Health inequalities & Covid-19: the situation in France

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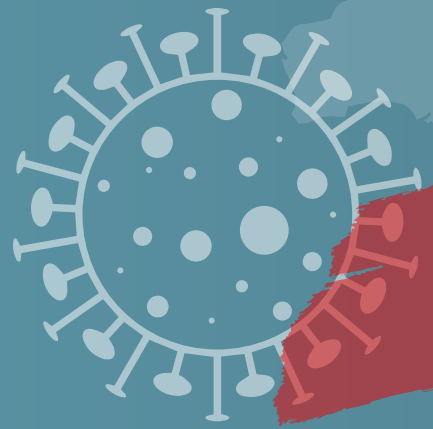
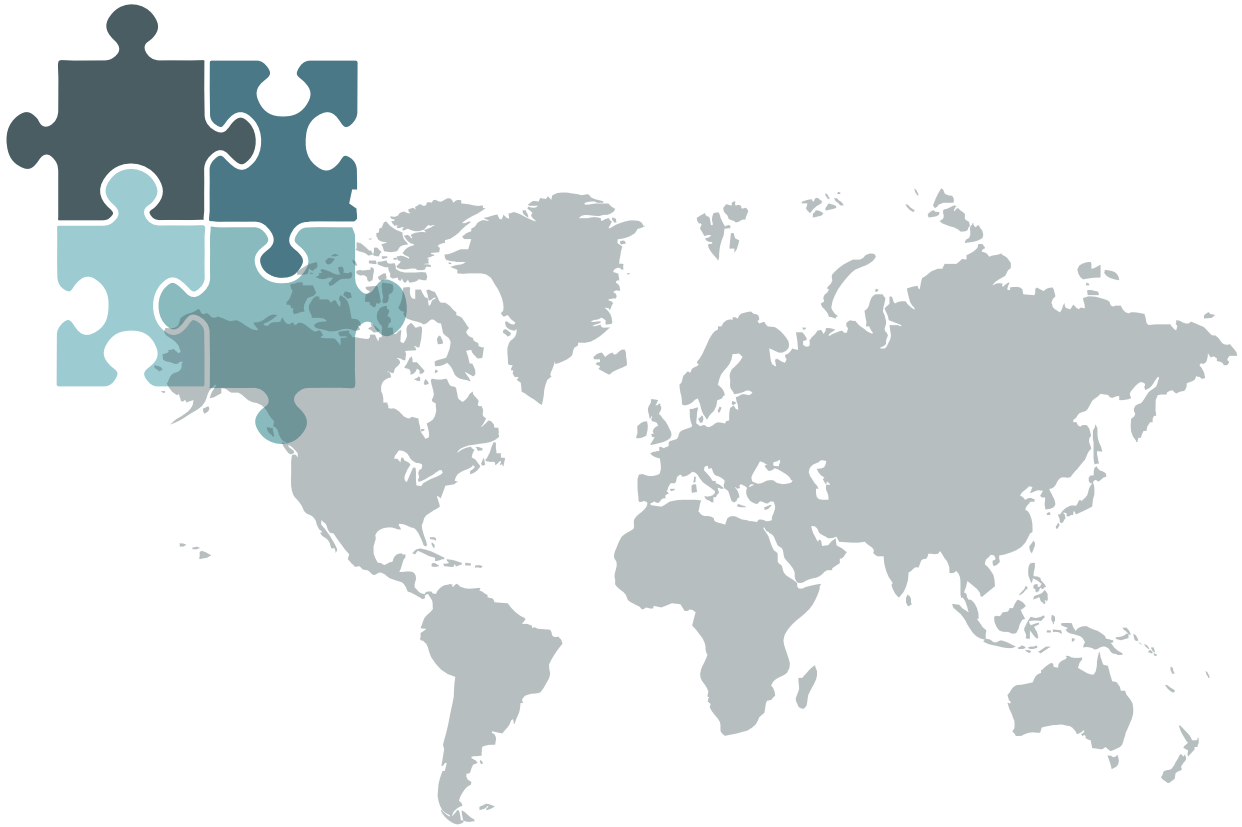


An incomplete view of the situation

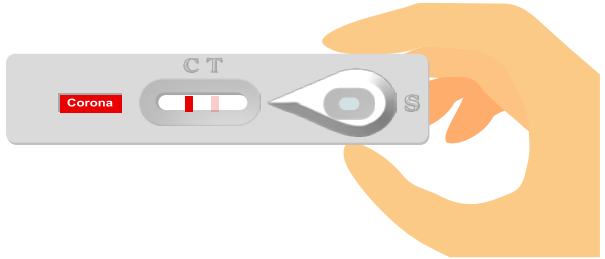
In most countries we lack good quality data to allow us to quickly examine the social distribution of a new disease like Covid-19



Oxfam France, 10 avril 2020

The disproportionately high mortality rate in the poorest department of mainland France, Seine-St-Denis, became headline news

France: EpiCov study

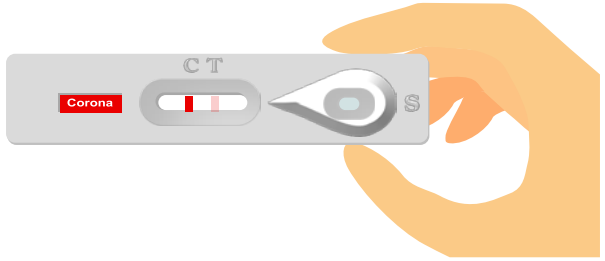


4.5% **SarsCov2 Seroprevalence in the French population: May 2020**

EpiCov wave 1
During the spring lockdown
N= 12 114

Warszawsk et al 2020, https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/er1167.pdf

France: EpiCov study



4.5% **SarsCov2 Seroprevalence in the French population: May 2020**

EpiCov wave 1
During the spring lockdown
N= 12 114

5% Women

11% Health care workers

9% Born outside of Europe

9% Overcrowded housing

Warszawsk et al 2020, https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/er1167.pdf

Social conditions & lockdown

Baromètre Covid study during lockdown wave 4
N= 5000

Datacovid

21% Of participants were "never or rarely“ able isolate an unwell person in a separate room to avoid infection

11% vs 5%

11% of people with no educational qualifications "always, almost or most often" needed help understanding medical prescriptions compared to 5% of participants in the other education categories

This increased to 30% among participants with no educational qualifications **30%**

Maurel et al 2020, https://epidemic.hypotheses.org/category/resultats

COVID-19
& inequalities

The elephant in the room

The elephant in the room: race & ethnicity

Queues outside a foodbank in Seine-St-Denis in April 2020 (Le Parisien)

"*there is nothing 'distal' about structural discrimination because it is intimately encountered and embodied, day in and day out*" N. Krieger AJPH 2016

Excess all cause mortality & place of birth

During spring 2020 lockdown excess deaths for people born in Asia, N Africa, SS Africa far exceeds that of French born (Insee, 2020)

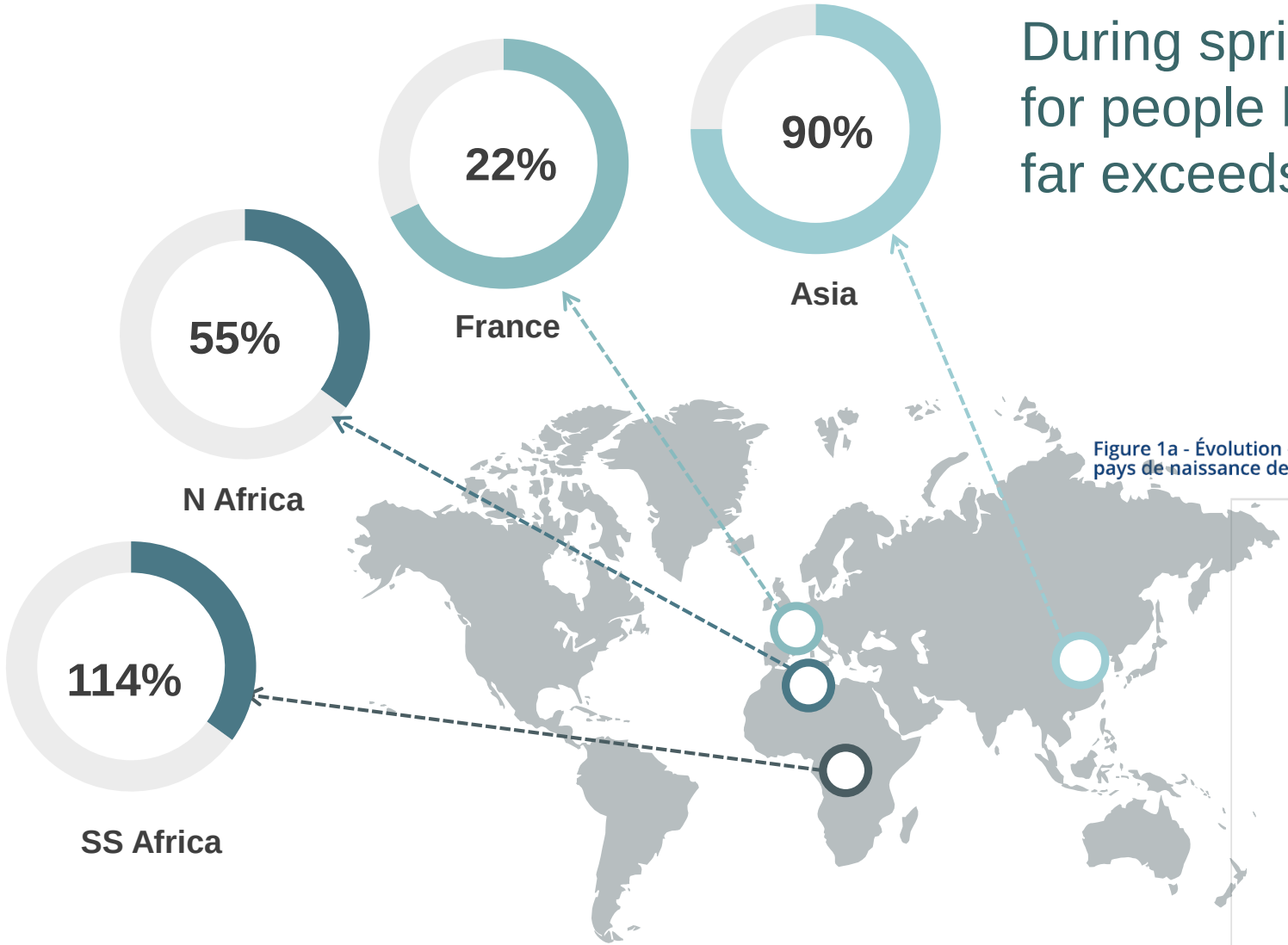
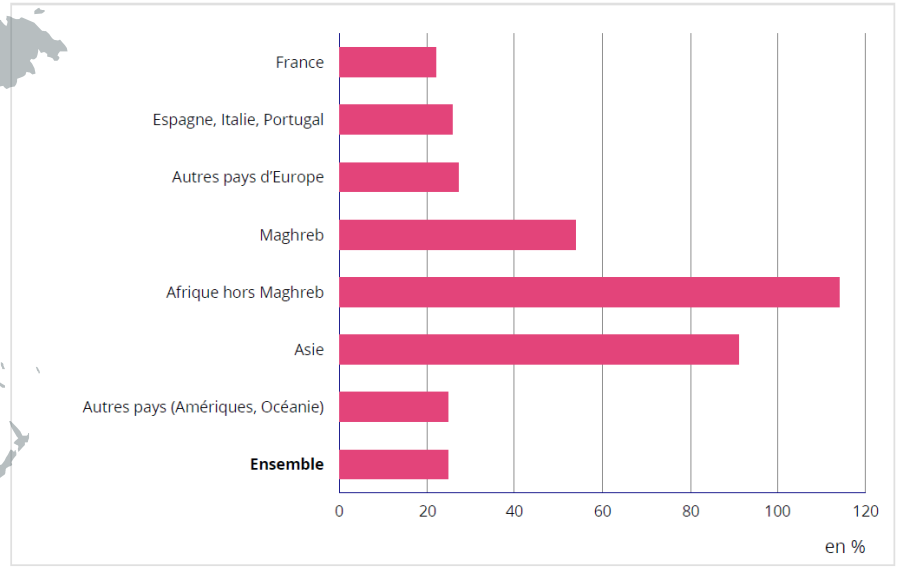


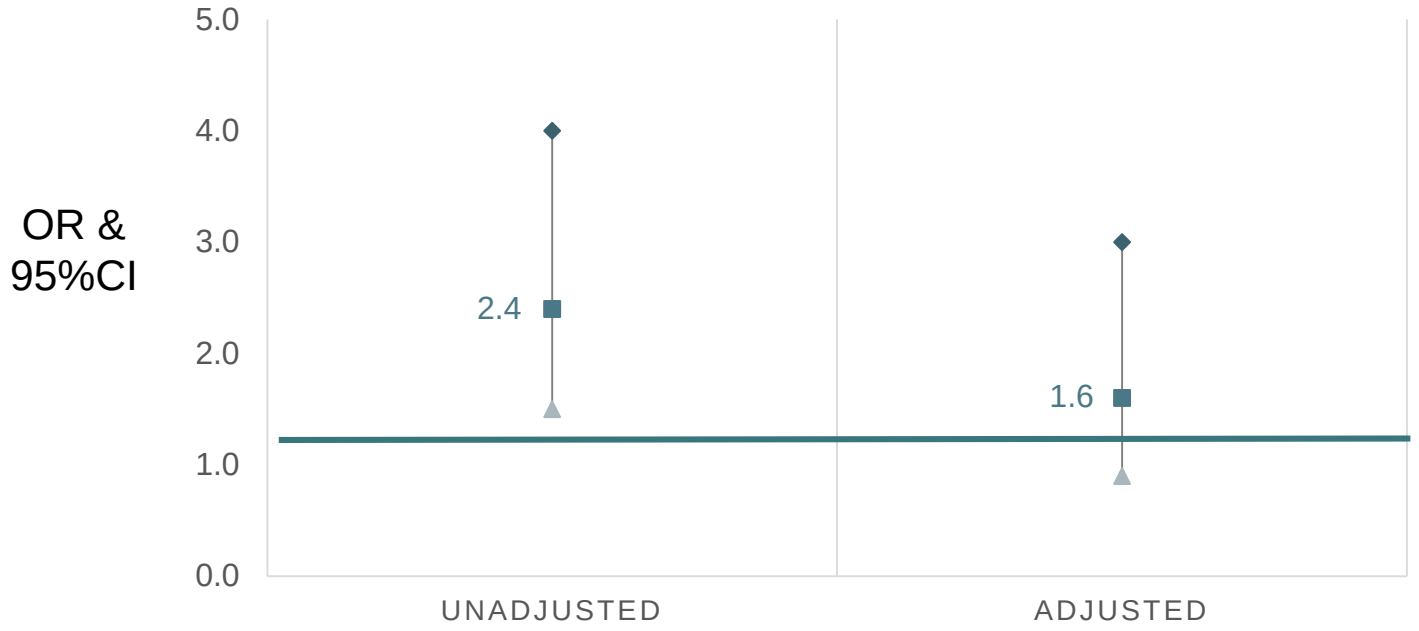
Figure 1a - Évolution du nombre de décès enregistrés en France entre mars-avril 2019 et mars-avril 2020, selon le pays de naissance des personnes décédées

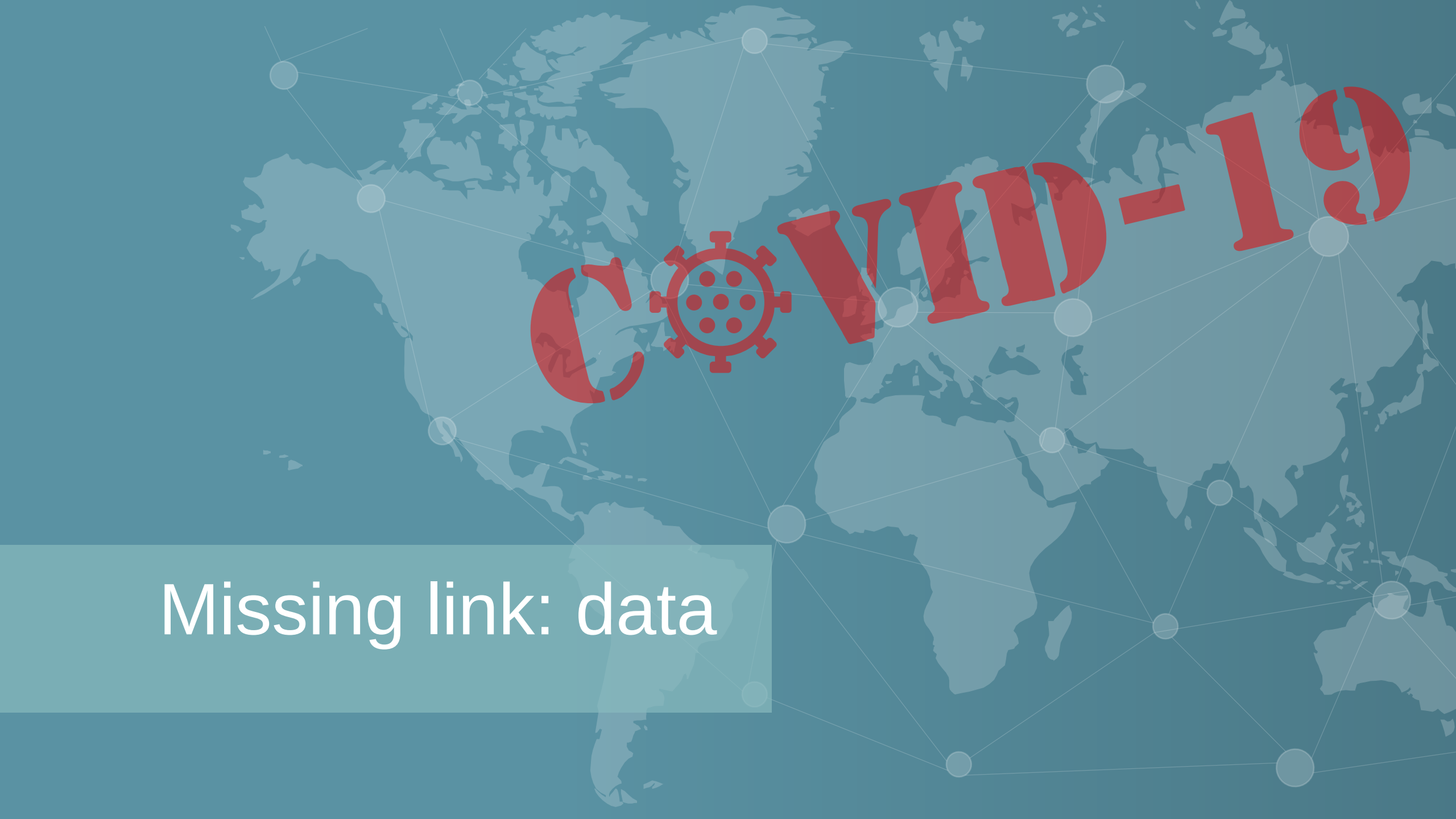


https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4627049#graphique-figure4

EpiCov – Place of birth & Covid-19

Odds of testing positive for SarsCov2 **for people born outside of Europe compared to French-born** people before & after adjusting for socio-economic & housing





Missing link: data

Data governance & health inequalities unlocking the barriers

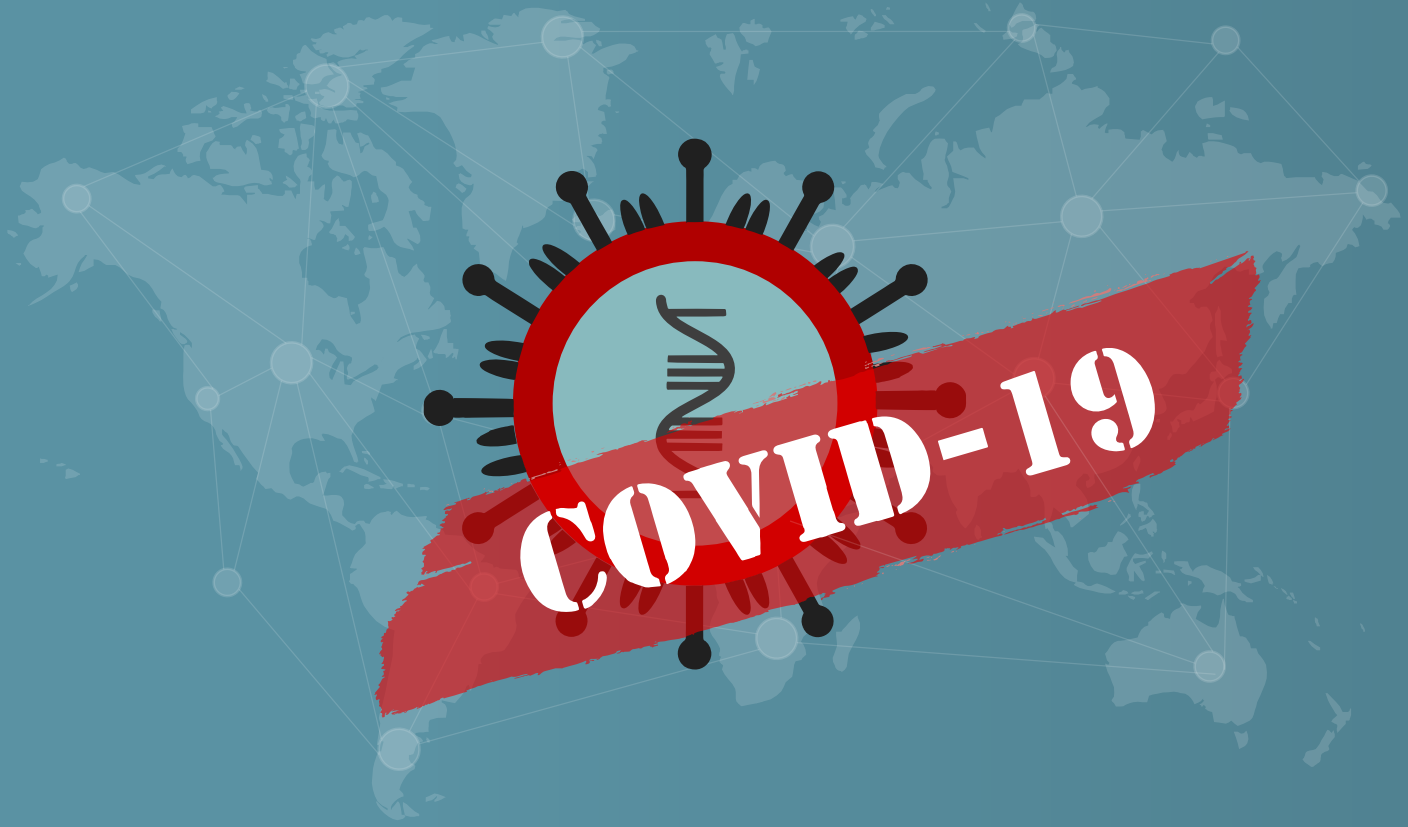
Ethically safe linkage:
-Interoperable identifiers
-AI methods

Social Data:

- Census etc
- Work & retirement
- education

Health Data:

- Routine collection
- Hospital
- General Medicine



THANK YOU