



## Articles:

- **A Higher Minimum Wage Could Lift Millions Out of Poverty.** The Atlantic. 1/6/2014. “The federal minimum-wage legislation that Congress is expected to consider later this year would boost the hourly wage floor in America by nearly 40 percent, from \$7.25 to \$10.10. By economist Arindrajit Dube's calculation, that increase could lift as many as 4.6 million non-elderly people out of poverty in the United States. As a result, the population living below the federal poverty line would drop by nearly 10 percent.” [Read more](#)
- **Can Upward Mobility Cost You Your Health?** New York Times. 1/4/2014. “Upward mobility does not always provide the expected “return on investment” when it comes to health...black college graduates have shorter life expectancies than do white high school graduates. What is it about upward mobility that undermines the health of these young Americans? In our studies, most participants are the first in their families to attend college. They feel tremendous internal pressure to succeed, so as to ensure their parents’ sacrifices have been worthwhile. Many feel socially isolated and disconnected from peers from different backgrounds. They may encounter racism and discrimination.” [Read more](#)
- **Dear Middle Class: Welcome to Poverty.** Salon. 1/8/2014. “Not only is the climb to middle-class stability increasingly steep, the fall into poverty is more likely. The Great Recession brought home an ugly reality: nowadays it only takes one pink slip, foreclosure notice or catastrophic medical bill to push economically secure people into the ranks of the poor — even people with college diplomas and impressive resumes.” [Read more](#)
- **Does the US Need Another War on Poverty?** New York Times. 1/9/2014. “In his State of the Union address on Jan. 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced his “war on poverty,” when the national poverty rate was 19 percent. His project created Medicare, Medicaid, a permanent food stamp program, Head Start, Volunteers in Service to America and the Job Corps. Fifty years later, much has changed, but much remains the same — the national poverty rate still hovers around 15 percent. Does America need another war on poverty?” [Read debate here](#)
- **Money May Buy Your Child a Lower Risk of Obesity.** Bloomberg. 1/13/2014. “Researchers from Harvard University analyzed parents’ level of education as shorthand for socioeconomic status...The study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science found that children from less educated families exercised less and didn’t cut their calories as much. ‘We’re finally beating obesity on the aggregate level, but when you look at the trends, it’s very different for rich kids and poor kids,’ said Kaisa Snellman, one of the study’s authors and a sociologist. Lower education is usually linked to less income.” [Read more](#)
- **Nearly 50 Percent of Black Men Have Been Arrested by 23.** The Atlantic. 1/8/2014. “By age 23, nearly 50 percent of America’s black males, 44 percent of Hispanic males, and 38 percent of white males have been arrested...There is substantial research showing that arrested youth are not only more likely to experience immediate negative consequences such as contact with the

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justice system, school failure and dropout, and family difficulties but these problems are likely to reverberate long down the life course in terms of additional arrests, job instability, lower wages, longer bouts with unemployment, more relationship troubles, and long-term health problems including premature death.” [Read more](#)

- **If You Really Care About Ending Poverty, Stop Talking about Inequality.** The Atlantic. 1/8/2014. “Don’t mind the rich-poor gap. Statistical analysis shows three factors—overall income growth, marriages, and local government spending—matter most for poorer children chasing the American Dream.” [Read more](#)
- **It’s Expensive to Be Poor.** The Atlantic. 1/13/2014. “It’s time to revive the notion of a collective national responsibility to the poorest among us, who are disproportionately women and especially women of color. Until that happens, we need to wake up to the fact that the underpaid women who clean our homes and offices, prepare and serve our meals, and care for our elderly—earning wages that do not provide enough to live on are the true philanthropists of our society.” [Read more](#)
- **My Plea: A Citywide Task Force to Address Gun Homicides.** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. 1/11/2014. “In November, Milwaukee was named by Forbes magazine as the 10th most-violent big city in the nation behind cities including Detroit, Oakland and Atlanta. [But] Crime doesn't just affect those few people who are directly involved; it should be looked at as a public health issue. The fallout from crime affects everyone. It is a quality-of-life, quality-of-neighborhood and quality-of-city issue.” [Read more](#)
- **Obama Announces Promise Zones in 5 Stricken Areas.** NY Times. 1/10/2014. “A year after promising to direct federal attention and support to needy areas across the country, President Obama said Thursday that the government would begin helping five economically hard-hit communities fight poverty and assist children. On Thursday, he announced the first five: San Antonio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Southeastern Kentucky and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.” [Read more](#)
- **One Reason the Poor Have So Little Political Clout.** The Atlantic. 1/10/2014. “This doesn't mean that low-income people as a group are uninterested in politics. Maybe the obstacle is not primarily about "interest," or even time, or access to a ride to the polling place. If we want to think about increasing turnout among voters whose voices typically go unheard, maybe we ought to think about what else is consuming their attention instead.” [Read more](#)
- **Searching Upstream for the Source of Sickness.** The Atlantic. 1/15/2014. “A new generation of health care practitioners is helping clinics and hospitals look for the sources of sickness in our everyday lives. Rishi Manchanda, M.D., a public health advocate, medical director at a clinic for homeless veterans in Los Angeles and assistant professor at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, calls this group “upstreamists”...Manchanda urges fellow physicians and the public to help him break down barriers and he sees a growing willingness in the medical community to change the situation” [Read more](#)
- **The Female Face of Poverty.** The Atlantic. 1/8/2014. “Women are nearly two-thirds of minimum-wage workers in the country. More than 70 percent of low-wage workers get no paid sick days at all. Forty percent of all households with children under the age of 18 include mothers who are either the sole or primary source of income. The median earnings of full-time



female workers are still just 77 percent of the median earnings of their male counterparts.” [Read more](#)

- **The Proven Way to Fight Income Inequality: Education.** The Atlantic. 1/7/2014. “The tough challenge is to advance policies that address a major reason behind the growing educational gap—the fact that poorer children aren’t afforded the same educational opportunities as wealthier ones. There’s a path to closing the gap, focused more on increasing opportunity than equalizing outcomes. But it means the president and his progressive allies will have to make decisions to move beyond speeches and the minimum wage.” [Read more](#)
- **Wealthy Women Can Afford to Reject Marriage, but Poor Women Can’t.** The Atlantic. 1/15/2014. “Taking a stand against patriarchy is much easier if you’re well-educated, have a stable income, and live in a community where you could theoretically find an educated, employed man to marry. For poor, uneducated women, especially those who have kids, the question of whether to get married looks a lot different: It’s the choice between raising children on one or two incomes, between having someone to help with household chores and child-rearing alone while working multiple jobs.” [Read more](#)
- **Why American Women Aren’t Living as Long as They Should.** The Atlantic. 1/10/2014. “The debate over whether and how poverty causes poor health is endless, but the speed at which the U.S. is losing ground in women’s health is worrisome. Sure, less-educated women have less money for healthy food and gym memberships, but those behaviors might be symptoms of larger failings in low-wage jobs, the healthcare system, and public policy.” [Read more](#)
- **Why It’s Great to Be the Boss.** Pew Research Center. 1/9/2014. “It pays to be the boss, in more ways than one. In addition to bigger paychecks, America’s bosses are more satisfied with their family life, jobs and overall financial situation than are non-managerial employees, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey...A Pew Research Center analysis finds that men are more likely than women to say they are the boss (16% vs. 10%). Whites still dominate in the corporate suite: 16% of all whites are bosses, compared with 6% of blacks and 4% of Hispanics, the survey found.” [Read more](#)
- **8 Reasons Why Rent is Too Damn High.** National Public Radio. 1/6/2014.”Housing costs keep climbing, and outpacing many people’s ability to afford them. But the reasons why are complex and interrelated, which means it’s a problem with no simple solution.” [Read reasons](#)

## **Policy, Reports & Tools:**

- **A Woman’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink.** The Shriver Report. 1/12/2014. “*A Woman’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink* will examine the rates of financial insecurity among American women and the children who depend on them, investigate the impact of it on our nation’s institutions and economic future, and promote modern solutions to help women strengthen their financial status.” [Read more and watch video here](#)

- **Economic Effects of 13 State Minimum Wage Increases on Jan. 1, 2014.** (Data table). Economic Policy Institute. Analysis of Current Population Survey data. [See here](#)
- **Education: It Matters More to Health Than Ever Before.** Center on Health and Society & RWJF. January 2014. “Policies that set kids up for success—in education and in life generally—are smart strategies for reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. More education leads to higher earnings that can provide access to healthy food, safer homes, and better health care. And policies in communities can help put children on track for better health and prosperity by strengthening schools, job opportunities, economic growth, safe and affordable housing, and transportation.” [See brief here](#)
- **High Stakes: LGBT Americans Cannot Afford to Lose Unemployment Insurance.** Center for American Progress. 1/14/2014. “The Senate voted last week to begin debate on whether to extend emergency unemployment insurance for the 3.1 million Americans who have recently lost or are set to lose necessary benefits in the coming months. This issue is of critical importance to the country’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, or LGBT, community, which experiences high rates of unemployment and poverty and includes families that are trying just as hard as others to make ends meet during the economic recovery.” [Read more](#)
- **Housing as Health Care: New York’s Boundary-Crossing Experiment.** New England Journal of Medicine. 12/19/2013. “The 1.5 million Americans who experience homelessness in any given year face numerous health risks and are disproportionately represented among the highest users of costly hospital-based acute care...To truly reform U.S. health care and lower costs, we suggest that it’s time to broaden our thinking and spending to reach outside conventional health care silos. Social determinants of health should be central to mainstream discussions and funding decisions about health care. For many patients, a prescription for housing or food is the most powerful one that a physician could write, with health effects far exceeding those of most medications.” [Read more](#)
- **Let’s Invest in Our Future: Policy Options to Reduce Child Poverty in America.** Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. 1/13/2014. “The United States remains a strong and prosperous nation even after the deepest recession in seventy years. Nevertheless, while our per capita GDP remains one of the highest in the world, economic inequality is greater in the United States than in most other wealthy countries. What can policy do to reduce poverty and inequality? In particular, there are several policy options that could serve to reduce child poverty that are still broadly consistent with goals of reducing hardship while not increasing dependency or stifling economic growth--and which would therefore appeal to a majority of Americans.” [More here](#)
- **New Recommendations from the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America.** RWJF. 1/13/2014. “This year, the Commission tackled immensely complex matters that underlie profound differences in the health of Americans: experiences in early childhood; opportunities that communities provide for people to make healthy choices; and the mission and incentives of health professionals and health care institutions.” [Read full report and watch videos here](#)
- **Optimizing LGBT Health Under the Affordable Care Act: Strategies for Health Centers.** Center for American Progress & National LGBT Health Education Center. Nov 2013. “This brief explains how the Affordable Care Act will benefit LGBT Americans, particularly through better data collection, stronger nondiscrimination policies, a new essential health benefits standard and other insurance reforms, and coverage expansions. Part 1 provides an overview of the issues,



while Part 2 discusses how America's health centers, which are integral to efforts to enroll uninsured people, can deploy effective strategies for reaching LGBT people." [Read more](#)

- **The RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America (INFOGRAPHICS).** 1/13/2014. Emphasize three areas essential to improving the nation's health: increasing access to early childhood development, revitalizing low-income neighborhoods, and broadening the mission of health care providers beyond medical treatment. [See here](#)
- **Take Action and #TalkPoverty Toolkits: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War on Poverty.** Half in 10 Campaign. "January 8th marked the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's State of the Union address calling on the nation to launch an "unconditional war on poverty." This address signaled a renewed national commitment to fighting poverty through targeted policy resulting in programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, Pell Grants, expansions to Social Security and nutrition assistance. his toolkit provides several resources to help you take action with the media, other advocates, and your elected officials around the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty including..." [See more](#) (wisconsin specific toolkit included)
- **The War on Poverty 50 Years Later: A Progress Report.** The Council of Economic Advisors. Jan 2014. "Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a "War on Poverty" and introduced initiatives designed to improve the education, health, skills, jobs, and access to economic resources of those struggling to make ends meet. While there is more work to do, in the ensuing decades we have strengthened and reformed many of these programs and had significant success in reducing poverty. In this report, the Council of Economic Advisers presents evidence of the progress made possible by decades of bipartisan efforts to fight poverty by expanding economic opportunity and rewarding hard work." [Read more](#)
- **The War on Poverty: Then and Now. Applying Lessons Learned to Challenges and Opportunities Facing 21<sup>st</sup> Century America.** Center for American Progress. Jan 2014. "As poverty persists across the country, however, critics of our safety net programs might say we lost the fight. But to label the War on Poverty a failure is to say that the creation of Medicare and Head Start, enactment of civil rights legislation, and investments in education that have enabled millions of students to go to college are a failure. In fact, without the safety net, much of which has its roots in the War on Poverty, poverty rates today would be nearly double what they currently are. The War on Poverty has not failed us, but our economy has. Our economy and social fabric have changed significantly in the last 50 years..." [Read more](#)
- **US Flu and Cold Levels Rise, but Are Typical for Season: Hispanic, low-income, and 18-44 year old adults are most vulnerable.** Gallup Polls. 1/9/2014. "Hispanics and those earning less than \$3,000 per month are among those who are most likely to have the flu or a cold. This may be because these groups are more likely to use public transportation, are less likely to have health insurance that covers the cost of flu shots, and are less likely to have access to medical doctors who may recommend a flu shot." [Read more](#)

- **50 Years After LBJ's War on Poverty: A Study of American Attitudes About Work, Economic Opportunity, and the Social Safety Net.** Half in 10 Campaign, Center for American Progress. Jan 2014. "Fifty years ago President Johnson launched the War on Poverty... Since the start of the War on Poverty, however, much has changed in our society and our economy; some developments are positive and some negative...With this context, we set out to determine what Americans know and believe about poverty and assess their retrospective opinions about the War on Poverty itself and their support or opposition to new proposals for fighting poverty in the future. This report includes results from focus groups and a major survey of more than 2,000 American adults..." [Read results here](#)

#### Websites:

- **Getting Back to Full Employment: A Better Bargain for Working People (A book).** Center for Economic and Policy Research. 2013. "While most people intuitively know that low unemployment is important to job seekers, they may not realize that high levels of employment actually would make an enormous difference in the lives of large segments of the workforce who already have jobs. *Getting Back to Full Employment* is a follow-up to a book written a decade ago by the authors, *The Benefits of Full Employment* (Economic Policy Institute, 2003). It builds on the evidence presented in that book, showing that real wage growth for workers in the bottom half of the income scale is highly dependent on the overall rate of unemployment." [Read here](#)
- **New data: Uninsured by population, by county.** Community Commons. 2014. [See here](#)

#### Webinars & Videos:

- **Education: It Matters More to Health Than Ever Before.** RWJF. "Did you know that your years of education can affect how long and how well you will live? Americans with fewer years of education have poorer health and shorter lives, and that has never been more true than today. In fact, since the 1990s, life expectancy has decreased for people without a high school education. Education is important not only for higher paying jobs and economic productivity, but also for saving lives and saving dollars." [Watch here](#)
- **The RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America released new recommendations** January 13, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. ET, during a live online event. Experts such as Jack Shonkoff, Nancy Andrews, and Raymond Baxter explore promising programs from across the nation as we learn how we can take action now to make America healthier. [Watch archive here.](#)
- **Legacies of the War on Poverty: Lessons for the Future.** Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. Archived webinar. "January 8, 2014, exactly 50 years after President Johnson's declaration, Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity cohosted a forum offering diverse perspectives on the effects of anti-poverty policies in the U.S. in areas such as educational attainment, employment, earnings, living standards, and health over the past five decades and in the years to come. [Watch archived webinar here](#)

#### Conferences, Presentations & Talks:

- **Michigan Conference on Complex Systems, Health Disparities and Population Health.** Feb 24-25, 2014. The National Institutes of Health Natcher Conference Center in Bethesda, MD, join scholars and practitioners from the United States and abroad to learn about and see examples



# Health Equity Resources

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of how complex systems science can help guide our research and policy efforts to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of our population. [Registration is free.](#)