

## Health Equity Resources

Week of: 12.6.2013



### Articles:

- **A Battle for Fair Housing Still Raging, But Mostly Forgotten.** National Public Radio. 12/2/2013. “The very same people who promoted and enforced racial segregation by law, once the laws changed, they said it was wrong to use race to undo that segregation...We are a society that largely believes that the struggle for racial equality ended with the laws passed during the civil rights movement and there was nothing left to be done. I think it is easy for many Americans to believe that laws on the books make us post-racial, even if the reality is decidedly racialized. The Supreme Court in decisions beginning in the early '70s and continuing through this year has largely confirmed that belief by its rulings.” [Read more](#)
- **How the Poor Are Squeezed Out of the Most Affordable Housing.** The Atlantic. 12/2013. “In part, what's happened is that families who used to be middle-class are increasingly looking for cheaper affordable rental housing, crowding out the most low-income from the units they have the best chance of affording. Housing aid also hasn't kept pace with the size of the population that needs it. Today, only one in four households eligible for a rental subsidy is able to get one. The real issue is not that there's less affordable housing today for the poor than there used to be; it's that there are many more poor to speak of.” [Read more](#)
- **Is Inequality Bad for Economic Growth?** The Washington Post. 12/5/2013. “In his paper, Bernstein ultimately concludes that there still "is not enough concrete proof to lead objective observers to unequivocally conclude that inequality has held back growth," although he also notes that much of the research is "relatively new" — and there's a lot more work that could be done. That said, Bernstein also points out that this isn't the only reason to care about inequality. Even if the rising gap between rich and poor didn't affect GDP in the slightest, it still might affect other things, like social mobility.” [Read more](#)
- **Minimum Wage Was Once Enough to Keep a Family of 3 Out of Poverty.** The Atlantic. 12/4/2013. “Since the 1980s, the federal minimum wage has kept pace with neither inflation, nor the rise of the average worker's paycheck. That means that while a federal minimum wage in 1968 could have lifted a family of three above the poverty line, now it can't even do that for a parent with one child, working full-time, 40 hours a week and 52 weeks a year (yes, this calculation assumes that the parent takes no time off).” [Read more](#)
- **Social Determinants of Health: Us and Them.** American Journal of Preventative Medicine. 11/27/2013. “The United Kingdom and the U.S. present strikingly different approaches to the social determinants of health (and illness)...Britain is proving that those working within the health system

have an important (but often underutilized) role in reducing health disparities through action on the social determinants of health.” [Read more](#)

- **The Moral and Economic Imperative to Raise the Minimum Wage.** The Atlantic. 12/4/2013. “a D.C. woman who is struggling to feed herself and her daughter, but calculated that she would need a job paying \$15 an hour to do better. That is an artifact of poorly constructed, patchwork policies. Liberal cant notwithstanding, there is a culture of dependency that can discourage work among many. But the fact is most people out of work want to work—it defines their self-worth. How about a new approach?”...[Read more](#)
- **The Social Science Behind Obama’s Economic Mobility Speech.** The Atlantic. 12/5/2013. “But here’s an important point. The decades-long shifts in the economy have hurt all groups: poor and middle class; inner city and rural folks; men and women; and Americans of all races... So if we’re going to take on growing inequality and try to improve upward mobility for all people, we’ve got to move beyond the false notion that this is an issue exclusively of minority concern. And we have to reject a politics that suggests any effort to address it in a meaningful way somehow pits the interests of a deserving middle class against those of an undeserving poor in search of handouts.” [Read more](#)
- **Why It’s Harder to Move Up in America’s Segregated Cities.** The Atlantic. 12/4/2013. “All in all, the study finds the metropolitan areas where different economic groups live largely in separate neighborhoods also tend to have the lowest levels of economic mobility. Children raised in overwhelmingly affluent neighborhoods, with little exposure to poorer families, grow up to be affluent adults; children raised in poor neighborhoods, isolated from the more successful, don’t.” [Read more](#)
- **Who Belongs to the Lower Middle Class, and Why Does it Matter?** The New Yorker. 12/4/2013. “In recent years, the cultural conversation about inequality has focused on the rich and poor themselves, the one per cent versus the ninety-nine per cent, the bankers versus the Zuccotti Park campers. But the problem—as the Hamilton Project’s charts make clear—is structural. Over time, we have set up an economic system that breeds inequality. The good news is that the U.S. and many other countries also employ a system, called democracy, in which everyone—the ninety-nine per cent and the one per cent together—can demand that the government work to fix the problem.” [Read more](#)

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

- **Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Young Families.** National Human Services Assembly. Dec. 2013. “Over 1.4 million youth ages 15–24 are out-of-school and out-of-work (OSOW) and are raising dependent children. When youth are out of the education system, lack early work experience, and cannot find employment, the likelihood is poor that they will have the means to support themselves and the needs of their children. Too often, this traps their families in a cycle of poverty for generations. [Read more](#)

- **Building the Science for a Population Health Movement (Discussion paper).** Institute of Medicine. 12/4/2013. “The authors identify several areas where more research is needed, including: understanding how social and economic disadvantage "gets under the skin" to shape health outcomes, learning how to "isolate the effects of a single aspect of the environment from the multiple confounding effects of the social system in which it is embedded," and finding explanations for why we are seeing increasing mortality among those lacking a high school degree, and especially among white women.” [Read more](#)
- **2014 Hunger Report: Ending Hunger in America.** Bread for the World Institute. December 2014. “The 2014 Hunger Report, Ending Hunger in America, urges President Obama and Congress to lead the country in setting a goal to end hunger by 2030, and it offers a four-part plan to accomplish this: 1) a jobs agenda, 2) a stronger safety net, 3) human capital development, and 4) public-private partnerships to support innovative community-led initiatives against hunger. The report also calls on the U.S. government to support international efforts to end hunger and poverty worldwide.” [Read more](#)
- **No Place Like Home: Addressing Poverty and Homeless in the United States.** Center for American Progress. December 2013. “This report provides a summary of the state of homelessness and poverty in the United States; gives an overview of federal and local efforts to end homelessness; and offers recommendations for serving homeless individuals and families, increasing access to affordable housing, and addressing income inequality.” [Read more](#)
- **Raising the Minimum Wage Would Help, Not Hurt, Our Economy.** Center for American Progress. 12/3/2013. “Raising the minimum wage would be good for our economy. A higher minimum wage not only increases workers’ incomes—which is sorely needed to boost demand and get the economy going—but it also reduces turnover, cuts the costs that low-road employers impose on taxpayers, and pushes businesses toward a high-road, high-human-capital model.” [Read more](#)
- **The Economic Status of Women of Color (Fact sheets).** Dept. of Labor-Women’s Bureau. “Facts cannot completely describe the challenges faced by working women. But facts are important in painting a picture of the lives of working women and informing policies and actions needed. These fact sheets provide a picture of Black, Hispanic, and Asian working women in the United States in the [following areas](#).”
- **The Impact of Inequality on Growth.** Center for American Progress. Dec 2013. “The review of the evidence suggests that while some of the traditional channels by which inequality affects growth have solid theoretical backing, empirical evidence is elusive. Intuitive and historically verified growth-accounting methods predict that if inequality, through its impact on diminished educational opportunity, leads to a less-well-educated workforce against a counterfactual with less inequality, growth will be diminished. But for a number of reasons stated in the text, there is no correlation, even with the requisite lags between trends in inequality and trends in labor quality.” [Read more](#)
- **To Prevent Poverty, Reduce the Penalty for Single-Motherhood.** Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. 11/26/2013. “The problem of poor children in single-parent families is a problem of poverty much more than it is one of family structure. A generation of research shows that the

primary source of trouble in these families is low income. Too often these families lack the material resources necessary to provide a secure and stable environment for their children. Additional challenges, such as low parental involvement or supervision, largely result from time poverty—another consequence of low income for the parents in poor families.” [Read more](#)

- **The Impact of Redistributive Tax and Transfer Programs on Risk-Taking Behavior and Labor Mobility.** Center for American Progress. Dec 2013. “Income redistribution in the form of tax and transfer programs provide social insurance and protection against many types of risks over a person’s lifetime and over his or her career that are not always provided through private insurance. these findings suggest that a more progressive tax system and increased access to medical services and cash transfers tend to encourage labor-market mobility and afford individuals, particularly the poor, with the possibility of changing occupations, industries, and locations.” [Read more](#)
- **Trickle-Down Economics and Broken Promises: How Inequality is Holding Back Our Economy.** Center for American Progress. 12/4/2013. “Americans have seen income inequality rise over the past few decades, yet contrary to long-held trickle-down beliefs that rising inequality is not broadly benefiting society by bringing with it stronger economic growth. The research presented here demonstrates that inequality is not necessary for sustained economic growth and that inequality may actually dampen growth. This flies in the face of a core tenet of trickle-down theory, which erroneously vouches for the necessity of extreme inequality to generate growth.” [Read more](#)

#### Websites:

- **Spanish/English Radio Spots Highlight Community Health.** CA4Health (California for Health). This month, Public Health Institute’s CA4Health launches a radio campaign in partnership with the California Broadcasters Association (CBA). The CBA represents more than 1,000 licensed broadcasters in California, and will broadcast an English and Spanish language radio campaign in support of CA4Health’s four strategic direction goals. The campaign will air on CBA member stations across California that reach people living and working in CA4Health’s rural and smaller counties. The 30- and 60-second spots were produced by Youth Speaks Media Solutions. The spots direct listeners to CA4Health’s new public website, where they will be able to connect with local efforts. [See more here](#)

#### Webinars & Videos:

- **Building an All-In Nation: A View From the American Public.** Center for American Progress and PolicyLink. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 11-12pm CST. “The Center for American Progress and PolicyLink commissioned a multilingual nationwide survey to answer these important questions. The results were surprising – and provide valuable insights for progressive advocates as they work to advance an equity agenda. [Join this webinar](#) to find out what we learned, and what it means for your work.
- **Gen Silent (Documentary).** “Gen Silent is the critically-acclaimed documentary that asks six LGBT seniors if they will hide their friends, their spouses- their entire lives in order to survive in the care system. Their surprising decisions are captured through intimate access to their day-to-day lives over the course of a year. It puts a face on what experts in the film call an epidemic: gay, lesbian,

bisexual or transgender older people so afraid of discrimination by caregivers or bullying by other seniors that many simply go back into the closet.” [Watch here](#)—STREAMING FREE.

- **Legacies of the War on Poverty, Lessons for the Future.** Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> 8-10am CST. National Poverty Center (Univ of Michigan), Russell Sage Foundation and Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. “January 8, 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s declaration of “unconditional War on Poverty.” Today, 15 percent of Americans live in poverty today and yet no Administration or Congress since the Johnson era has made fighting poverty a top priority. Exactly 50 years after President Johnson’s declaration, you are invited to join us for a forum that will offer diverse perspectives on the effects of anti-poverty policies in the U.S. in areas such as educational attainment, employment, earnings and living standards and health over the past five decades and in the years to come.” [Webinar RSVP 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 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.](#)