

## Health Equity Resources

Week of: 11.8.2013



### Articles:

- **A Shockingly High Number of Americans Experience Poverty.** The Atlantic. 11/6/2013. “Between the ages of 25 and 60, Rank has found, almost 40 percent of Americans will live at least one year below the poverty line. Yet over time, most also pull themselves back above of it. What these numbers undercut, though, is the idea that most of the poor, as a broad group, are somehow different than you and me.” [Read more](#)
- **A War on the Poor.** New York Times. 10/31/2013. “All of this hostility to the poor has culminated in the truly astonishing refusal of many states to participate in the Medicaid expansion. But a majority of Republican-controlled state governments are, it turns out, willing to pay a large economic and fiscal price in order to ensure that aid doesn’t reach the poor. The thing is, it wasn’t always this way...” [Read more](#)
- **Bloomberg, Champion of the Poor.** New York Times. 11/6/2013. “Usually depicted as a champion of the rich, Mr. Bloomberg mounted an antipoverty program at a moment when poverty as an issue was off the national radar and even politically toxic. Mr. Bloomberg’s antipoverty approach has tested the limits of human-capital and market-based strategies. As impressive as many of its individual components are, the center’s efforts remain unlikely to result in significant reductions in poverty and inequality. To get outcomes like that, we would need an expanded and repaired safety net; direct job creation through publicly funded infrastructure projects; and new programs designed to provide an adequate guaranteed income for every American.” [Read more](#)
- **Boxed In: How a Criminal Record Keeps You Unemployed for Life.** The Nation. 11/5/2013. “The millions of people who likely get locked out of the job market as a result of their records aren’t just sitting around. They’re churning through formal and informal part-time work, fueling a shadow economy akin to the one that often exploits undocumented workers. In this case, the problem isn’t the papers that workers lack, but those they can’t shed. The impact is similar nonetheless: billions of dollars in lost productivity, forfeited tax revenue for cities, rampant exploitation by employers, and a cascading series of bans and exclusions from civic life that make it almost impossible for these workers to achieve a stable economic existence. And all of these problems are concentrated in already struggling black and Latino neighborhoods.” [Read more](#)
- **Business Support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act: Fact Not Fiction.** Center for American Progress. 11/5/2013. “Five key facts about the business case for protections for LGBT workers [here.](#)”
- **Chief Health Officers, Women, Are in Pain.** Huffington Post. 8/26/2013. “Women are the chief health officers of their families and in their communities. But stress is on the rise for women. It is indeed economics, social policies and politics that directly shape the state of American women’s health: the lagging economy and wage gaps for women; social policies that don’t sufficiently support caregiving (especially as the sandwich generation gets increasingly squeezed) and early-childhood education; politics that muddy the definition of “women’s health” and the essential benefits included in the Affordable Care Act.” [Read more](#)

- **Childhood Maltreatment Can Leave Scars in the Brain.** National Public Radio. 11/4/2013. “Maltreatment during childhood can lead to long-term changes in brain circuits that process fear, researchers say. This could help explain why children who suffer abuse are much more likely than others to develop problems like anxiety and depression later on.” [Read more](#)
- **Cut in Food Stamps Forces Hard Choices on Poor.** New York Times. 11/08/2013. “The reduction in benefits has affected more than 47 million people like Mr. Simmons. It is the largest wholesale cut in the program since Congress passed the first Food Stamps Act in 1964 and touches about one in every seven Americans.” [Read more](#)
- **Do Women Everywhere Suck at Their Jobs?** Slate. 11/4/2013. “Studies show that women tend to attribute their successes to external factors—luck or outside help—while men chalk up their achievements to inner qualities like grit or talent...ladies, long characterized as passive and valued for inert traits like beauty, are still expected to arrive at their victories effortlessly. Unlike men, they can’t let the world see them sweat or grind; so when they have to *work* to accomplish things. Thanks to some combination of these terrible puzzle pieces, the psyche of the professional woman sounds like something out of Hobbes: fragile, insecure, self-brutalizing, and anxious.” [Read more](#)
- **Five Reason Voter Identification Bill Disproportionately Impact Women.** The Washington Post. 11/5/2013. “There is statistical evidence that women are more likely than men to not have valid identification at the polls. That’s because women make up larger shares of just about every one of the sub-groups that are least likely to have a current, valid identification. [Here](#) are the groups most likely to be impacted...”
- **Florida School District Trying to Curb its School-to-Prison-Pipeline.** National Public Radio. 11/5/2013. “...In Florida although African-American kids make up just 40 percent of the school district's population, they account for 71 percent of the school arrests. Broward County is re-evaluating its zero tolerance disciplinary policies. And officials in Broward credit Clayton County, Ga. with leading the way. School districts in Wichita, Kan., Columbus, Ohio, and Birmingham, Ala., are just a few of many already following suit.” [Read more](#)
- **Germany Has an Official Third Gender.** The Atlantic. 11/7/2013. “A new law in Germany creates a third sex category on birth records. It could seem like an obvious solution to some problems of intersex: If some babies are born with bodies that are neither clearly male nor female, then it seems there should be some category beside “male” or “female.”” [Read more](#)
- **Here’s the Funny Thing About Black Women on ‘SNL.’** National Public Radio. 11/2/2013. “Bringing diversity to corners of life where it doesn't come naturally is often hard, requiring specific effort and sustained work. In other words, it's time executive producer Lorne Michaels and company made a mission of bringing a black woman into the fold.” [Read more](#)
- **How States Actively Prevent People From Learning About Healthcare Plans.** The Atlantic. 11/7/2013. “Four states bar navigators from giving advice about the benefits, terms, and features of a particular health plan.” [Read more](#)
- **In Public Education, Edge Still Goes to Rich.** New York Times. 11/6/2013. “The bottom line is that the vast majority of O.E.C.D. countries either invest equally into every student or disproportionately more into disadvantaged students. The U.S. is one of the few countries doing the opposite. The inequity of education finance in the United States is a feature of the system, not a bug, stemming from its great degree of decentralization and its reliance on local property taxes.” [Read more](#)

- **Policy Change is Key If We Want to Reduce Preventable Deaths.** Huffington Post. 9/23/2013. "People living in poor states and counties have double the rate of preventable death from heart disease as those who live in wealthier areas. African-Americans are twice as likely as whites, and men more than twice as likely as women, to die from preventable cardiovascular disease. These kinds of health disparities are not simple accidents of genetics or geography. There are, in essence, two Americas -- one with easier access to conditions that lead to good health, the other struggling to survive amidst an ocean of social problems that make healthy living a daunting quest." [Read more](#)
- **Poverty in America is Mainstream.** New York Times. 11/2/2013. "We currently expend among the fewest resources within the industrialized countries in terms of pulling families out of poverty and protecting them from falling into it. And the United States is one of the few developed nations that does not provide universal health care, affordable child care, or reasonably priced low-income housing. As a result, our poverty rate is approximately twice the European average." [Read more](#)
- **Renowned Economist Chetty Draws on His Experience As Former Area Resident.** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. 11/5/2013. "The bottom line for Milwaukee is that, unfortunately at the moment, it is not a very high-opportunity place for those with low incomes," he said. "If you start out in a family where the parents are in the bottom fifth of U.S. income distribution, your chance of a child reaching the top 20% is only 5.6% ... far lower than many, many other cities in the United States." [Read more](#)
- **Social Determinants: Low Income Second Leading Cause of Death in Canada.** National Union of Public and General Employees (Canada). 11/4/2013. "If low income was considered a disease causing death, it would rank second in Canada to cancer, says Dr. James Dunn." [Read more](#)
- **The Workforce is Even More Divided By Race Than You Think.** The Atlantic. 11/6/2013. "The labor market is stratified, if not calcified, by race, with whites seeing higher wages and lower unemployment, while blacks and Hispanics cluster in lower-paying jobs. Blacks and Hispanics, who make up about one-quarter of the workforce, represent 44 percent of the country's high school dropouts and just 15 percent of its bachelor's earners. Until we can close the difference between those numbers, it's unlikely that the workforce's unyielding racial stratification will improve." [Read more](#)
- **Why Are American Schools Still Segregated?** The Atlantic. 11/5/2013. "A new study offers two answers: White people are making up a smaller percentage of the population than they used to, and different races are living in different school districts." [Read more](#)
- **World Health Organization: Unemployed Youth in Britain Are a Public Health Time Bomb.** The Telegraph (UK). 10/30/2013. "I would say to any government that cares about the health of its population: look at the impact of their policies on the lives people are able to lead and, more importantly, at the impact on inequality... There needs to be a broad range of social policies, including improvements in every child's start to life, adequate social protection that can act as a buffer against low income over the life-course, and provide a minimum standard for healthy living." [Read more](#)

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

- **Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Profile: Social, Economic, and Educational Factors that Impact Health.** Wisconsin Center for Health Equity. 2013. "This HW2020 Profile is designed to provide background information leading to collective action and results. It was prepared by the Wisconsin Center for Health Equity (Koltun R, and Swain G) with review and input by the HW2020 Focus Area

Strategic Team and the Wisconsin Minority Health Leadership Council – Executive Committee.”  
[More here](#)

- **National High School Benchmarks: Fall 2013 Report.** National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. [Read more](#)
- **US Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health.** Institute of Medicine. January 2013. [Read more](#)
- **The First Eight Years: Giving Kids A Foundation For a Lifetime of Success.** The Annie E. Casey Foundation. November 2013. “A strong and prosperous society flourishes when there is a commitment to the care, health and education of its youngest children. The findings in this policy report suggest that high-quality early childhood programs that include supports for families have a powerful and lasting impact on children as they progress through school and into adulthood.” [Read more](#)
- **Tortured and Detained: Survivor Stories of US Immigration Detention.** The Center for Victims of Torture, Torture Abolition Survivor Support Coalition, International, and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. November 2013. “This report offers several recommendations of steps that Congress, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice can take to mitigate the harmful impact of detention on survivors of torture and improve the immigration detention system overall.” [More here](#)

#### **Websites:**

- **Roots of Health Inequity online course.** National Association of County and City Health Officials. “This course provides an online learning environment from which to explore root causes of inequity in the distribution of disease, illness, and death. Funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health, its audience is primarily the local public health workforce. It seeks to ground participants in the concepts and strategies that could lead to effective action.” [See more](#)

#### **Webinars & Videos:**

- **Inequality for All.** A film by Robert Reich, Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration. “One of the best ways to help people understand the challenges we face, is with a movie that can grab an audience and move them to action. And this movie will do exactly that.” [More here](#)
- **Promise Zones: Rebuilding Communities for Health Equity.** Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Policy Link. November 13<sup>th</sup>, 3-4:15 CST. “In this Web Forum, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and PolicyLink will discuss their partnership on raising public awareness about a new initiative—Promise Zones, in which the federal government will partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and improve public safety. The Obama Administration will designate 20 communities over the next four years – including five this year – with an intensive and layered approach to revitalizing communities.” [Register here](#)
- **Social Media, Public Health and the Social Determinants of Health.** National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health. Nov 12, 2013 1-2:30pm. Building on discussions with members of the Health Equity Clicks: online community, and through interaction with webinar participants, we

will explore the following questions: How are public health organizations using social media to share evidence about the social determinants of health, and engage others in this work? What strategies can be used to capture and evaluate these efforts? [Register here](#)

- **Spotlight on Poverty Webcast: Interview with Governor Jack Markell of Delaware.** “Gov. Markell discusses financial capability initiatives and the financial empowerment program called “Stand By Me” as a key initiative of his administration. This project is a joint project of Delaware and the United Way of Delaware.” [Watch 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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:

- **Lessons from the Black Panther Party’s Health Activism.** Professor Nelson, Columbia University. Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm, UW Madison Social Sciences building 8417. “The Black Panthers are remembered for their revolutionary rhetoric and militant action, but they were also engaged in a broader struggle for social justice in health. Its network of free health clinics, its campaign to raise awareness about genetic disease, and its challenges to medical discrimination, was an expression of its political philosophy and the recognition that poor blacks were both underserved by mainstream medicine and overexposed to its harms.”
- **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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. [Details here](#)