



Articles:

- **A Surprising Map of Where it's Hardest to Escape Poverty in America.** Washington Post. 1/23/2014. "Which parts of the country do you think have done the best job ensuring that children born to working-class families do better than their parents?" [See here](#)
- **American's are Deeply Divided Over What Causes Poverty in the First Place.** The Atlantic. 1/23/2014. "The belief that people are poor more through their own lack of effort than their circumstances is widely held by large segments of the population, including 51 percent of Republicans, and 46 percent of people in the highest income group (which is not *that* high). If you fall into this category, then it clearly doesn't make sense for society to try to solve a problem that it had little hand in creating." [Read more](#)
- **As a Doctor, I Know Too Well Why the Minimum Wage Needs to Rise.** The Globe and Mail (Canada). 1/27/2014. "...this is where our elected officials can act like doctors, by bringing an evidence-based approach to improving health and wellbeing to the forefront of their decision-making. In societies with less poverty, and with less inequality, the evidence shows that everyone is healthier, even the well off. Our governments can continue to legislate poverty and ill health, or they can build legislative bridges to a healthier life for everyone." [Read more](#)
- **Doctor's Orders: Raise the Minimum Wage.** Huffington Post. 1/22/2014. "We also know that living in poverty is not just an economic and political issue, but fundamentally an issue of human health. Income is the strongest determinant of health. How much you make is more important than what you eat, how much you exercise, or even your genetic make-up. A recent series of articles in the Ontario Medical Review highlights the fact that poverty is a medical problem, and healthcare providers are seeing the impacts on the front lines." [Read more](#)
- **Fight Poverty by Giving Poor People Money.** Slate. 1/19/2014. "What precisely did the income change? Ongoing interviews with both parents and children suggested one variable in particular. The money, which amounted to between one-third and one-quarter of poor families' income at one point, seemed to improve parenting quality... It turns out that we could do an awful lot to improve human welfare by focusing our efforts more narrowly and more intensely on spreading the wealth around." [Read more](#)
- **Gap in Life Expectancy Between Rural, Urban Residents is Growing.** Science Daily. 1/23/2014. "Reducing health inequalities and increasing life expectancy in the United States have both been primary goals of the national health initiative, Healthy People 2020. Unfortunately, according to a new study in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, over a 40-year period, rural residents have experienced smaller gains in life expectancy than their urban counterparts and the gap continues to grow." [Read more](#)
- **How to Build an Anti-Poverty Movement, From the Grassroots Up.** The Nation. 1/14/2014. "With more than 46 million people living below the poverty line, struggling to survive on \$19,530 or less for a family of three, and with more than one in three Americans living on less than twice

that amount, scrimping to pay for basics, this country will require a broad-based movement to reverse the decades of failed national imagination. The groups listed below are all worth watching as they do just that: galvanize communities, arm activists with information, and fight for living-wage jobs, stable housing and a strong safety net that catches people when they fall.”

[Read more](#)

- **Immigration and Poverty.** Huffington Post. 1/23/2014. “The fact that immigration isn't placing much pressure on poverty rate trends suggests that if we want to reduce those trends, we're less likely to get there by trying to reduce immigration. A far better strategy would be to improve the earnings capacity -- the skills, the availability of decent paying jobs, the work supports -- available to all low-wage working families, regardless of their nativity.” [Read more](#)
- **It Takes a Generation.** New York Times. 1/23/2014. “Robert Putnam of Harvard argues that when we design early education programs, they need to be “wrap-around.” He is emphasizing skills — for toddlers or teenagers — that are hard to see and measure. But that’s the next frontier of human capital development: Building lifelong social and emotional development strategies from age 0 to 25. I’m hoping President Obama goes there.” [Read more](#)
- **One Anti-Poverty Initiative Both Sides Can Agree On.** Huffington Post. 1/24/2014. “Indeed, a highly regarded study found that these EITC expansions did more to increase employment among single mothers than the 1996 welfare law. The most glaring hole in the EITC, however, is its almost complete exclusion of childless adults. A childless adult working full time at the minimum wage earns too much to receive the credit. Partly as a result, childless workers are the sole group of workers that the federal tax system taxes into — and in many cases, deeper into — poverty.” [Read more](#)
- **Study: LGBT Americans Spend \$7.9 Billion on Cigarettes.** Think Progress. 1/17/2014. “A new study from the Network for LGBT Health Equity shows that in a given year LGBT Americans spend 65 times more on cigarettes — an estimated \$7.9 billion — than is spent on all LGBT advocacy combined. Nearly a third of all people who identify as LGBT smoke, rates 68 percent times higher than the national average (19.5 percent). Three main factors contribute to these high rates of substance abuse: minority stress, a health care system that doesn’t recognize the unique needs of LGBT people, and targeted marketing by tobacco companies in LGBT publications.” [Read more](#)
- **The Legacy of Roe v. Wade and the War on Poverty.** Center for American Progress. 1/22/2014. “This year, we will celebrate *Roe v Wade* by working to ensure that all women have access to abortion services, regardless of their income or source of insurance. The War on Poverty rages on, and it must continue until all women and girls have the economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about their bodies, sexuality, and reproduction for themselves, their families, and their communities in all areas of their lives.” [Read more](#)
- **The Limits of Marriage as a Path Out of Poverty.** New York Times. 1/20/2014. “If work is to be a pathway out of poverty for single-parent families, then policy makers must ensure robust employment opportunities for them. Conservatives may want to pretend those opportunities are there for the taking, but as someone who has studied the low-wage labor market for decades, I assure you, that period in the latter 1990s was the exception, not the rule. To suggest that marriage would help them has some backup in both logic and research, but it is increasingly at



odds with a number of long-term, real-life trends. Policy makers must accept that reality and focus on helping families with children, whether they've one parent or two." [Read more](#)

- **The Real State of the Union is Inescapable.** The Washington Post. 1/29/2014. "Wages are stagnant or shrinking. School rankings have sagged. College and health costs have soared. Our rates of child poverty lead the developed world. Decent jobs remain scarce. The accident of birth weighs more heavily in dictating one's destiny. All the compelling anecdotes or special guests in the chamber don't change that. When I hear Obama cry that no one who works full time should live in poverty in America, it's like Groundhog day. Can I be alone in this reaction? So how long does a wealthy, sane nation need to fix this? If twenty years isn't good enough – two decades in which the economy nearly doubled in size in real terms – do we need 50 years? 100?" [Read more](#)
- **The US Has a Social Mobility Problem, But Not the One You Think.** The Atlantic. 1/23/2014. "The key issue...is not that prospects for upward mobility are declining in the U.S. as a whole but rather that some regions of the U.S. persistently offer less mobility than most other developed countries. We should be worried not that a child in Atlanta has worse prospects in 2014 than a child in Atlanta in 1970. We should be worried that this same child today has worse prospects than children growing up right now in Salt Lake City (or Sweden). The U.S. is better described as a collection of societies...some of which are 'lands of opportunity' with high rates of mobility across generations, and others in which few children escape poverty." [Read more](#)
- **What Happens When the Poor Receive a Stipend?** New York Times. 1/18/2014. "What precisely did the income change? Ongoing interviews with both parents and children suggested one variable in particular. The money, which amounted to between one-third and one-quarter of poor families' income at one point, seemed to improve parenting quality. The supplements eased the strain of that feast-or-famine existence, she said. Some used the money to pay a few months' worth of bills in advance. Others bought their children clothes for school, or even Christmas presents. Mostly, though, the energy once spent fretting over such things was freed up. That "helps parents be better parents." [Read more](#)
- **Union Membership Remained Steady in 2013, But Conservative Attacks Threaten to Weaken Organized Labor.** 1/24/2014. Center for American Progress. "The Bureau of Labor Statistics released data today showing that the national union membership rate held steady at 11.3 percent in 2013. The private-sector unionization rate rose slightly, from 6.6 percent in 2012 to 6.7 percent in 2013. And while public-sector unionization rates have held steady for decades, they fell from 37 percent in 2011 to 35.3 percent in 2013, due in part to state-level efforts to weaken collective bargaining laws. It is good news that union membership rates did not fall in 2013, but over the past 40 years, there has been a long and steady decline in union membership—which should be worrisome to all Americans, as unions are vital for a strong middle class." [Read more](#)

Policy, Reports & Tools:

- **A No-Cost Proposal to Reduce Poverty & Inequality. Brookings Institute. January 2014.** “While a higher minimum wage will help to boost earnings, critics worry about its effects on hiring, arguing that employers will create fewer jobs if they have to pay higher wages. Although past increases do not appear to have adversely affected employment, there is no denying the risk that much larger increases might pose to the least skilled workers. Many of the people who would benefit from a higher minimum are secondary workers from more advantaged families. If we are really worried about families at the bottom, a better way to improve their lot is to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) since it is well-targeted to those who most need assistance and will not significantly affect employers.” [Read more](#)
- **Access to Health Food and Why it Matters: A Review of the Research.** Policy Link and The Food Trust. 2013. “This report provides a current picture of the state of the research on food access, following up on our 2010 report, The Grocery Gap: Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters. The presence of so many new and diverse innovations in healthy food retailing has provided researchers with more opportunities to examine the relationship between the “food environments” in which people live and their diets, as well as the relationship between food retailing and community economic development.” [Read report here](#)
- **Democrats and Republicans Differ on Top Priorities for Government.** Gallup Poll. 1/28/2014. [See poll here](#)
- **Early Reading Proficiency in the United States.** Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Today’s children are our nation’s hope for building a strong future economy and thriving society. One of the key milestones on the path to success is learning to read in the early grades. This report provides an update on how fourth graders are faring in reading across the nation and in each state. According to the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data, 80 percent of low-income fourth graders and 66 percent of all fourth graders are not proficient in reading.” [Read more](#)
- **Health Care Spending by High-Income Countries, 1980-2011 (Interactice graph).** New England Journal of Medicine. 1/30/2014. “This interactive graphic shows the per capita levels of health care spending, over time, by both public and private sectors in the United States and in the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It documents the changing levels of spending for inpatient care, outpatient care, prescription medicines, and public health services in various countries; the amounts spent on health administration and insurance; and out-of-pocket spending by patients in each country.” [Read more](#)
- **LGBT smoking rates (INFOGRAPHIC).** Think Progress. [See here](#)
- **Minnesota Department of Health—Advancing Health Equity—Minnesota Legislative Report Timeline.** “Minnesota is one of the healthiest states in the country. However, a statewide assessment has found that not all Minnesotans have the same chances to be healthy. Those with less money, and populations of color and American Indians, consistently have less opportunity for health and experience worse health outcomes. The Minnesota Legislature in 2013 directed the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and its partners to complete a report about advancing health equity (AHE) in Minnesota. The report will assess Minnesota’s health disparities and recommend best practices, policies, processes, data strategies, and other steps that will promote health equity for all Minnesotans. The project officially launched October 22. The report is due to the legislature and can be seen [here](#) February 1, 2014.



- **Potential Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Income Inequality.** The Brookings Institute. 1/24/2014. “The (ACA) sought to expand health insurance coverage, slow the growth of health care spending, and improve the quality of care. Changing the distribution of incomes was not a stated objective. Nonetheless, the ACA may do more to change the income distribution than any other recently enacted law.” [Read how here](#)
- **Public College Quality Compact for Students and Taxpayers: A Proposal to Reverse Declining State Investment in Higher Education and Improve Quality and Affordability.** Center for American Progress. 1/28/2014. “Access to affordable, high-quality postsecondary education has become essential for full participation in our economy. But rising costs are impeding many students’ ability to achieve postsecondary success. One important change over the past decade has been the steep decline in state appropriations and financial support for public universities, colleges, and training centers, in which approximately 70 percent of all higher-education students are enrolled.” [Read more](#)
- **Stark Racial Differences in Views on U.S. Status.** Gallup Poll. “Since Obama's election, whites' and nonwhites' views about the nation's trajectory have moved in opposite directions. For nonwhites, his election could have signaled an inclusion they had not felt before. Whereas for whites, who largely identify as Republicans, Obama's big-government views and policies such as the Affordable Care Act, could have played a major role in their pessimism about where the nation is and where it will go.” [Read more](#)
- **The Long-Term Unemployed in the Wake of the Great Recession.** Carsey Institute at University of New Hampshire. Winter 2014. “This brief outlines the demographic and economic characteristics of the long-term unemployed and compares them with their short-term unemployed counterparts...The long-term unemployed are more likely than short-term unemployed to be older, have higher levels of education, and be non- Hispanic black. The long-term unemployed also have lower median family incomes and are more likely to be in poverty than the short-term unemployed.” [Read more](#)
- **The State of America’s Children: 2014.** Children’s Defense Fund. “CDF’s new report The State of America's Children 2014 finds child poverty has reached record levels and children of color are disproportionately poor. This is a comprehensive compilation and analysis of the most recent and reliable national and state-by-state data on population, poverty, family structure, family income, health, nutrition, early childhood development, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and gun violence. The report provides key child data showing alarming numbers of children at risk.” [Read more](#)
- **The State of the Union: The Stanford Center on Poverty & Inequality. Poverty and Inequality Report 2014.** Stanford. “This report provides a unified analysis that brings together evidence across seven key domains, thereby allowing a global assessment of where problems exist, where achievements are evident, and how a coordinated effort to reduce poverty and equalize opportunity might be undertaken. In future years, we plan to expand the domains that

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we cover, and we also hope that many states and cities will join in this annual assessment of how we are faring on core poverty and inequality indicators.” [Read more](#)

- **Will Value Based Purchasing Increase Disparities in Care?** New England Journal of Medicine. 12/26/2013. “Programs that tie financial incentives to quality and efficiency have the potential to push our health care system to reward value rather than volume. However, a redistribution of resources away from hospitals serving high numbers of disadvantaged patients could increase disparities in care. Going forward, these programs must be carefully monitored and, if necessary, modified to avoid such unintended consequences.” [Read more](#)

Websites:

- **Community Commons New Mapping Data:**
 - [Public education expenditures by student](#)
 - [Population below the poverty line](#)
 - [Population with no high school diploma](#)
- **Moving the Race Conversation Forward.** Race Forward (formerly applied research center). 1/22/2014. “Moving the Race Conversation Forward” is a report by Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation that aims to reshape and reform the way we talk about race and racism in our country.” [See here](#)

Webinars, Recordings & Videos:

- **America’s War on Poverty Moves to the Suburbs.** Brookings Institute. 1/22/2014. “With the publication of their book, *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*, Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube brought to the fore of the national conversation the experience of the 16.5 million people living in poverty in the suburbs. In a new podcast, Kneebone, a fellow in the Metropolitan Policy Program, says that the landscape of poverty is “dramatically different” than it was a half century ago. A third of the poor population lives in the suburbs, and during the 2000s, the poor population there grew larger and faster than in cities.” [Listen here](#)
- **The Great Recession and the Safety Net.** (Archived webcast) “On January 30, the Center on Children and Families held a forum to examine the performance of the safety net during the Great Recession, the most severe economic downturn since the Depression of the 1930s. The event was held in conjunction with the American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), Sage Publications, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. A recent volume of the AAPSS *Annals* is devoted to examining the effects of the Great Recession on macroeconomic policy, politics, the job market, household wealth, the performance of the safety net, and other topics.” [Watch here](#)
- **PHI and Public Health: 50 Years of Building a Healthier World, Together.** Public Health Institute. Jan 2014. (Video) [Watch here](#)

Conferences & Presentations:

- **American Public Health Association Annual Meeting:** Healthography: How where you live affects your health and well-being; Nov 15-19th, 2014. New Orleans. Call for Abstracts! Due→Feb 10-14, 2014. [More here](#)



- **Health Impact Assessment Funding Opportunity Coming in February 2014.** The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is planning to launch a call for proposals for funding in February 2014. Grants will support health impact assessment, or HIA, demonstration projects as well as development of HIA programs to integrate health in decision-making. [Stay tuned here](#)
- **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 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.](#)
- **National Public Health Week**—April 7-13, 2014. [Information here](#)
- **Wisconsin Public Health Association Annual Meeting:** Navigating Change Through Social Innovation. May 13-15, 2014. Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. [More here](#)