



## Articles:

- **A Tool Against Poverty (INFOGRAPHIC).** NY Times. 12/10/2013. “The minimum wage has lost much of its power to lift workers out of poverty.” [See here](#)
- **Gender Inequality in Film By the Numbers (INFOGRAPHIC).** Huffington Post. 11/29/2013. “The war against gender inequality in film rages on with the New York Film Academy's latest findings. The school compiled data regarding the depiction of women in the top 500 movies from 2007 to 2012. The results are, unfortunately, in line with the continued rumblings emerging from the industry as of late, and found that 70 percent of the speaking roles in 2012's 100 highest-grossing movies belonged to men.” [See infographic here](#)
- **Helping Brazil’s Poor Heal at Home.** New York Times. 12/11/2013. “We often hear about the harmful effects of poverty on health, particularly the health of [children](#). But we hear less about the decisive role health plays in triggering, or exacerbating, poverty. [One program] assists families with food and medicine, vocational training, housing assistance, legal support, psychological counseling, health lectures and lots of emotional support — but it’s all focused on helping mothers to advance step by step toward their own goals. This is an approach that could certainly be useful wherever urban poverty tends to be quite deep.” [Read more](#)
- **How US Schools Misteach History of Racial Segregation.** Washington Post. 12/13/2013. “The myth of *de facto* segregation denies this recent history and prevents us from adopting policies to undo it. If we understood the important role that our government played in segregating our nation, we would feel a greater obligation to press our government to integrate it. But if we believe that segregation was an unintended byproduct of private forces, it is too easy to say there is little now that can be done about it.” [Read more](#)
- **Invisible Child—Girl in the Shadows: Dasani’s Homeless Life** (5 part series). NY Times. Dec 2013. “Cities across the nation have become flash points of polarization, as one population has bounced back from the recession while another continues to struggle. One in five American children is now living in poverty, giving the United States the highest child poverty rate of any developed nation except for Romania....This bodes poorly for the future. Decades of research have shown the staggering societal costs of children in poverty. They grow up with less education and lower earning power. They are more likely to have drug addiction, psychological trauma and disease, or wind up in prison. Dasani does not need the proof of abstract research. All of these plights run through her family. Her future is further threatened by the fact of her homelessness, which has been shown, even in short spells, to bring disastrous consequences.” [Read her story](#)
- **Poverty Conditions May Hinder Early Brain Development, UW Madison Study Suggests.** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. 12/12/2013. “By age 4, children in families living with incomes under 200% of the federal poverty line have less gray matter - brain tissue critical for processing of information and execution of actions - than kids growing up in families with higher incomes, according to the research.” [Read more](#)

- **Shifting Gears to Make Bike Sharing More Accessible.** National Public Radio. 12/12/2013. “Bike sharing programs have popped up [all over]...But the people who arguably need these bikes the most are often the least likely to access them. The users so far tend to be young, male and wealthier than the rest of the population.” [Read more](#)
- **The Case for a Local Minimum Wage.** The Atlantic. 12/10/2013. “Some business owners and conservative economists argue that raising the minimum wage will drive up prices and could force some people out of work. But raising the minimum wage can help the economy in other ways...one study revealed a hypothetical 10 percent hike in the minimum wage would have no statistically significant negative effects on restaurant or retail industry employment. And a forthcoming Department of Labor study found that, on an aggregate level, this same increase in the minimum wage reduces poverty by about 2 percent.” [Read more](#)
- **The Effects of Poverty on Childhood Brain Development: The Mediating Effect of Caregiving and Stressful Life Events.** JAMA Pediatrics. Dec 2013. “Poverty was associated with smaller white and cortical gray matter and hippocampal and amygdala volumes. The effects of poverty on hippocampal volume were mediated by caregiving support/hostility on the left and right, as well as stressful life events on the left.” [Read more](#)
- **This is How We Became Plagued By Perpetual Inequality, in 1 Flowchart.** Huffington Post. 12/5/2013. “No other nation in the developing world creates income inequality quite like us...So how did we get here? And why should we believe such extreme levels of inequality are here to stay? The left-leaning Center for American Progress threw this informative flowchart together to help you understand.” [See infographic here](#)
- **Time for Paid Leave.** Early Opportunities, LLC. 12/12/2013. “Policymakers are beginning to acknowledge just how important the first weeks and months of a child’s life are to laying the foundation for future success. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Rosa DeLauro have introduced legislation that would take an important step forward for families, businesses, and our economy. The Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act of 2013 (FAMILY Act) would create a national paid family and medical leave insurance program, enabling workers to take up to 12 partially paid weeks away from work to recover from serious illness, attend to a sick family member, or bond with and care for a new child.” [Read more](#)
- **US Poverty Rate Decreased Over Past Half Century Thanks to Safety Net Programs.** Washington Post. 12/9/2013. “One of the most striking findings for the researchers was how poverty stayed stable during the financial crisis and Great Recession thanks to a dramatic expansion of the safety net, including enhanced unemployment benefits, more-generous food stamps and tax credits for the poor.” [Read more](#)
- **What Obama Left Out of His Inequality Speech: Regulation.** NY Times. 12/8/2013. “History tells us that in periods when protective governmental institutions are weak, irresponsible companies tend to abuse their economic freedom in ways that harm ordinary workers and consumers. The victims are often less affluent citizens who lack the power either to protect themselves from harm or to hold companies accountable in the courts. We are in such a period today.” [Read more](#)
- **When Buying a Home is Too Costly and The Rent is Too Damn High.** National Public Radio. 12/10/2013. “According to a new report from Harvard University's, a growing number of



Americans are currently facing a different kind of housing crunch. Now not only is homeownership out of reach, but the monthly rent swallows ever larger portions of their paychecks. The study found that more than half of all black and Latino renters pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent, which is the traditional threshold for housing affordability. Spend more than that percentage of your salary on housing and you're likely to find yourself skimping on other expenses." [Read more](#)

- **With New Formula, an Official Helped Unmask the Face of Poverty in New York.** NY Times. 12/8/2013. "What Dr. Levitan did was bold and straightforward: He threw out the federal poverty measure used by the Census Bureau in favor of a new one that takes into account the high cost of living in this city, quantifying for the first time the toll of expenses like housing, medical costs and child care. The new methodology, introduced in 2008 and based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, also factored in noncash benefits such as food stamps and tax credits." [Read more](#)
- **3 Charts That Prove Anti-Poverty Programs Actually Work.** The Atlantic. 12/10/2013. "We obviously can't go back in time and change how we thought about poverty prior to modern efforts to measure it in a new, more accurate way. But we could use this evidence to think today about the value of federal programs meant to help the poor. Particularly while we're debating whether or not to cut them." [See charts](#)

## Policy, Reports & Tools:

- **Confronting the Child Care Eligibility Maze: Simplifying and Aligning with Other Work Supports.** The Urban Institute & CLASP. Dec 2013. "This paper provides an overview of steps that state child care agencies can take to reach the new vision described above, with practical examples of policy changes that states have taken and can take to move in this direction. It is the result of the Work Support Strategies (WSS) Initiative, a multiyear effort that is working with a select group of states to help them design, test, and implement more effective, streamlined, and integrated approaches to delivering key supports for low-income working families (including health coverage, nutrition benefits, and child care subsidies)." [Read more](#)
- **Health of Wisconsin Report Card: 2013.** UW Madison Population Health Institute. Dec 2013. "Wisconsin's grade for overall health has remained the same since 2007—a B-. The health disparities grade of D in 2013 is a reflection that Wisconsin could be doing more to reduce health disparities. As with the previous versions, the Health of Wisconsin Report Card 2013 continues to draw attention to the weaknesses of our current efforts to promote the health of all Wisconsin residents." [Read more](#)
- **On Pay Gap, Millennial Women Near Parity—For Now: Despite Gains, Many see Roadblocks Ahead.** Pew Research Center. 12/11/2013. "As Millennial women come of age in the "lean in" era they share many of the same views and values about work as their male counterparts. They want a job they enjoy that provides security and flexibility, and they place relatively little importance on high pay. At the same time, however, young working women are less likely than men to aspire to top management jobs: 34% say they are not interested in becoming a boss or top manager; only 24% of young men say the same. The gender gap on

this question is even wider among working adults in their 30s and 40s, the age at which many women face the trade-offs that go with work and motherhood.” [Read full report](#)

- **Out of Many, One: Uniting the Changing Faces of America.** Generations United. Dec 2013. “Today we are experiencing a demographic transformation that pushes this narrative further. First, we are living longer and healthier lives. By 2043, one in five U.S. residents will be age 65 or older. Second, we are more racially and ethnically diverse. This report explores ways these demographic changes can catalyze the opportunities for all generations. Many of our policy and action frameworks are still based on siloed group identities that separate ages and races whose fates are, in reality, interdependent.” [Read more](#)
- **Through the Eyes of a Child: Life with a Mother in Prison.** Volunteers of America. Dec 2013. “Between 1991 and midyear 2007, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that the number of mothers in federal and state prisons had increased a staggering 122 percent. During the same period, the number of children with mothers in prison had more than doubled, rising to almost 150,000 children nationwide. Most children of incarcerated parents are at risk of poverty, instability and problem behaviors, but children with incarcerated mothers are especially vulnerable. This report takes a deeper look into the children’s experiences, summarizing and reflecting on what it has been like for these children to live in a kinship family while their mother is in prison.” [Read more](#)

#### **Websites:**

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

- **Streamlining Childcare Subsidies: Better for Families and State Agencies.** Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. Jan.10<sup>th</sup>, 2014; 2-3pm CST. “Work Supports Strategies (WSS) is a multi-year, multi-foundation funded effort to design, test, and implement more effective, streamlined, and integrated approaches to delivering supports for low-income working families, including health coverage, nutrition assistance, and child care subsidies. Six states are currently serving as pilot sites. The audio call will also examine issues such as how a conservative state embraced safety net programs; the effectiveness of particular streamlining strategies; and what lessons from WSS can be applied to child care and other programs in the other 44 states. [Register here](#)
- **The Opportunity: Creating a Culture of Health.** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. 1:30pm. “Building on its original work from 2009—which helped advance a national movement to address non-medical factors that affect our health—the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America will release new recommendations on a webinar event featuring Commission Co-Chairs Mark McClellan and Alice Rivlin, Commissioners will offer recommendations covering three key areas: Prioritizing investments in America’s youngest children; Encouraging leaders in different sectors to work together to create communities where healthy decisions are possible; and Challenging health professionals and health care institutions to expand their focus from treating illness to helping people live healthy lives. [Register 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.](#)