

Health Equity Resources

Week of: 11.15.2013



Articles:

- **After School Activities Make Education Inequalities Even Worse.** The Atlantic. 11/13/2013. “Activities outside of school are not free so they largely benefit already advantaged kids. While we talk a lot about inequalities between the rich and the poor, and the role school quality plays in perpetuating class divisions, one often overlooked factor is the opportunities middle- and upper-middle-class kids get to strengthen their life skills through organized competitive activities outside of the school system.” [Read more](#)
- **Beyond GDP, Future Growth Depends on Addressing Racial Inequity.** Marketplace. 11/7/2013. ““If this nation wants to have a middle class, be competitive in the global economy, we need to make sure that the people who are going to be the future are ready for the future,” says Angela Glover Blackwell, Director of PolicyLink.” [Read more](#)
- **Doctor, First Tell me What it Costs.** New York Times. 11/3/2013. “Even when the costs of a medical intervention might force patients to choose between paying the bill or keeping up with their mortgages, American physicians rarely discuss that serious side effect with them. In our New England Journal article, we tried to convince physicians that they needed to start incorporating the cost of care into their clinical conversations...No one should have to suffer unnecessarily from the cost of medical care. Simply put, discussing costs in the doctor’s office is good medicine.” [Read more](#)
- **Feds Boosting Mental Health Access, Treatment.** CNN Health. 11/12/2013. “New rules announced that will put teeth in a 2008 mental health equity law. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, signed by President George W. Bush, requires doctors and insurers to treat mental illness the same as physical illness.” [Read more](#)
- **How Employment Credit Checks Perpetuate Poverty and Discrimination.** Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. November 2013. “Must have good credit.” Phrase appears [everywhere]. The process may turn down well-qualified job-seekers—a devastating prospect for a household already finding it difficult to make ends meet. The truth is, the very practice of employment credit checks reinforces inequality and can perpetuate poverty and racial discrimination.” [Read more](#)
- **In Alaska, Reaching into Remote Corners to Provide Dental Care.** Health Affairs. Nov 2013. “It is in this special and isolated community where I practice as a dental therapist, trained and certified to deliver some, but not all, types of dental care. Dental therapists have been practicing in Alaska for nine years and now provide routine dental care to 40,000 Native Alaskans. In the United States about forty-seven million people live in areas where there is a shortage of dentists, and millions

more can't afford to see them. For so many Americans, even the most basic dental care is out of reach. Yet right here in Alaska, I think we've found part of the solution." [Read more](#)

- **Investing in Kids Health Could Save Billions.** The Sky News [Britain]. 11/14/2013. "Investing in children's health could save the NHS billions of pounds in the future, according to the Chief Medical Officer. Professor Dame Sally Davies said poverty, obesity and poor mental health are damaging children's long-term prospects." [Read more](#)
- **Looking Upstream: Before the Doctors Office. The Next Steps to Make Health Happen in California.** The California Endowment and Health Begins. 11/12/2013. "There is a new movement in health care that's moving healthcare professionals upstream. These "Upstreamists," are practitioners on the frontlines of healthcare who see that health is more than a chemical equation that can be strictly balanced with pills and procedures and administered only within clinic walls. Essentially, upstreamists help their clinics and hospitals to understand and improve health where it happens -- where we live, work and play." [Read more](#)
- **The Inextricable Link Between Neighborhoods and Health.** Center on Society and Health. Nov. 2013. "As with any complex issue, no single explanation exists for these dramatic differences in health outcomes and life expectancy. A growing body of evidence suggests that these disparities are only partly attributable to differences in health behaviors, such as smoking or physical inactivity, or to differences in access to quality health care. Although these factors are important determinants of health, the maps reveal that certain neighborhood and community conditions also strongly influence residents' health outcomes." [Read more](#)
- **(Madison) The Most Racist City in the US?** The Socialist Worker. 10/31/2013. "In a recent report released ('Race to Equity') on every indicator, with only two exceptions out of 40 measures, statistics collected in Dane County demonstrated equal or higher racial disparities between whites and Blacks than the national averages." [Read more](#)
- **Prescriptions for Poverty.** East Bay Express. 11/6/2013. "As a [patient] in the new Highland Health Advocates program, he has been working with volunteers stationed at a "help desk" inside the lobby of the hospital's busy emergency room. Since March, these so-called "navigators" have been working one-on-one with patients on larger obstacles — such as access to food, housing, and health insurance — that overwhelmed doctors and social workers don't have time to address." [Read more](#)
- **The Messy, Messy Relationship Between Income (Race) and Obesity.** The Atlantic. 11/13/2013. "The relationship is clearly more complicated than "a disease for poor people in a rich country."" [Read more](#)
- **Should We Be Guilt-tripping the Public About Their Health?** The Huffington Post. 11/11/2013 "Targeting people's lifestyles puts the onus on them to change, when most of the mechanisms that produce health inequalities originate in the social structures people are subjected to. Ultimately, "poor people behave poorly" because of their material and socio-cultural circumstances. It's the social structures, services and environments that ought to be changed to favor choices and lifestyles." [Read more](#)

- **Switzerland’s Proposal to Pay People for Being Alive.** New York Times. 11/17/2013. “Every month, every Swiss person would receive a check from the government, no matter how rich or poor, how hardworking or lazy, how old or young...Some [health economist findings] were obvious: Poverty disappeared. But others were more surprising: High-school completion rates went up; hospitalization rates went down. ‘If you have a social program like this, community values themselves start to change,’” [Read more.](#)
- **This Doctor Treats Poverty Like a Disease.** Center for Advancing Health. 11/6/2013. “What would you think if your doctor handed you a prescription that recommended filing your tax returns or applying for food stamps instead of the usual medicines for high blood pressure or diabetes? This doc has...[Read more here](#)
- **Washington: A World Apart—Super zip codes.** The Washington Post. 11/9/2013. “As the affluent become more isolated, the working class and the poor become confined “to communities where no one has a college education and no one has connections to the world. The social capital that’s so necessary for upward mobility is more difficult to come by than it was in the old days when there was broad-based prosperity.” The impact may be greater on children who grow up with a distorted view of the world, because they don’t know anyone from a different socioeconomic class. “We ought to worry about what this means for society when kids who are the most advantaged don’t grow up with much experience or understanding of how the other 95 percent live, particularly the bottom half. Will they be less empathetic? Do they understand what it’s like to grow up poor?” [Read more](#)
- **Wealth Begets Health: Why Universal Medical Care Only Goes So Far.** The Globe [Canada]. 11/12/2013. “Virtually every measure of population health – from child mortality to rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease and traumatic injury – is worse in poor areas than in wealthier ones. It is not simply a question of the poor and everyone else. Health tends to increase all the way up the income scale. And what is notable is that, in all these cases, people receive similar medical treatment in all income groups – so it is not access to health care that is the issue, but rather the underlying causes of disease.” [Read more](#)
- **What Growing Income Inequality is Costing Canada’s Future Generations.** The Globe (Canada). 11/8/2013. “It’s been dubbed the Great Gatsby Curve. Plot countries on a graph. Put income inequality on one axis, mobility between generations on the other. A sobering picture emerges. The dream of achieving a better life than your parents is more elusive in countries where the gap between rich and poor is larger.” [Read more](#)
- **Why America Has a Mass Incarceration Problem, and Why Germany and the Netherlands Don’t.** The Atlantic. 11/12/2013. “A recent report [PDF] from the Vera Institute of Justice explains that the differences are both philosophical and practical. "Resocialization" and rehabilitation are central to the Dutch and German models, whereas the American model focuses on retribution and isolation from society. In Germany and the Netherlands, this means prison conditions are more humane, fines are preferred over incarceration, solitary confinement is rarely used, and sentences are far shorter than in the U.S.” [Read more](#)

Policy, Reports & Tools:

- **Championing Change: Elected Officials Act Locally to Make their Communities Healthier.** Prevention Institute & American Public Health Association. Nov 2013. “A new brief examines the approaches local elected officials are taking to improve the health of their communities. Through interviews and case studies, it provides tips and lessons from communities across the country, providing a resource to help local elected officials and their staff members improve the health of their communities.” [Read more](#)
- **Clinical Poverty Intervention Resources [Canada].** [Toolkit here](#)
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit.** Economic Policy Institute. 9/25/2013. “A policy brief on the history, purpose, goals and effectiveness of the policies.” [Read more](#)
- **Giving Every Student Access to Excellent Teachers.** Center on American Progress. Nov. 2013. “Excellent teachers—those in the top 20 percent to 25 percent of the profession in terms of student progress—produce well more than a year of student-learning growth for each year they spend instructing a cohort of students. Excellent teachers—those in the top 20 percent to 25 percent of the profession in terms of student progress—produce well more than a year of student-learning growth for each year they spend instructing a cohort of students..” [Read more](#)
- **Rental Assistance Helps More Than 300,000 Veterans Afford Homes, but Large Unmet Needs Remain.** Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. 11/7/2013. “If the nation is to address veterans’ housing needs adequately, it is critical to undo the recent cuts in rental assistance and expand housing assistance for the most vulnerable low-income people.” [Read more](#)
- **Student Loans are Widening the Wealth Gap; Time to Focus on Equity.** University of Kansas and the Assets and Education Initiative. 11/7/2013. “AEDI’s mission is to create and study innovations related to assets and economic well-being. In today’s financial aid landscape, advancing this mission requires attending not only to the role of assets in shaping educational attainment and equity, but also understanding the effects of high levels of student borrowing on the long-term financial health of households. It is our hope that our research on these matters adds to the national conversation about the relative impacts of different approaches to college financing. We believe in higher education as a path to economic mobility and an essential means of sustaining the American dream.” [Read more](#)
- **The School Readiness Gap and Preschool Benefits for Children of Color.** Center for American Progress. 11/12/2013. “The majority of children under age 1 in the United States today are children of color; that one simple fact means that our future will be very different from our current reality. As the face of our nation changes, our nation’s policies will need to change as well. And while change is never easy, we know the place to start is where the change is already happening—and that means investing in our nation’s youngest citizens.” [Read more](#)

Websites:

- **Community Commons**—New national mapping data! [Employment accessibility](#) and [Head Start programs.](#)

Webinars & Videos:

- **Averting Lay-Offs and Saving Jobs Through Work-Sharing.** [Webinar] CLASP and the National Employment Law Project. Nov 20th, 1-2pm (CST). “Work Sharing – or Short-Time Compensation – is an unemployment insurance program that helps employers avoid laying off workers when faced with a temporary slowdown in business. The US Department of Labor estimates that in the last five years alone, work-sharing plans have helped to save more than 450,000 jobs in the United States. In 2012, Congress passed legislation that provides financial incentives for states to adopt work-sharing programs.” [Learn more on this webinar.](#)
- **Social determinants of health and healthcare providers.** Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved. This video aims to create a better understanding of the barriers to good health that result from the social determinants, as well as to encourage empathy and creative solutions. It is a tool aiming to empower future and current health care professionals and their patients, as well as the broader community, to address these challenges and improve outcomes.” [Watch here](#)
- **Michael Marmot keynote speech** at the 2013 American Public Health Association conference in Boston, MA. Nov 2-6th, 2013. [Watch here](#)
- **Persuade 7 of 10 Americans to Support Government Action on Financial Security.** [Webinar]. Ford Foundation and Hattaway Communications. “In a climate where it’s tough to get a majority of Americans to support government action on anything, communicating effectively about financial security for all is imperative to enacting critical policies. This webinar will share practical guides and principles for crafting compelling narratives and language to increase support for a variety of policies and programs. A great resource for advocates and policymakers, this powerful approach can help you attract new supporters to your work—and achieve even greater impact for the people you serve.” [Register here](#)
- **Tackling the School-to-Prison Pipeline:** Webinar. Advancement Project. Tuesday, Nov 19th 1-2pm. “On Nov. 5th, stakeholders in Broward County, FL signed a ground-breaking collaborative agreement designed to tackle the School-to-Prison Pipeline and racial disparities in exclusionary discipline and school-based arrests in the public schools system. Please join this webinar as we share the lessons learned from the policy changes and the process that got them there.” [Register here](#)
- **The Case for the Family as a Setting and Determinant of Health.** Equiate. “Webinar: The Case for the Family as a Setting and Determinant of Health. Nov 20th, 10am-11am CST. “For most of us, the time we spend at home or with family is equally significant as these other settings...yet family is largely absent from most discussions of the early years, or any other health determinant for that matter. to review evidence about the effect family and home has on determinants and risk factors for health and how working with the family as a context can improve health. [Register here.](#)
- **The Raising of America Documentary Series** (Coming soon!) California Newsreel & PBS. Available 2014. “This ambitious documentary series and multimedia initiative by the producers of ‘UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?’ explores how a strong start for all our kids leads not only to better individual life course outcomes (learning, earning and physical and mental health) but also to a healthier, safer, better educated and more prosperous and equitable America.” [Learn more here](#)
- **The Affordable Care Act: Wisconsin Statewide Multi-Campus Teach-In and Webcast.** UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute, WI Covering Kids and Families.

Nov 18th, 5-7pm. “An educational forum on a complicated issue designed to be practical, participatory, and oriented toward action. How does the ACA affect students who are uninsured or currently covered by Medicaid or BadgerCare? What options are available for affordable health insurance coverage? What changes to health insurance are relevant to students and young adults?” [Register here](#)

- **Wisconsin Women and the ACA.** Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health. Tuesday, Nov 19th, 12-1pm. “Learn how Wisconsin women are winning with the ACA and how new health care coverage options are available with the new health insurance Marketplace.” [Register here](#)

Conferences, Presentations & Talks:

- **Understanding Immigrant Families: Reframing the Way We Work with Immigrants.** Increase your capacity to provide culturally competent care to diverse communities. UW Madison Continuing Studies. Madison. Pyle Center—Dec 3rd, 9-4pm. Call 608-262-1122 to register.
- **Mexican “Retornados” and Families in Mexico: The Impact of the Migration Experience.** Prof. Maria de la luz Pérez Padilla from Universidad de Guadalajara - San Juan de los Lagos. Friday, Nov. 22, 4-5:30 pm 206 Ingraham Hall University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Prof. Pérez Padilla will talk about her research about how returning migrants are re-integrated back into their families and communities when they return home to Mexico. She will discuss her preliminary findings about their experiences, based on closed and open-ended questions and psychological scales.”
- **Wisconsin Public Health Association 2014 Annual Conference**—Call for abstracts! Due November 15th, 2013. [Details here](#)