

# SHAPING A BALANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY FOR POPULATION HEALTH

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## BACKGROUND

Our time's global challenges and trends—like those associated with climate change, demographics displacements, growing health inequalities, and increasing burden of diseases—have complex connections to the social, environmental, and economic determinants of health.

For instance, there is an increasing consensus that burden of disease generates substantial costs, consumes essential resources, limits the attainment of healthier people, and undermines societal and economic development. Information on the burden of disease causes and prevention is fundamental for public health actions, like preparedness and responses for disasters, and recovery resources after the event.

The purpose of the present research and writing project is to be comprehensive of the fundamental connections between social, environmental, and economic influences on health. These connections are explained by addressing the core curriculum of multi-disciplinary areas—as urban design, energy, housing, and economy—as well as in the health system itself.

## METHODS

Information from an extensive review of the scientific evidence was analyzed by using primary and secondary research. I investigated issues including global health, natural disasters, demographic displacements and pollution impacts on people's health and the ecosystems.

**Academic Discipline and Theoretical Framework**  
Environmental Public Health and "Sustainability" (Sustainable Development) Policies

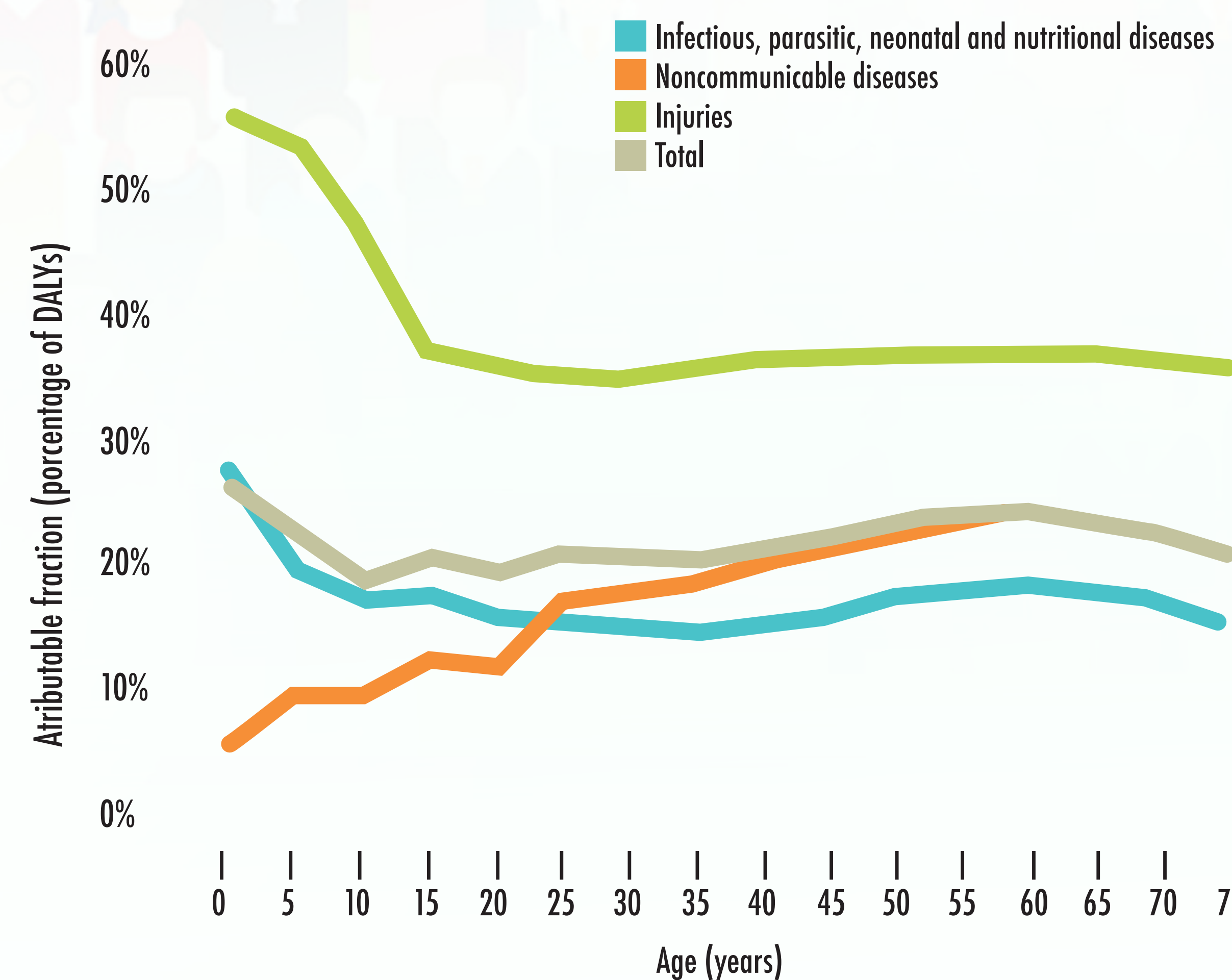
**Objectives**  
The focus of this research and book writing project aims to provoke a better understanding of the "whole" picture among all.

Topics discussed include:

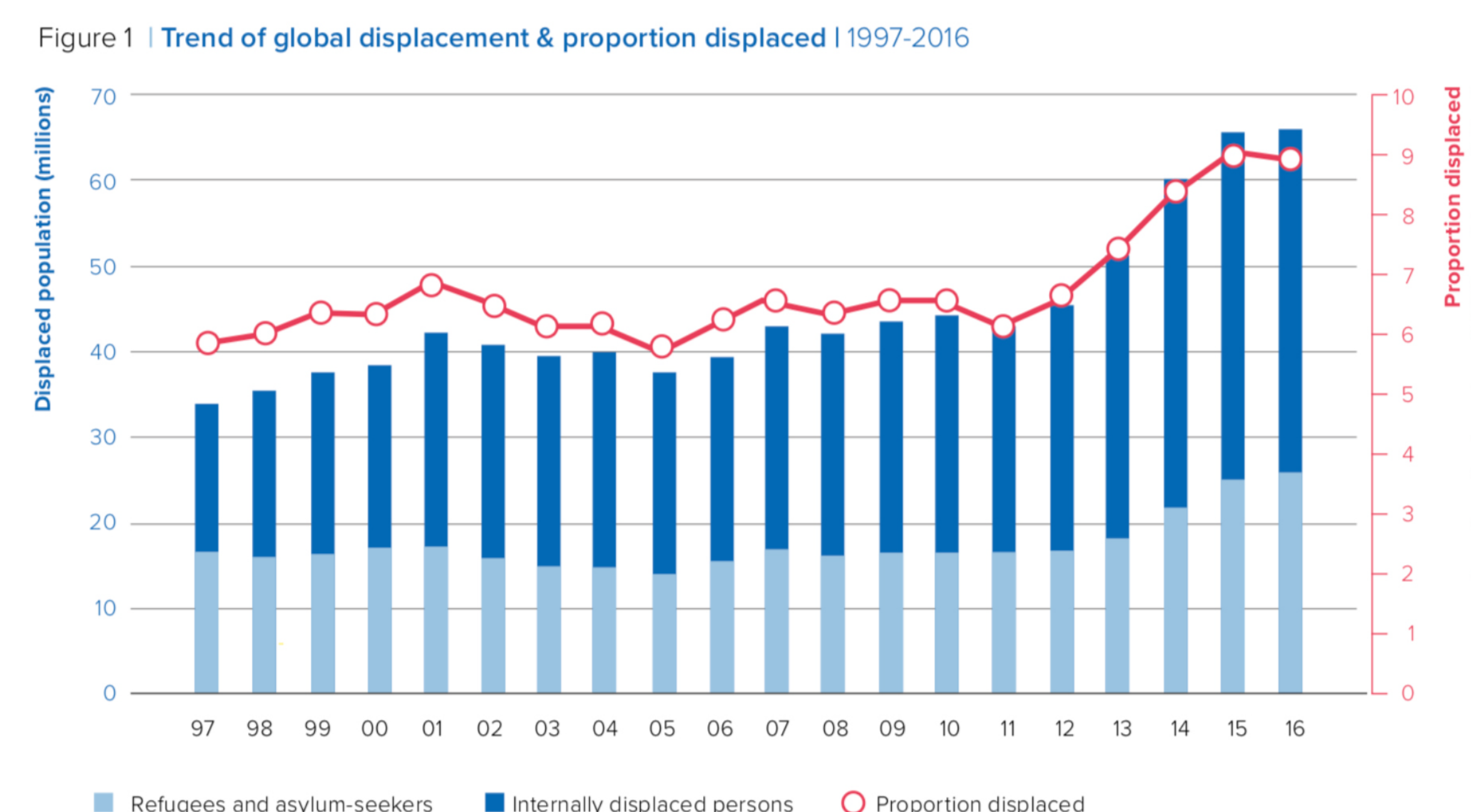
- Ecosystems, biodiversity, and human health
- The relationship between extreme weather-power outages and the health system
- Public health linkages to environmental sustainability
- Ecological and health effects of pollution
- Health in the context of cities and the urban environment
- Housing quality
- Social, environmental, and economic influences on health
- Globalization trends and determinants on health
- Sustainable healthcare systems
- Public and environmental health literacy

## THEMATIC ANALYSIS KEY FINDINGS

1. The global burden of disease in a 2016 WHO Report estimated that 12.6 million global deaths, accounting for 23% (95% CI: 13–34%) of all deaths, were attributable to the environment.



2. Trend of global displacement in the 21st century, 1997 - 2016 (end year). Source: Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2016. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2017. <http://reporting.unhcr.org>

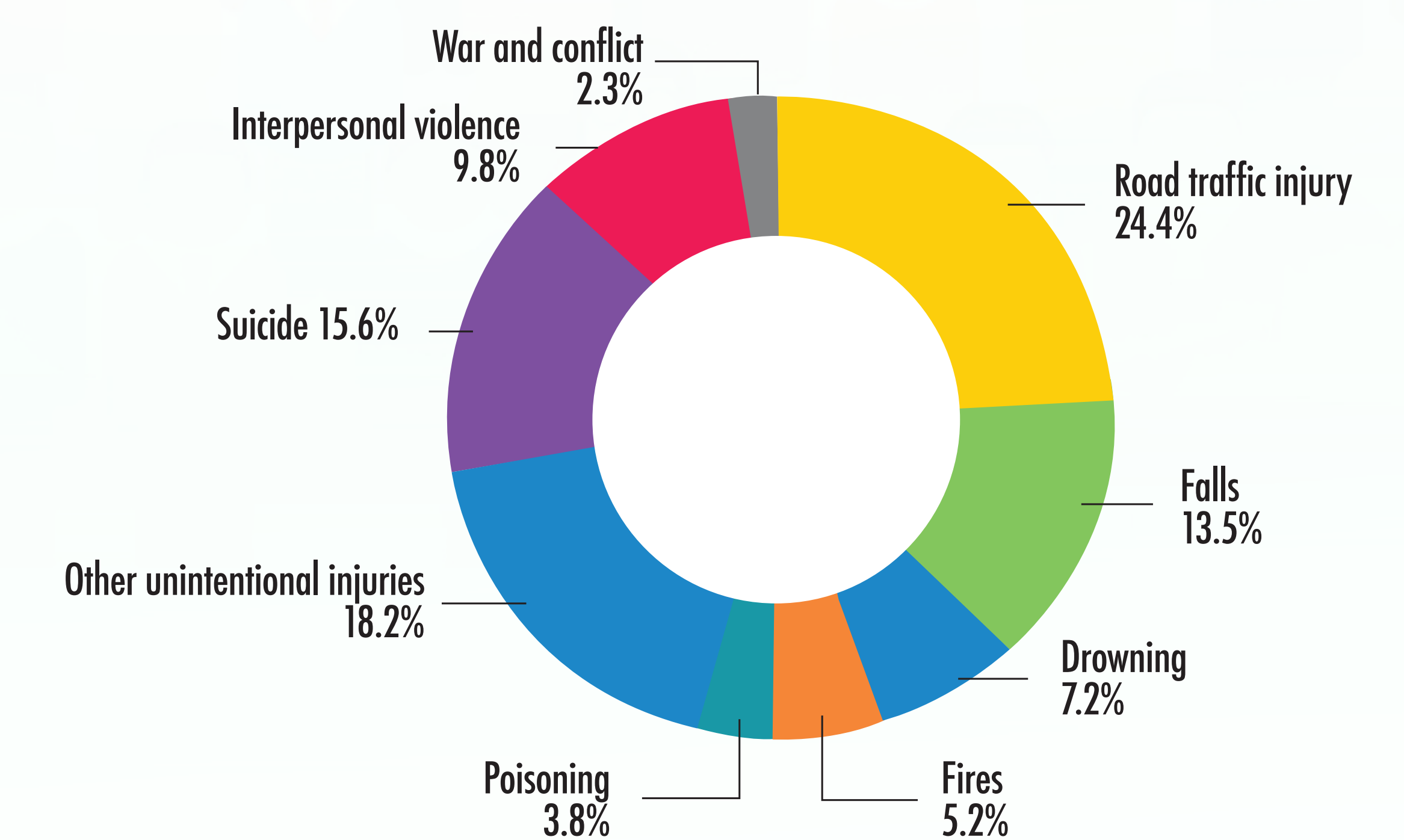


3. Each year more than 1,000 new industrial chemicals and pesticides are introduced into commerce. New types of chemicals, such as nanomaterials, may require new toxicity testing methods.

4. The world's urban population has advanced rapidly over the past six decades. It is well-acknowledged that the urban environment influences people's health and their well-being. Inadequate housing results in additional costs to society, particularly cost to the health sector. It also indirectly affects the municipality's economy and productivity outcomes.

5. Leading causes among 5.1 million global deaths due to injuries and violence (WHO, 2015). Reprinted from Health in 2015: from MDGs, Millennium Development Goals to SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals. Injuries and violence, p. 174. © World Health Organization 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/gho/publications/mdgs-sdgs/en/>

Leading Causes among 5.1 million global deaths due to injuries and violence, 2012<sup>2</sup>



6. Widening the adoption of sustainability actions across multi-sectorial and interconnected landscapes would improve people's health in most social, economic and environmental determinants.

## IMPLICATIONS

Research and science communication should translate both the ideas of scientific progress and its implications for policies, economies and people's lifestyle choices. In conclusion, more actions are still needed from an inter-sectoral and systemic approach to ascertain linkages between public health and environmental sustainability, tied to economic and social determinants.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## REFERENCE

Negrón, E.L. (2018). *Public Health and the Environment: Uncovering Key Social, Ecological, and Economic Connections*. San Juan, Puerto Rico: Author. ISBN: 978-1-7329754-9-1

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