric Cardiac Surgery training LATAM



México	✿
Guatemala	✿
Dominican Republic	✿
Honduras	✿
Costa Rica	✿
El Salvador	✿
Nicaragua	✿
Panamá	✿
Puerto Rico	✿
Jamaica	✿
Trinidad y Tobago	✿
Haiti	✿
Brazil	
Chile	
Colombia	
Argentina	
Uruguay	
Peru	✿
Venezuela	✿
Ecuador	✿
Bolivia	✿
Paraguay	✿
Aruba	
Bonaire	
Curazao	
Guyana	
Surinam	
French Guiana	

(Established and short or long Missions from US or EU ✿)

Recommendations for developing effective and safe paediatric and congenital heart disease services in low-income and middle-income countries: a public health framework

Babar S Hasan,¹ Areesh Bhatti, Shazia Mohsin,¹ Paul Barach, Eltayeb Ahmed, Sulafa Ali, Muneer Amanullah,¹ Annette Ansong, Tahmina Banu, Andrea Beaton, Ralph Morton Bolman III, Bruna Cury Borim, John P Breinholt, Edward Callus,¹ Massimo Caputo, Marcelo Cardarelli, Tomas Chalela Hernandez, Ulisses Alexandre Croti,¹ Yayehyirad M Ejigu, Kathleen Fenton, Anu Gomanju, Ashraf S Harahsheh, Peter Hesslein,²⁶ Christopher Hugo-Hamman,²⁷ Sohail Khan,²⁸ Jacques Kpodonu,²⁹ Raman Krishna Kumar,³⁰ Kathy J Jenkins,³¹ Kokila Lakhoo,³² Mahim Malik,³³ Sanjiv Nichani,^{34,35} William M Novick,^{36,37} David Overman,^{38,39} Alexis Palacios-Macedo Quenot,⁴⁰ Ceeya Patton Bolman,¹³ Dorothy Pearson,²⁵ Vijayakumar Raju,⁴¹ Shelagh Ross,²⁵ Nestor F Sandoval,⁴² Gary Sholler,⁴³ Rajesh Sharma,⁴⁴ Fenny Shidhika,⁴⁵ Sivakumar Sivalingam,⁴⁶ Amy Verstappen,⁴⁷ Dominique Vervoort,⁴⁸ Liesl J Zühlke,^{49,50,51} Bistra Zheleva²⁶

We propose that cardiac surgery capabilities should only be developed at the more advanced levels on hospitals that have an established foundation of cardiology and cardiac surgery services, including screening, diagnostics, inpatient and outpatient care, postoperative care and cardiac catheterisation



Children's Lifeline
Pediatric Cardiac



Becker Associates
WUPCHS Website and Education We...



W Wiley
Pediatric Cardiac Sur...



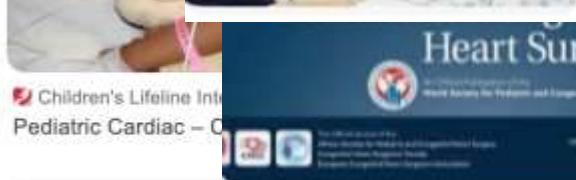
EACTA Webinar
European Association of Cardiothoracic Anae...
Webinars - European Association of Card...



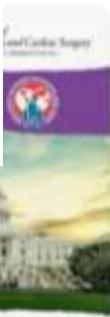
wspchs.org
Home - World Society for P...



NPC-QIC
Heart University — NPC-QIC



Children's Lifeline Int
Pediatric Cardiac - O...



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wspchs.org
Home - World Society for P...

wspchs.org
Home - World Society...

World Society for P...
WSPCHS - WSPC...



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WSPCHS - Members...

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WSPCHS - Members...



wspchs.org
Home - World Society for Pediatric a...

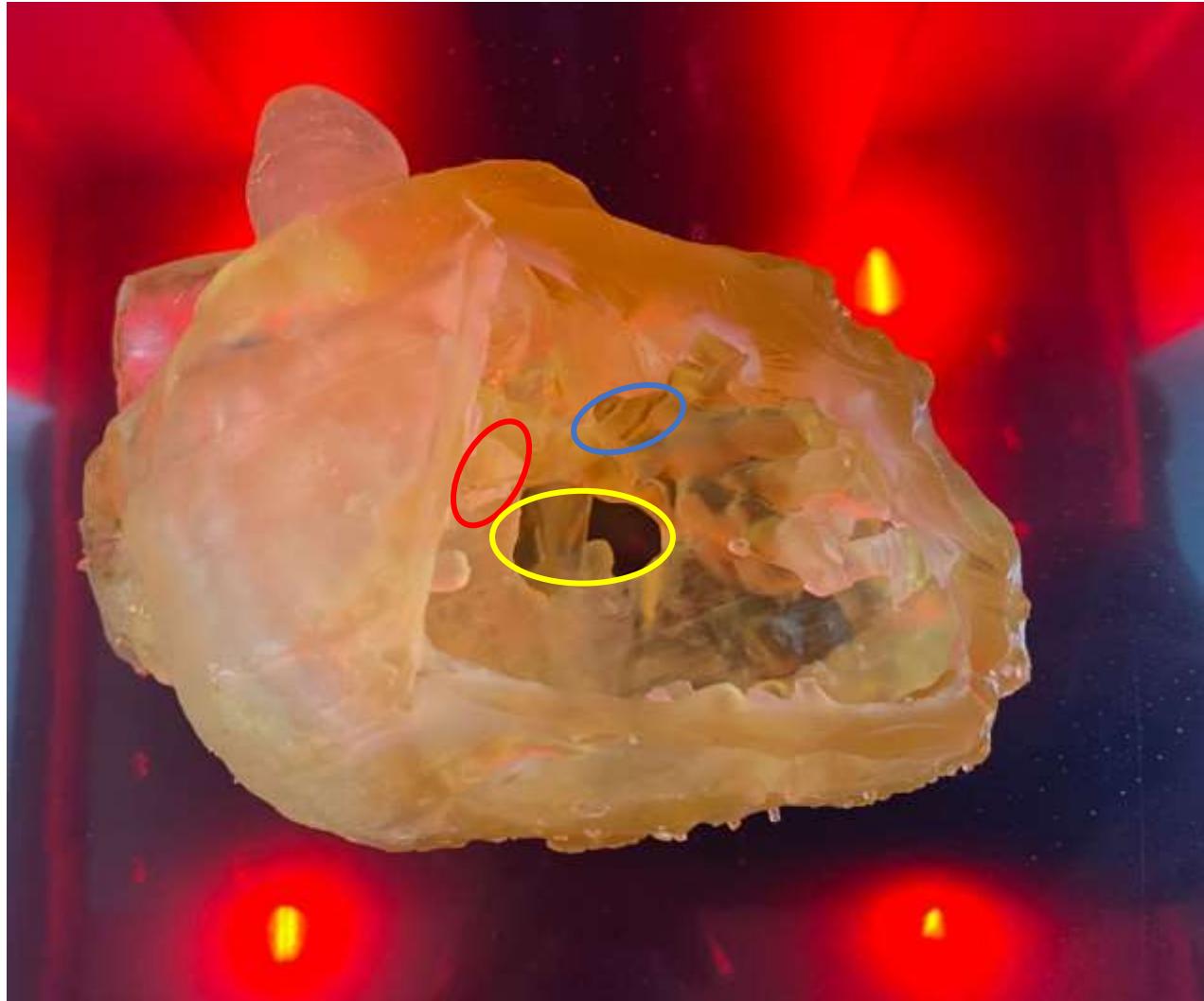


World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery
WSPCHS - World Journal becomes the official journal of CHS...



Shi-Joon Yoo
3 D Sept 2018
course





Double outlet RV vessels in transposition. (3D printing) and simulation of pre-surgical repair.

3D printed model with suturable material for surgery planning and simulation



“HOST” en Lima
Perú 2023

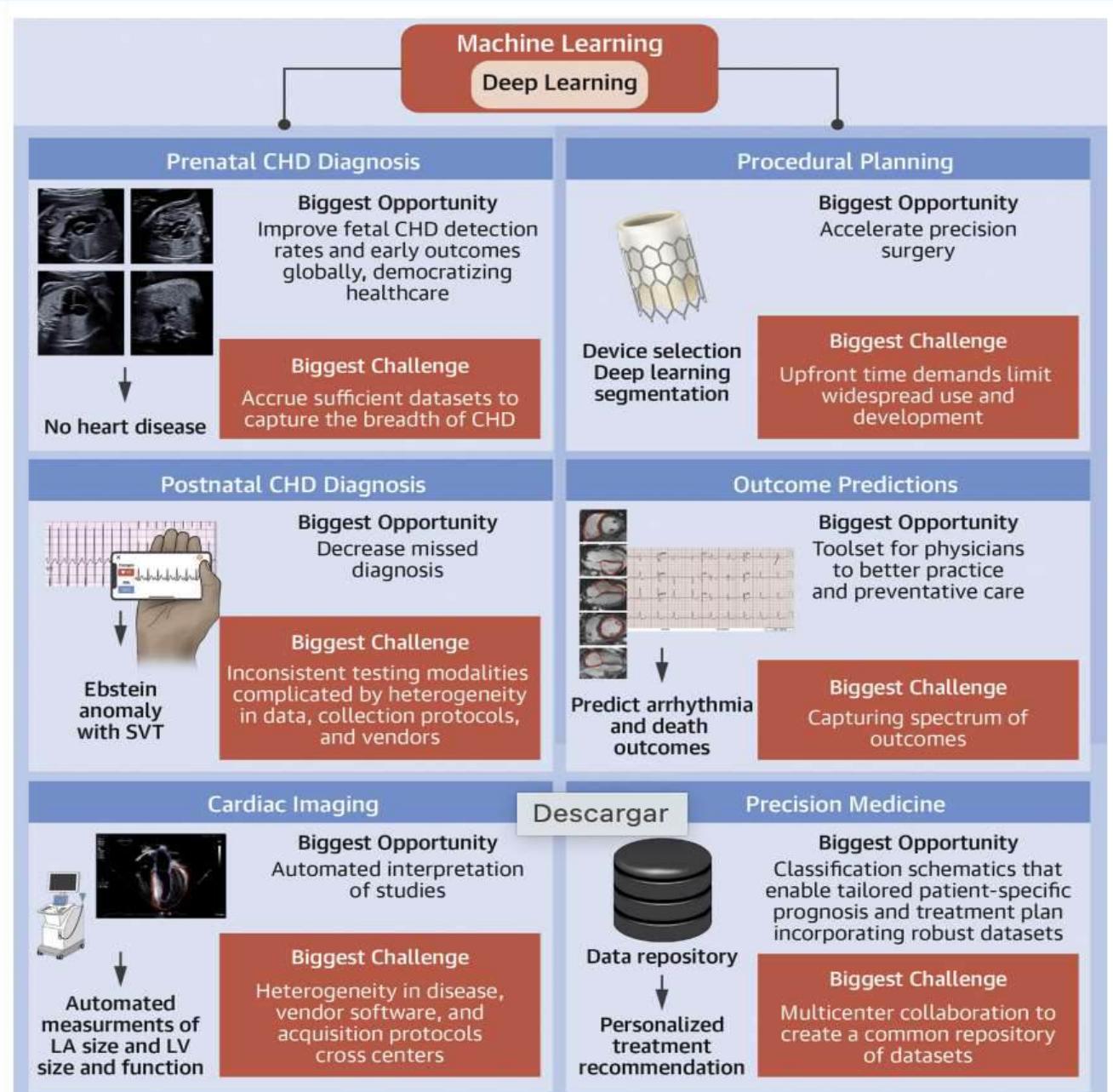
Artificial Intelligence in Congenital Heart Disease

Current State and Prospects

Pei-Ni Jone, MD,^{a,*} Addison Gearhart, MD,^{b,*} Howard Lei, PhD,^c Fuyong Xing, PhD,^d Jai Nahar, MD, MBA,^e Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, MD,^f Gerhard-Paul Diller, MD, PhD,^{g,h,j} Ariane Marelli, MD, MPH,ⁱ Laura Wilson, MD,^k Arwa Saidi, MBBCh,^k David Cho, MD,^l Anthony C. Chang, MD, MS, MBA, MPH^c



CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Artificial Intelligence Opportunities in Congenital Heart Disease



JACC: ADVANCES, VOL. 1, NO. 5, 2022
DECEMBER 2022:100153

AI Clinical Unit

Fundación
Cardioinfantil

laCardio

laCard

Combines AI with
comprehensive
clinical-surgical care.

Bridge between technology
and healthcare, ensuring that
AI is safe, effective, and
directly benefits our patients.

UJCIA
UNIDAD CLÍNICA DE
INTELIGENCIA ARTIFICIAL

TRASCENDER PARA CUIDAR

Tecnología
que usa la data
para cuidar lo
más importante,
la vida.

Imagen creada con M

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- know the current state of our population in LATAM with CHD.
- Identify and recognize problems. (**Database**) (Strategic planning)
- **Promote** health systems to cover more children with CHD
- Need to raise **Health expenditures** to more than five - six percent of GDP.
- Now days more health workers have training not only in cardiology, surgery or nursery but in **administration, leadership and AI**.
- **Global education**
- **Technology** is currently the best learning tool. Webinars, meetings, wet labs, etc., but AI **partnership** can make a big change.







Muchas gracias

**Nos transformamos para
entregarle al mundo
la mejor
medicina con corazón**