



**Conversations that transform lives
How to address Venezuela's Health Crisis**

Overcoming the “Knowledge-Blackout” in Venezuela: The Role of the Health System

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- **Venezuela in our mind**
 - Family
 - Friends
 - History
 - Future
- **Our “know how”**
- **Transform**



- **Elements to cooperate**
- **What are the changes?**
 - **Personal level**
 - **Societal level**
- **Focus on solutions**



Health Systems

- **Intensive in knowledge**
 - Major area of services
 - Major area of research
 - Source of innovations
- **Reductions in knowledge**
 - Losses in human resources
 - Low performance of services
- **Political and economic contexts**



- **Determinants of health system performance**
- **Health conditions of Venezuelans**
- **Guidelines for transformation**
- **Actions**
 - **Now**
 - **Preparation for medium term**



Blackout

- Lack of electricity
- Evident



Source: Satellital photo, March 9th. 2019



Other blackouts



- Progressive
- Long periods



Complex emergency

- **One of the major collapses**
- **Humanitarian effects**
- **Systematic**
- **Systemic**



- **Lack of electricity**
 - **Short-term impact**
- **Knowledge-blackout**
 - **Evolution**
 - **Long-term impact**



- **Lights: Enlightenment (Ilustración)**
- **(Moral y luces son los polos de una República, moral y luces son nuestras primeras necesidades).**
- **Moral and knowledge are the poles of a Republic, moral and knowledge are our first needs.**



Angostura, February 15th 1819

- It is the progress of knowledge that widens the progress of practice, and the uprightness of the spirit that widens the progress of knowledge.

Angostura, February 15th 1819



- **Venezuela**
 - **The country in the Americas with the highest number of malaria cases until 1936.**
 - **One in three deaths was due to malaria**



- **Venezuela**
 - **The first country certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for having eradicated malaria from most of its territory.**



- **Why?**
 - **Luck?**
 - **Oil?**
 - **DDT?**



Knowledge in action



LECCION INAUGURAL DEL I CURSO INTERNACIONAL DE MALARIA, POR EL DR. ARNOLDO GABALDON

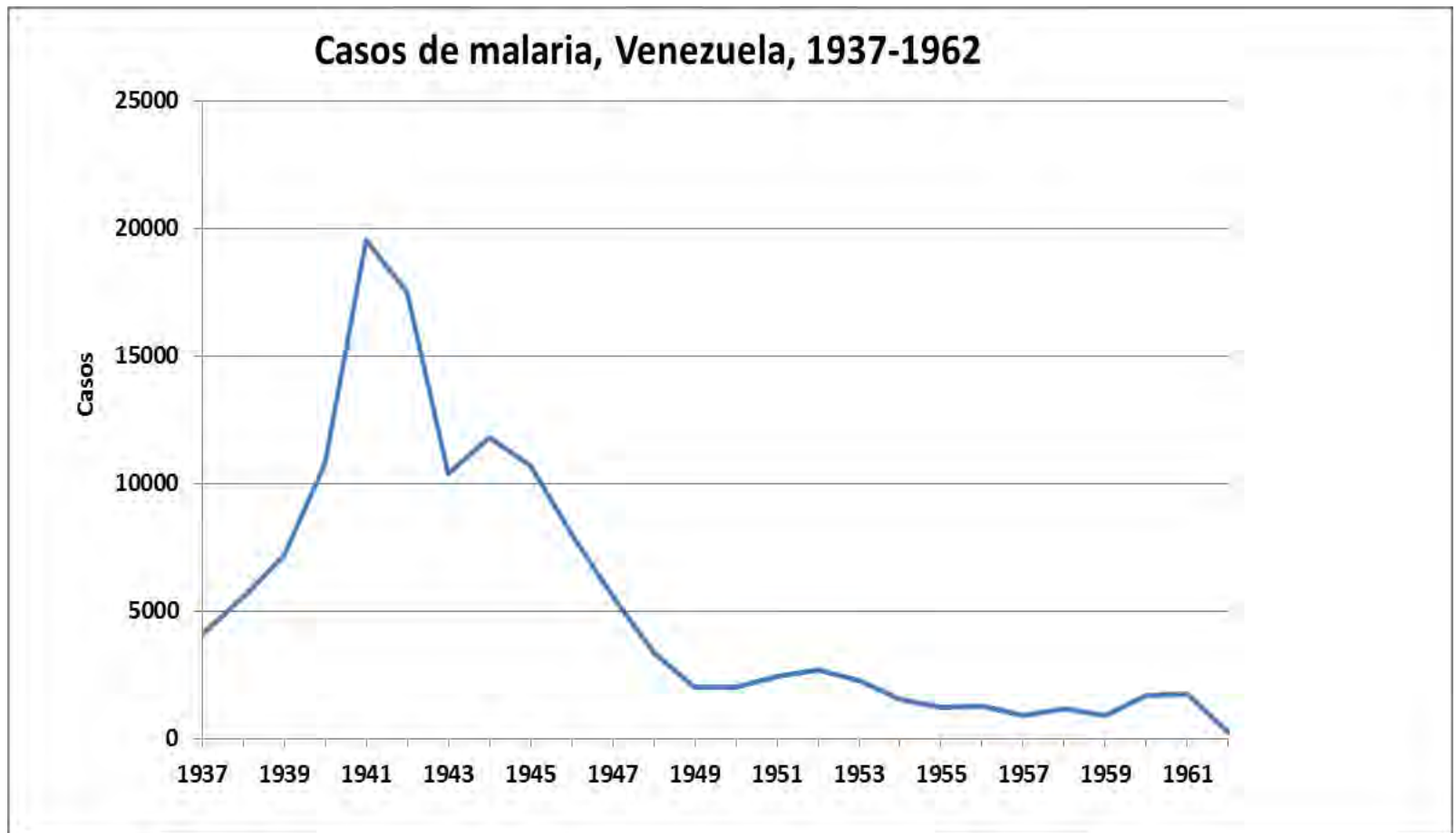
HORA: 8 a.m.

FECHA: 2 DE OCTUBRE DE 1944

- **Strategy**
- **Action**
- **Research**
- **Creation and use of knowledge**



Knowledge in action



Source: Reports of the Ministry of Health



Knowledge and health

Back in time



Back in time (1960)

	A	B	2016
GDP per capita (\$)	1072	158	27.538
Life expectancy (male, years)	58	51	78
Life expectancy (female, years)	61	56	85
Per capita exports (dollars, 1962)	340	2	11.291

Sources: WB, Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT, Own calculations

- Which country will reach the target values for 2016?
- A?
- Better conditions
- B?



	Venezuela	South Korea	2016
GDP per capita (\$)	1072	158	27.538
Life expectancy (male, years)	58	51	78
Life expectancy (female, years)	61	56	85
Per capita exports (dollars, 1962)	340	2	11.291

Sources: WB, Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT, Own calculations

- Which country will reach the target values for 2016?
- Venezuela
 - Better conditions
- South Korea



What would Adam Smith have asked?

- **What do these countries produce?**
- **How diverse is what these countries produce?**
- **What is the “quantity of science” these countries have?**



What would Adam Smith have asked?

- **What is the level of economic complexity of these countries?**
- **Observatory of Economic Complexity (MIT)**
- **Atlas of Economic Complexity (Harvard University)**



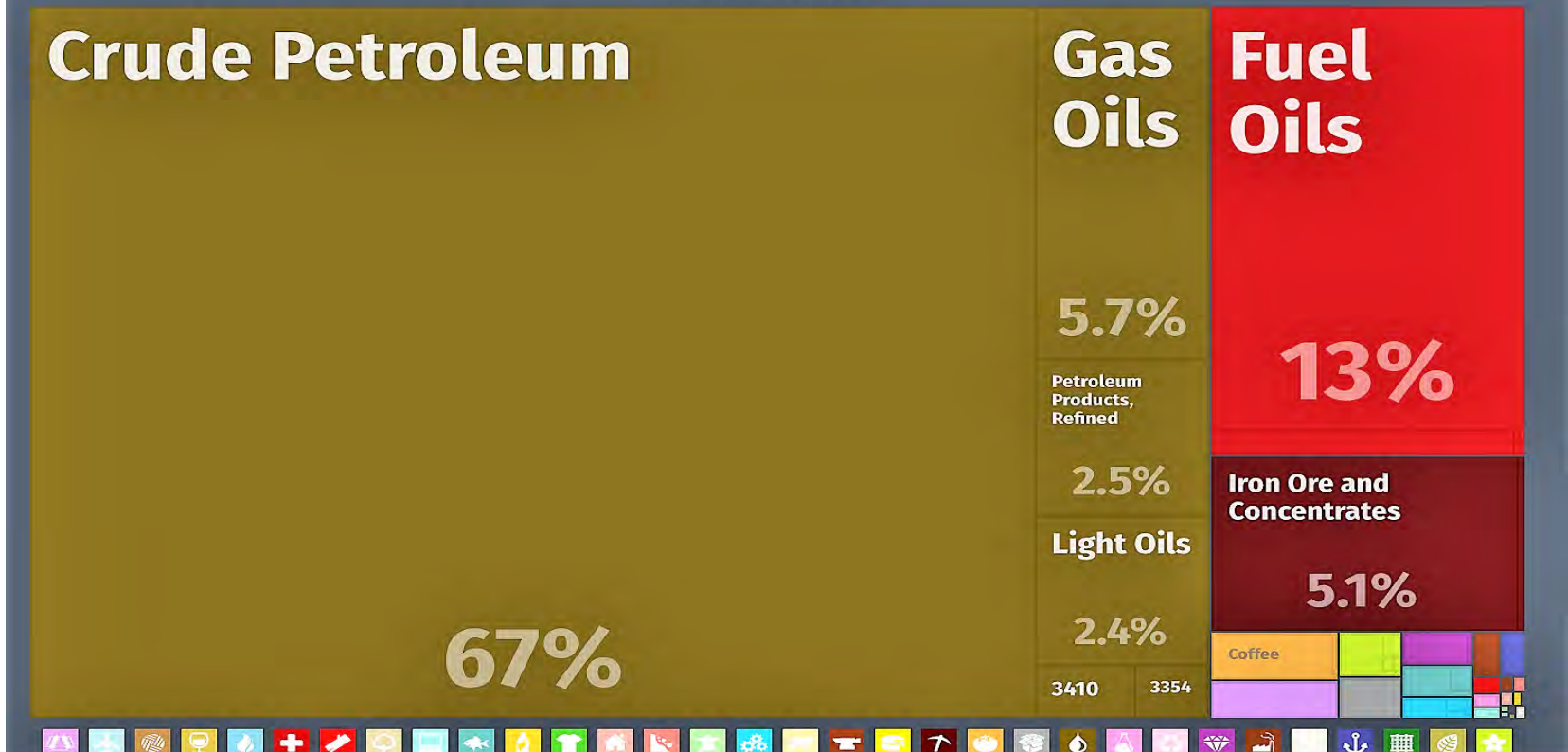
**More colors,
more “quantity of science”**



What does Venezuela export? (1962)

1963 >

TOTAL: \$2.77B



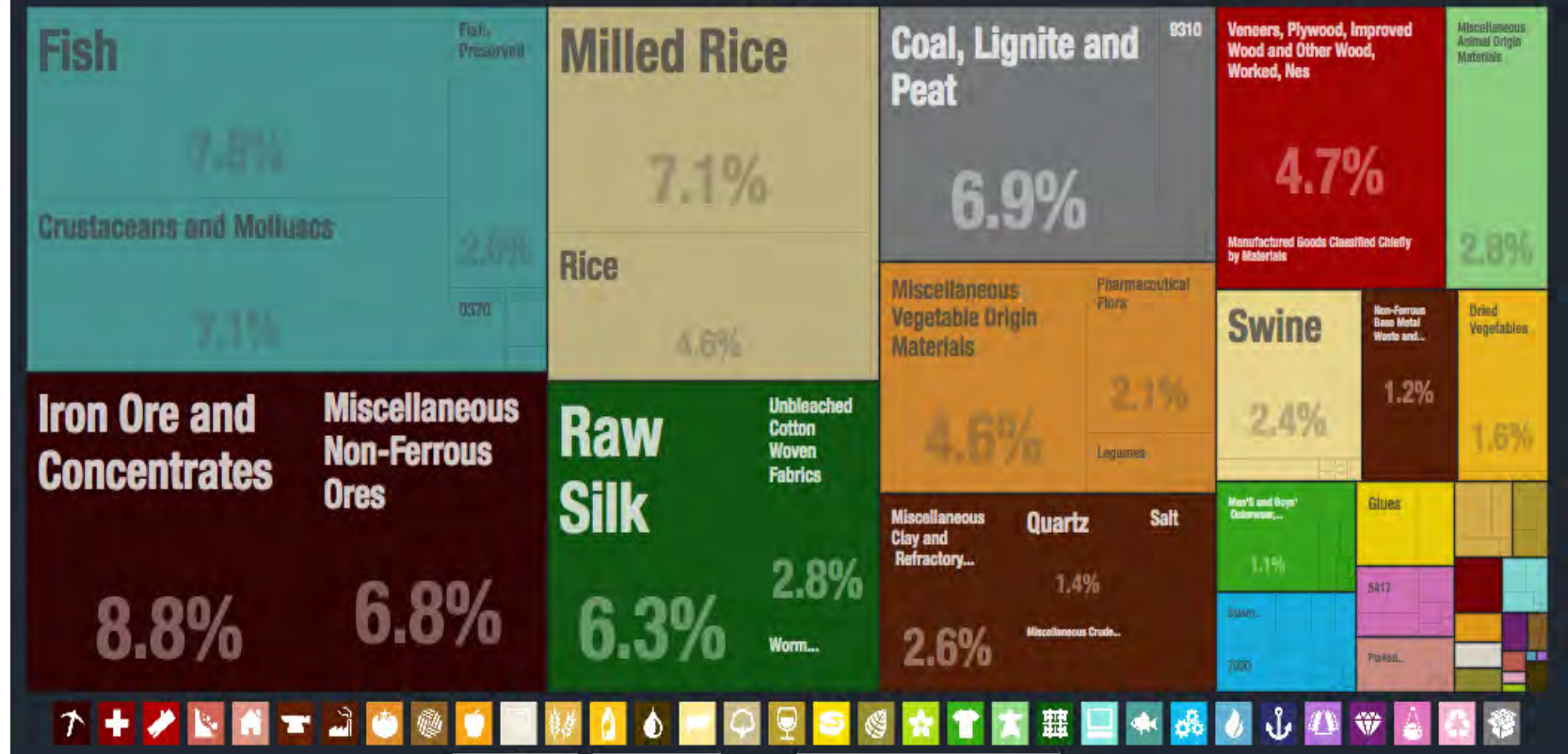
Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT



What does South Korea export? (1962)

1963 >

TOTAL: \$54.5M



Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT



Economic complexity

	Venezuela	South Korea	2016
GDP per capita (\$)	1072	158	27.538
Life expectancy (male, years)	58	51	78
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Per capita exports (dollars, 1962)	340	2	11.291

Sources: WB, Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT, Own calculations

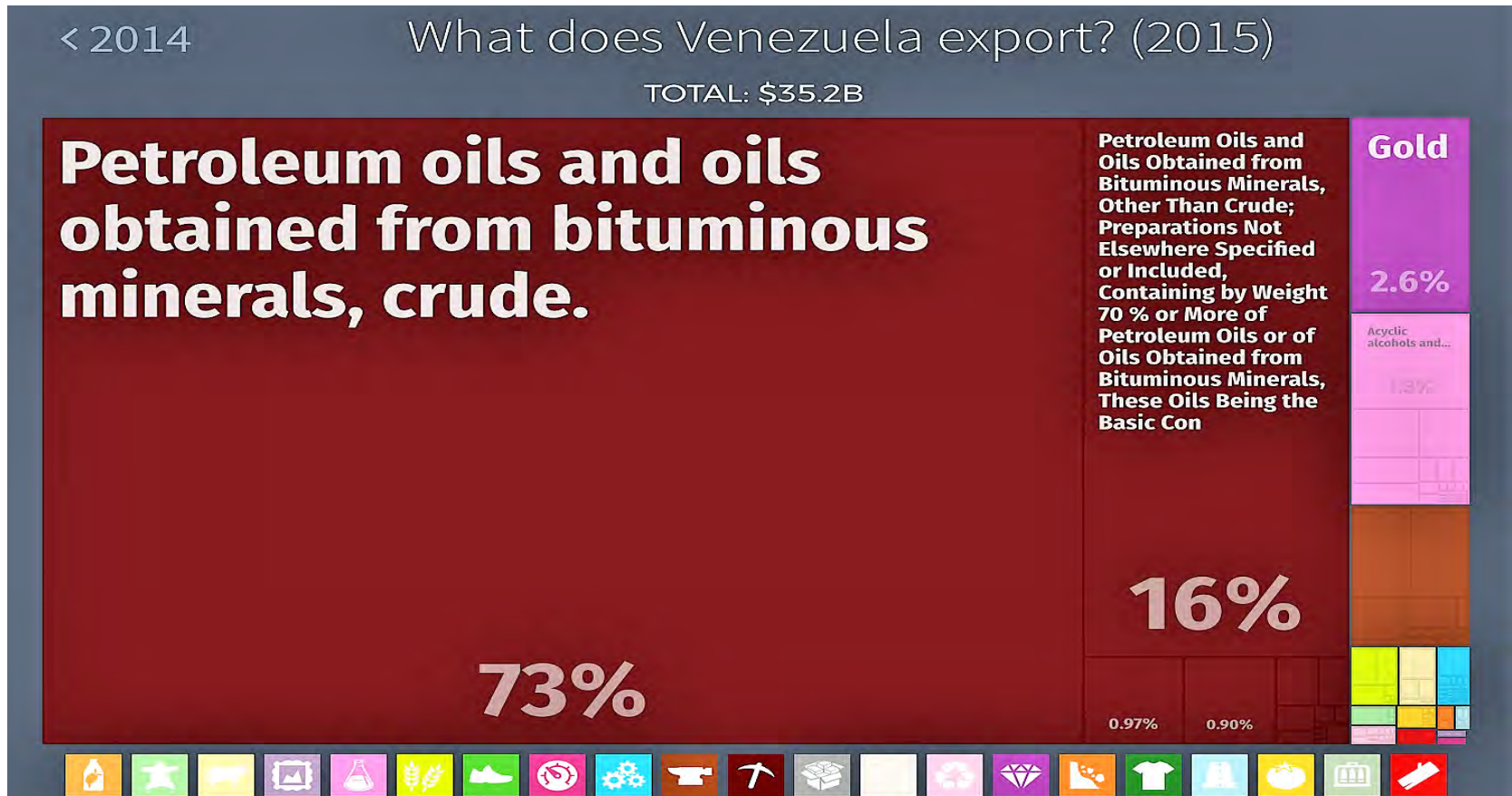
- Which country will reach the target values for 2016?
- Venezuela
- South Korea
- More complexity



Differences in policy



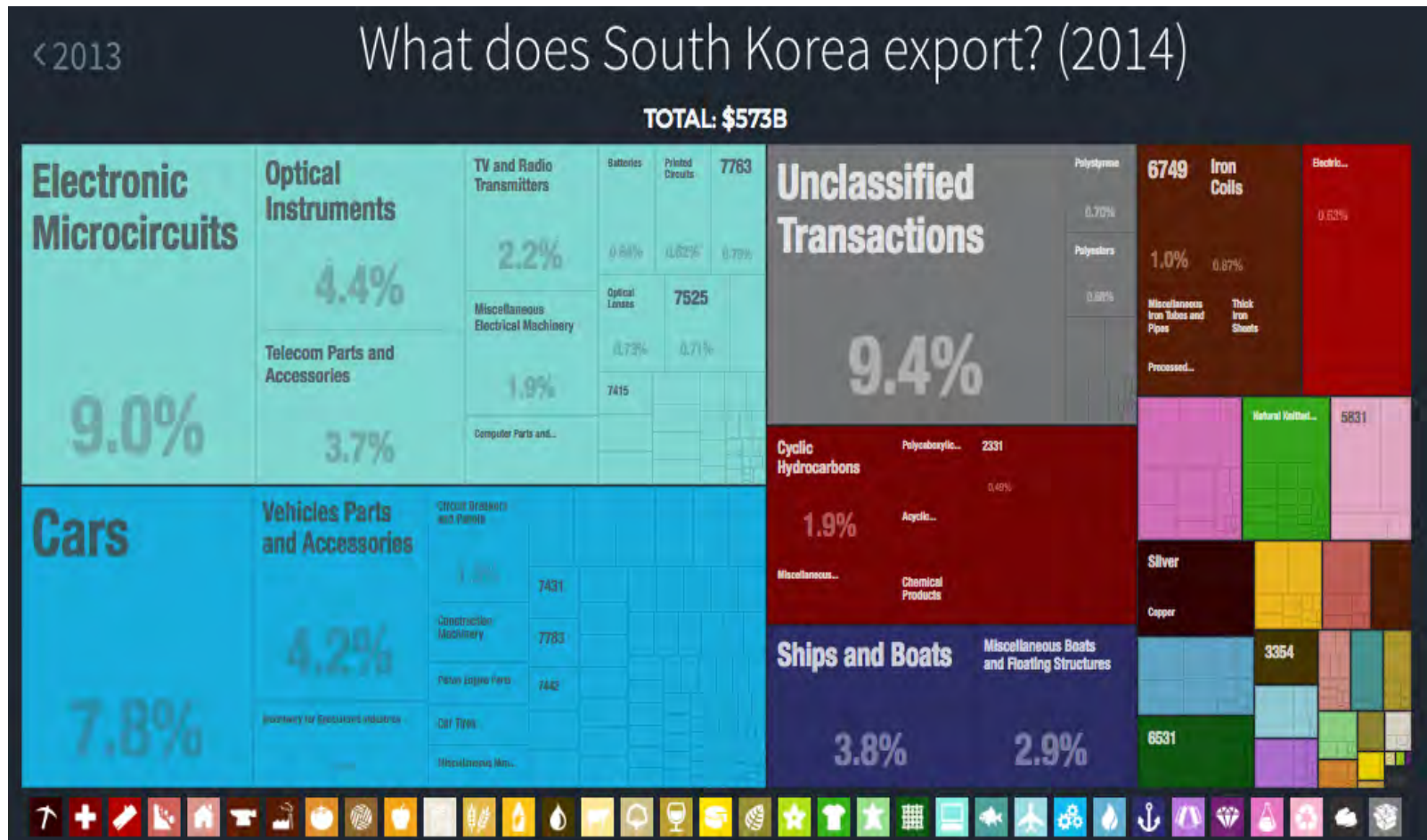
Less diversity



Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT



More diversity



Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity, MIT



Policy gap



Fuente: MIT. Observatory of Economic Complexity



Knowledge-blackout

- **More than half a century**
- **Millions of migrants**
- **Systematic reduction of knowledge**
 - **Industry**
 - **Research**
 - **Capacities of the society**



Knowledge blackout

- **The reason we are meeting today**
- **The reason many keep leaving the country**
- **Effects on health conditions**



Implications for action

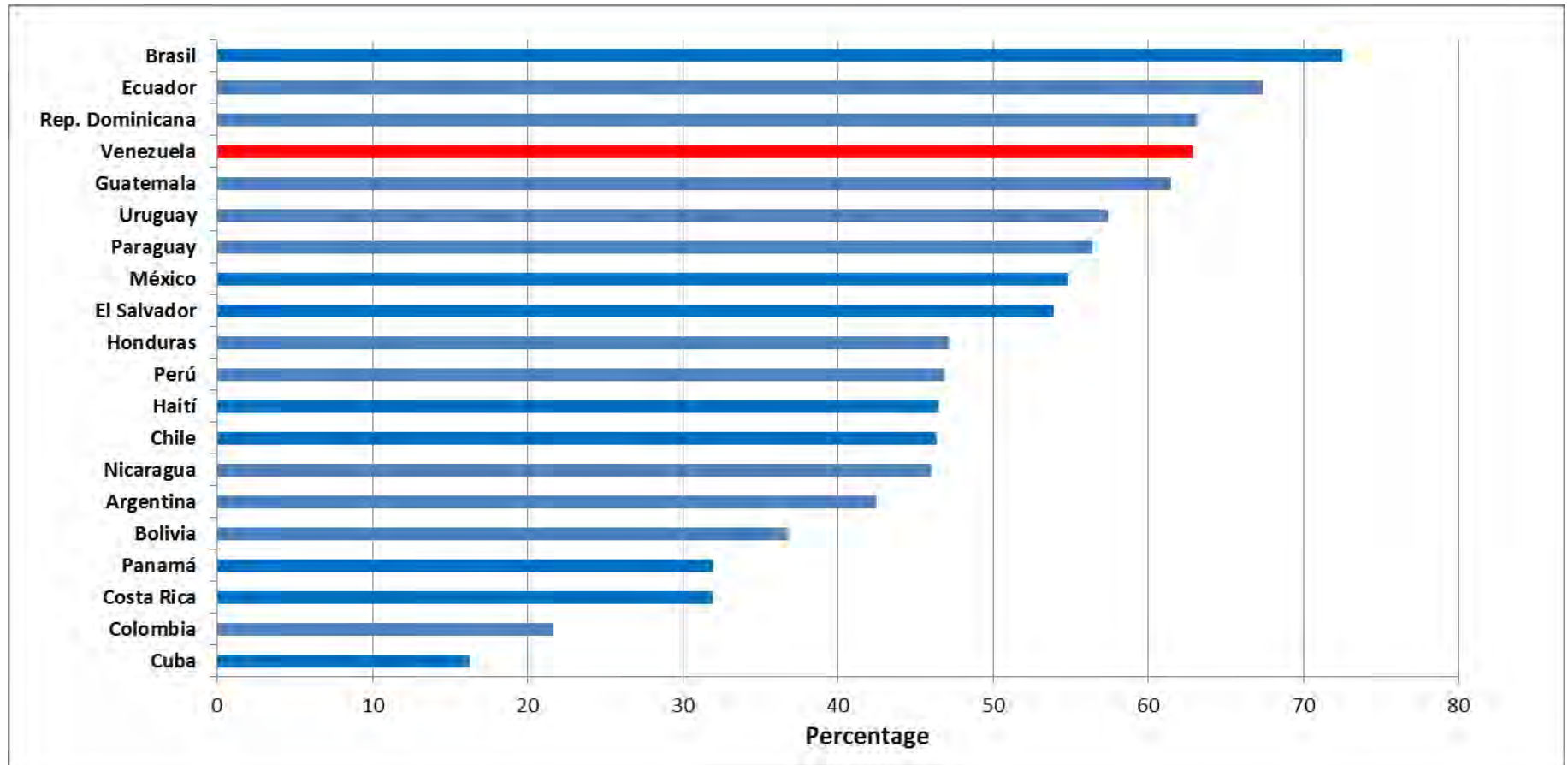
- **Personal level**
 - **Increase knowledge**
- **Country level:**
 - **Changing the trend of knowledge destruction**
 - **It is possible now**
 - **In fact, we are doing it now!**



Manifestations in health conditions



2000: Fourth highest private expenditure in LA

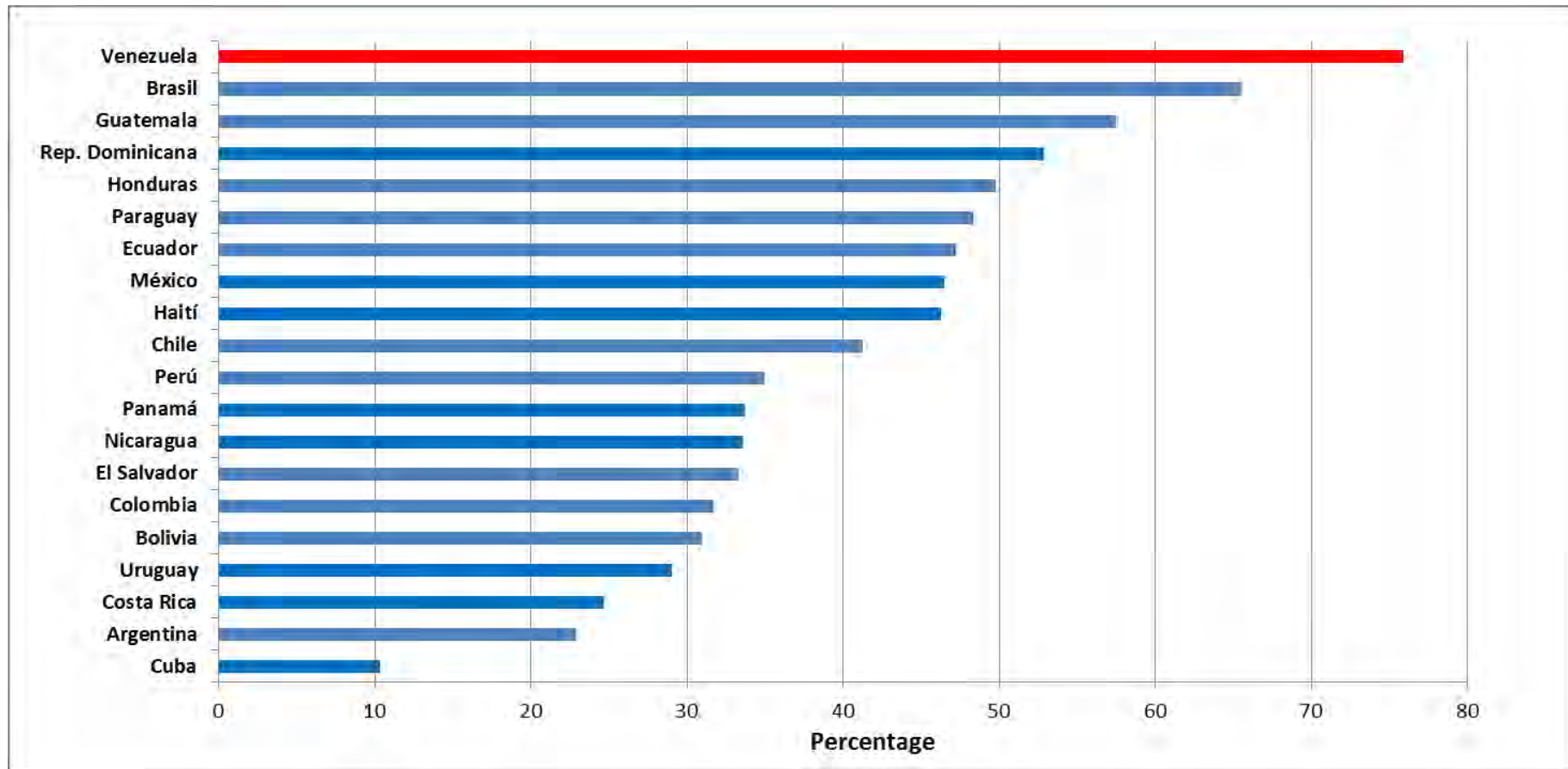


Source: Global Health Expenditure Database, WHO, Own calculations



Lack of financial protection

2016: Highest private expenditure in LA

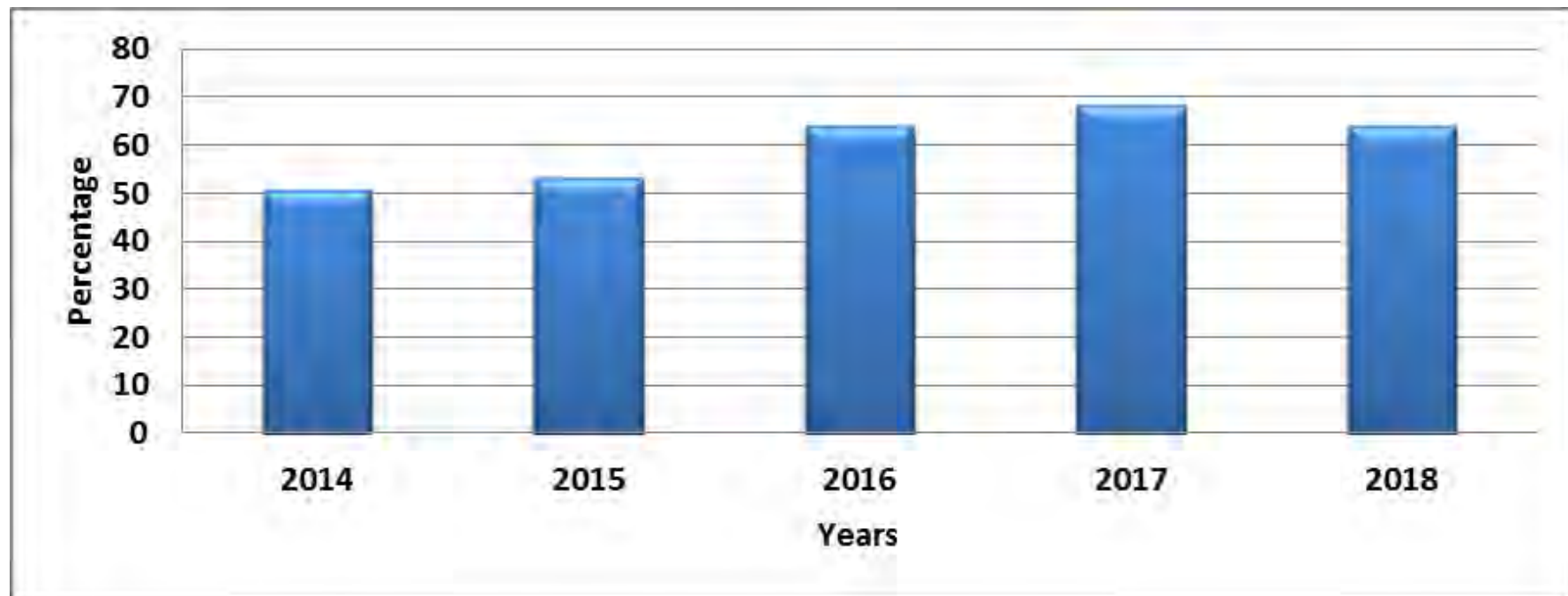


Source: Global Health Expenditure Database, WHO, Own calculations



The highest lack of financial protection in LA

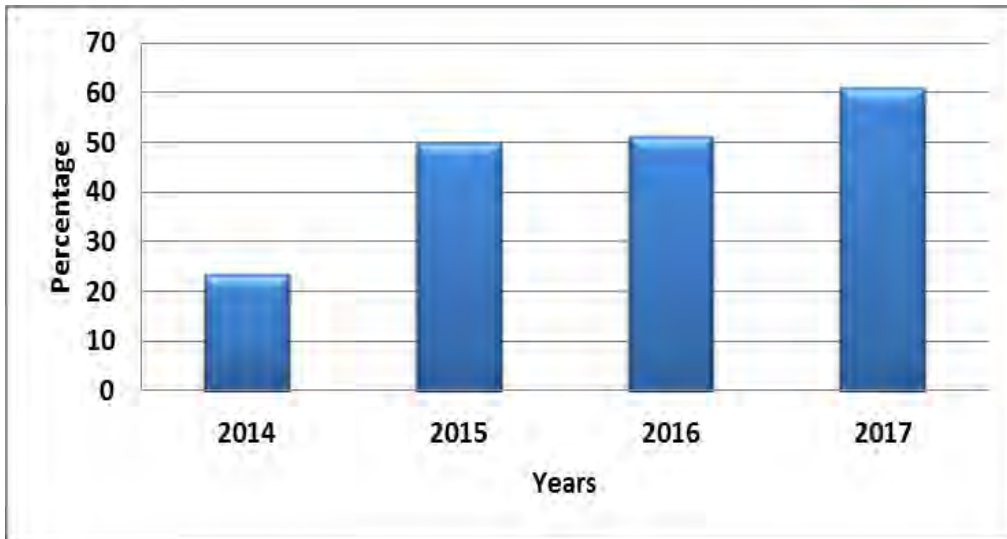
Two thirds of the population without health insurance



Source: Encuesta de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), UCV-UCAB-USB (2014-2017), USB. National Survey of Health and Pensions (ENSAP), 2018



Extreme poverty



Source: Encuesta de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), UCV-UCAB-USB

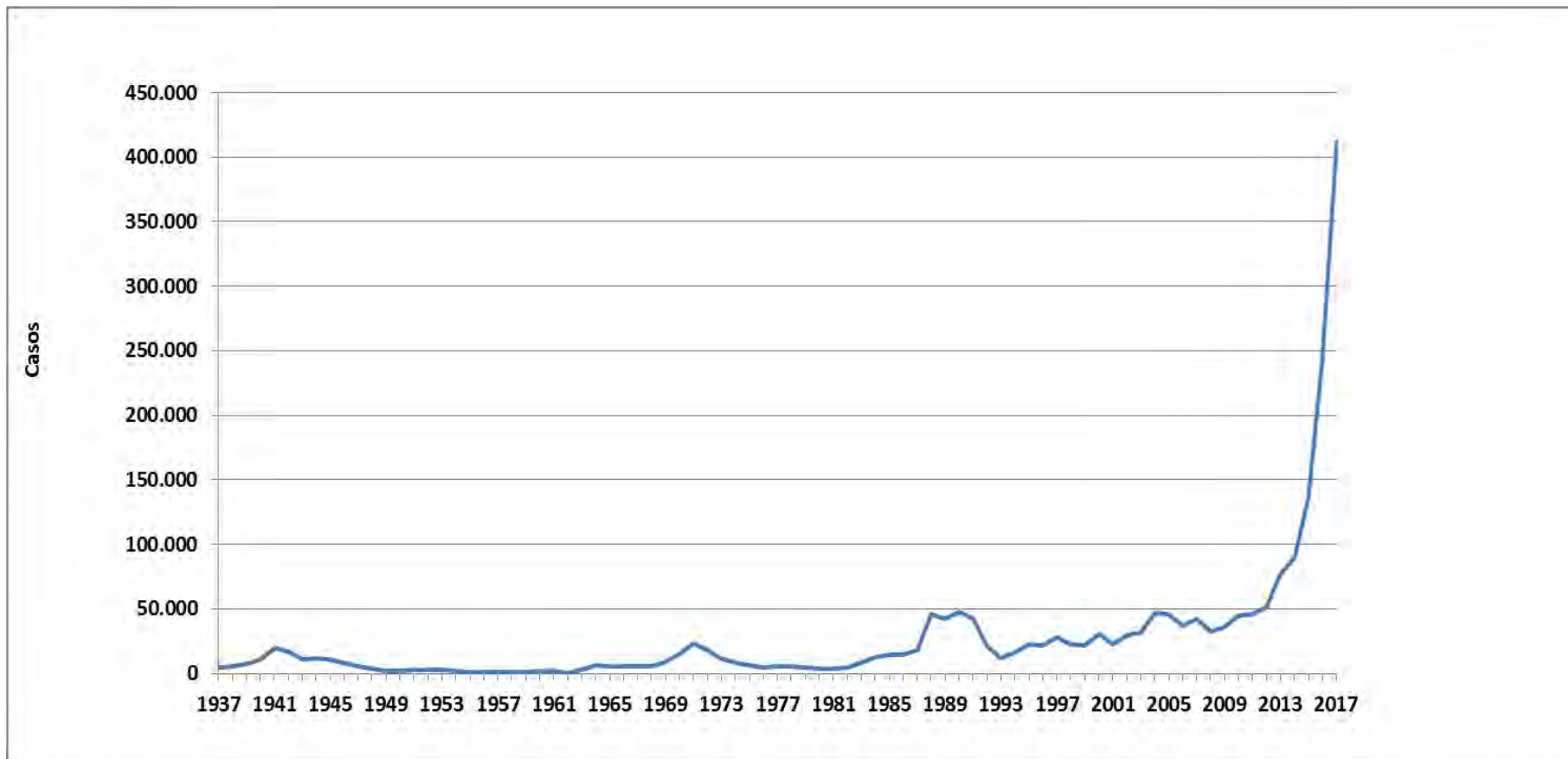
- **60% of children under 3 in risk of undernutrition**
- **1,8 million of children**
- **Knowledge of the future**



- **Measles**
- **Diphtheria**



Malaria

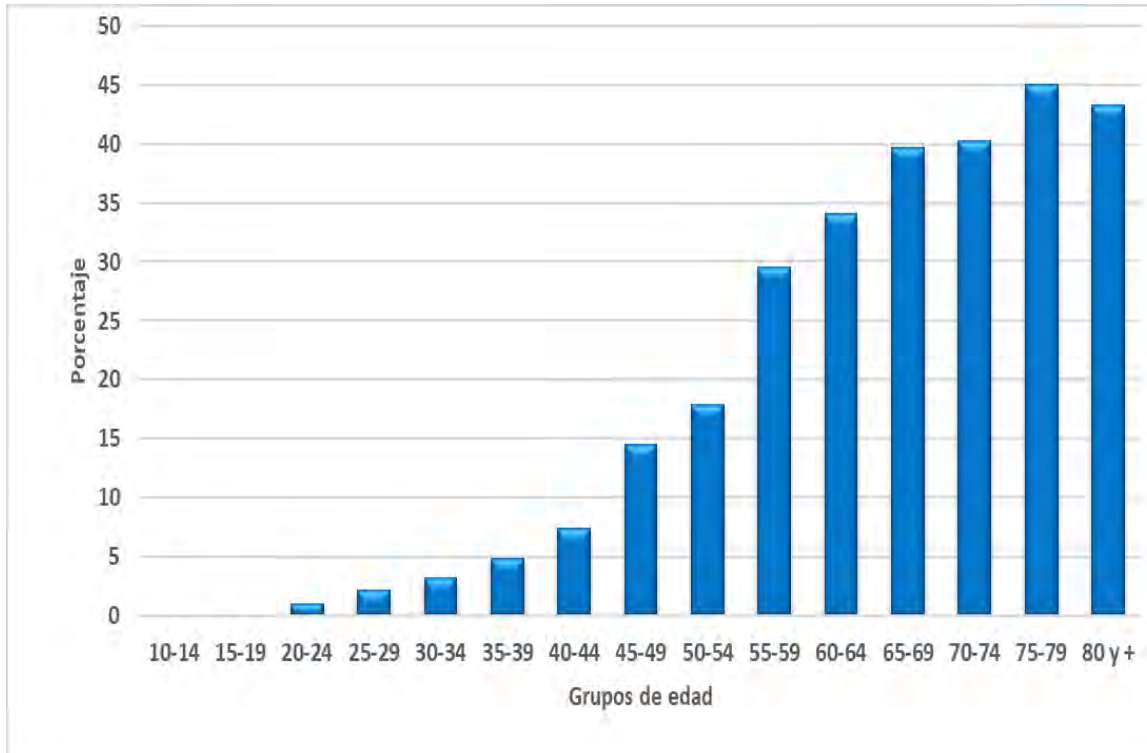


Source: Reports of the Ministry of Health, WHO



Control of high blood pressure

- The disease is not recognized by half of the people who may have it in the older age groups



Source: Encuesta de Condiciones de Vida (ENCOVI), UCV-UCAB-USB, 2016



Coverage of services

- **11.7% of women between 36 and 40 years of age have never had a cervical smear**
- **26.7% of women aged 50-55 have never had a mammogram**
- **78% of men aged 50-55 have not sought prostate cancer screening services**



Source: USB. National Survey of Health and Pensions (ENSAP), 2018

Hospitals (end of 2018)

Situation in the 40 largest public hospitals

- **33% of the beds were not operational**
- **45% without operating laboratories**
- **51.3% without RX services**
- **95% without CT and MRI services**



Source: Encuesta Nacional de Hospitales ENH, 2018

Human resources

22,000 doctors have emigrated

- **33% of the total registered with the doctors' association**

This includes:

- **6700 pediatricians**
- **1400 OB/GYNs**
- **2500 surgeons**



- **A country in high risk**
- **Deterioration**
- **The worst performance in LAC**



Guidelines for Transformation



Fundamental premise

- **From a Knowledge-blackout**
- **To a Knowledge Society**
 - **Diversification**
 - **Value creation**
 - **Positive Index of Economic Complexity**
 - **ASAP**
 - **High technology exports**



Requirements

- **Political conditions**
 - Institutions
 - Rule of Law
- **Economic conditions**
 - Stability
 - Growth
- **Inclusion**



Transformation of the Health System



- **Fully financed by general revenues**
- **Universal financial protection**
 - **Independent from:**
 - **Employment condition**
 - **Economic condition**
 - **Social condition**
- **Out-pocket-expenditure**
 - **Moderate: in one year**
 - **Low: in three years**



Organization

- **National Health System**
 - **60-80% of the population**
- **Universal coverage of health services**
- **Inter-governmental decision-making**
 - **Coordination: Ministry of Health**
 - **24 Subnational Health Services**



- **Integrated care**
- **Public and private partnerships**
 - Clinics
 - Hospitals
 - NGOs
- **Working with**
 - Schools and workplaces
 - Mass media
 - Universities and research centers



Actions



Challenge

- **Working together to build the best knowledge society as quickly as possible**
- **Create and communicate knowledge**
- **Participation in networking**
 - **Venezuela**
 - **Abroad**
 - **Persons**
 - **Institutions**



- **Humanitarian support**
 - Food, medicines, supplies
- **Children in risk of undernutrition**
- **Networking**
 - Local institutions
 - Global
- **Knowing the current status**



- **Knowledge cooperation:**
 - **Inventory of know how**
 - **Call center**
 - **Working with local teams**
 - **Priorities**
 - **Learning process**



- **Training:**
 - **Distance learning**
 - A chat may be the difference
 - **Short-term**
 - One week
 - One month
 - **Priorities**
 - Health problems
 - Institutions



- **Short term research:**
 - **Oriented to specific problems**
 - **Management**
 - **Supporting monitoring at country level**



- **Identification of institutional options**
 - Treatment
 - Diagnosis
- **Visualizing the medium term**



- **Humanitarian support**
- **Knowledge Partnerships**
 - **Subnational health systems**
- **Training for innovations**
- **Creating new services**



Implementation

- **Venezuela as global source of innovation**
 - Research
 - Networking
 - Knowledge transfer
- **Medium-term training**
- **Technology and innovation**
- **Quality of services**



Guide for action

- **Networking**
- **New skills**
- **Creation and communication of knowledge**
- **Training**
- **Monitoring**



Let's work together to transform the Venezuelan Health System



Thanks!

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