



Articles:

- **Black History Month Isn't Making Life Better for Black Americans.** The Atlantic. 2/12/2014. "As Black History Month ambles on, the heroic contributions and monumental achievements of black Americans take center stage. We remember these champions and the bouts they fought, but they're presented as extraordinary human beings—legends whose anomalous stories don't neatly translate to everyday interracial encounters. As I move around the country, the behavior that greets me is usually more influenced by the black faces that fill crime-ridden local newscasts than the exceptionality of Charles Drew, James Baldwin, or Thurgood Marshall. The great black women and men who populate Black History Month celebrations feel like characters in a novel—a world away from the black guy a few steps behind you in a barren parking garage...Establishing Black History month was a significant achievement, but the next step is to snatch history from the wind and plant it in the personal narratives of black Americans." [Read more](#)
- **Can You Live on the Minimum Wage?** New York Times. 2/8/2014. "More than 4.8 million workers now earn the lowest legal pay. [This](#) calculator, for a single childless worker, shows the hard choices that have to be made living on the smallest paychecks."
- **Fight Over Minimum Wage Illustrates Web of Industry Ties.** New York Times. 2/9/2014. "[This] campaign illustrates how groups — conservative and liberal — are again working in opaque ways to shape hot-button political debates, like the one surrounding minimum wage, through organizations with benign-sounding names that can mask the intentions of their deep-pocketed patrons." [Read more](#)
- **For Lower-Income Students, Snow Days Can Be Hungry Days.** National Public Radio. 2/10/2014. "On an individual level, when forecasts predict bad weather, families who are food insecure do what everyone does: They stock up on items ahead of time. But when you're working with limited resources, this may not be much of an option. If the closure comes toward the end of the month, many lower-income families have run low on benefits by that point. Sometimes, parents skip meals so their children can eat. And not eating breakfast is known to affect student achievement and behavior, such as tardiness, acting out and attention in class." [Read more](#)
- **How Inequality Hollows Out the Soul.** New York Times. 2/2/2014. "One of the important effects of wider income differences between rich and poor is to intensify the issues of dominance and subordination, and feelings of superiority and inferiority...although there is always some connection between people's income and the social class to which they feel they belong, the match between the two is closer in societies with bigger income differences between rich and poor...It is hard to avoid the conclusion that we become less nice people in more unequal societies. But we are less nice and less happy: Greater inequality redoubles status anxiety, damaging our mental health and distorting our personalities — wherever we are on the social spectrum." [Read more](#)

- **How “When Harry Met Sally” Explains Inequality.** The Atlantic. 2/3/2014. “*When Harry Met Sally* tells us something about why the rich have been getting so much richer than everyone else...High-earning college grads marrying each other, which has increased inequality by 25 percent. So what? It's not like we should worry about women working more, and people marrying who they love...Harry and Sally are a cute couple, but they should probably be paying higher marginal tax rates.” [Read more](#)
- **It Takes More Than a Produce Isle to Refresh a Food Desert.** National Public Radio. 2/10/2014. “The presumption is, if you build a store, people are going to come...what's found is we see no effect of [a] store on fruit and vegetable consumption... Lots more intervention is needed to change behavior. Many people, particularly in low-income food deserts, just aren't used to buying or preparing healthy meals — they haven't had the opportunity, until now.” [Read more](#)
- **Jails Enroll Inmates in Obamacare to Pass Hospital Costs to U.S.** Business Week. 2/6/2014. “At least six states and counties from Maryland to Oregon's Multnomah are getting inmates coverage under Obamacare and its expansion of Medicaid, the federal and state health-care program for the poor. The fledgling movement would shift to the federal government some of the more than \$6.5 billion in annual state costs for treating prisoners. Proponents say it also will make recidivism rarer, because inmates released with coverage are more likely to get treatment for mental illness, substance abuse and other conditions that can lead them to crime.” [Read more](#)
- **Madison Launching Initiative to Wipe Out Racial Inequities in Policies, Projects.** The Cap Times. 2/5/2014. “As part of Madison's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, which launched last summer, officials have been looking at whether city policies and initiatives are equitable in practice. The city has made progress over the years, Soglin said, but considering race equity is not yet institutionalized.” [Read more](#)
- **Maps of Jogging Routes Reveal Cities Rich and Poor Neighborhoods.** Washington Post. 2/5/2014. “In many cases, the location of the routes corresponds well to wealthier neighborhoods in the cities mapped...These results are to be expected. People who can afford to do so tend to prefer living near parks and rivers, where runners also like to run, and the poor are less likely to be able to afford luxuries such as smart phones and fitness apps.” [See maps](#)
- **Political Values Influence People's Responses to Health Disparities Messages.** Medical Xpress. 2/10/2014. “Policymakers and advocates discussing health disparities in the United States would be wise to consider the political affiliation of their audience, suggests a new study published in the Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives...In their study, the scholars suggest that health communication messages that challenge or threaten notions of personal responsibility may activate reactance motivations, especially among subgroups that hold this value more highly.” [Read more](#)
- **Preschool is Important, but It's More Important for Poor Children.** Washington Post. 2/9/2014. “Public schools will continue to reinforce inequality and harden achievement gaps until gross disparities in children's early development are narrowed. But we must avoid squandering scarce dollars on full-day programs for children who gain little from preschool — essentially to buy the political support of their well-off parents. The rekindled push to expand preschool is welcome. But unless public dollars are focused on high-quality programs for poor families —



while bolstering the neighborhood organizations that serve them — good intentions will turn into dashed hopes.” [Read more](#)

- **Study: Stereotypes Drive Perceptions of Race.** National Public Radio. 2/11/2014. “[In a study looking at self-reported race] one year you might say someone is white, one year you might say someone is black. What she found was that the changes in classification were actually not random. They were driven by changes in the people's life circumstances and common racial stereotypes. When asked people to report their own race...was found that when people went to prison, they became more likely to think of themselves as black.” [Read more](#)
- **The Case for a Higher Minimum Wage.** New York Times. 2/9/2014. “As defined in the name of the law that established it — the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 — the minimum wage is a fundamental labor standard designed to protect workers, just as child labor laws and overtime pay rules do. Labor standards, like environmental standards and investor protections, are essential to a functional economy. Properly set and enforced, these standards check exploitation, pollution and speculation. In the process, they promote broad and rising prosperity, as well as public confidence. The minimum wage is specifically intended to take aim at the inherent imbalance in power between employers and low-wage workers that can push wages down to poverty levels. An appropriate wage floor set by Congress effectively substitutes for the bargaining power that low-wage workers lack.” [Read more](#)
- **The Global Map of Homophobia.** The Atlantic. 2/6/2014. “We looked broadly at the connection between attitudes toward gays and lesbians and key measures of economic and social progress. Attitudes towards gay and lesbian people are associated with a wide range of indicators of economic and social progress: level of entrepreneurship, overall well-being and life satisfaction, human development, and urbanization ... There is a close statistical correlation between tolerant attitudes towards gays and lesbians and economic output per person, the basic measure of economic development.” [See map here](#)
- **The Rise (and Rise and Rise) of the 0.01 Percent in America.** The Atlantic. 2/13/2014. “The rise of the rentiers is nothing new. What is new is the degree of financial globalization and liberalization that has supercharged the fortunes of the super-wealthy even beyond robber baron levels. But it's no mystery how to reverse this. It's a matter of setting better rules for markets and taxing earners at the top a bit more.” [Read more](#)
- **What Does Racism Have to Do With Gridlock? In Atlanta, Everything.** Slate. 1/31/2014. “Here is a region that even without freak snowstorms is choking on its own traffic, which has built its reputation on being a transportation hub, which is looking at a future when gas will never be less than \$3 a gallon again, and all voters could think about was how much they hated government and paying taxes.” [Read more](#)
- **Why the Republican Push for Black Voters is (Mostly) Doomed to Fail.** The Atlantic. 2/13/2014. “there’s a deeper problem with the GOP push to increase the number of blacks who vote Republican: It coincides with a GOP push to decrease the number of blacks who vote at all.

Over the last few years, Republicans have pushed an avalanche of voter-identification and registration laws that disproportionately prevent African Americans from exercising the franchise.” [Read more](#)

Policy, Reports & Tools:

- **Advancing Health Equity in Minnesota: Report to the Legislature.** Minnesota Department of Health. February 2014. “The 2013, Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to prepare a report on Advancing Health Equity in Minnesota. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Minnesota’s health disparities and health inequities, to identify as far as possible the inequitable conditions that produce health disparities, and to make recommendations to advance health equity in Minnesota.” [Read report here](#)
- **Building a Culture of Health: 2014 President’s Message.** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. February 2014. “This year’s President’s Message takes a closer look at our new vision—how we intend to help build a national movement to achieve it, and how building a culture of health will require us to think and work differently.” [Read here](#)
- **Expanding Federal Family and Medical Leave Coverage: Who Benefits From Changes in Eligibility Requirements?** Center for Economic and Policy Research. Feb 2014. “The Family and Medical Leave Act provides job-protected, unpaid leave to employees in firms with 50 or more employees. However, coverage and eligibility restrictions result in 49.3 million employees (44.1 percent) in the private sector being ineligible for leave in 2012. This paper looks at eligibility by demographic characteristics and finds that the probability of being eligible increases with educational attainment. We find that expanding FMLA coverage to smaller employers and to employees working fewer hours would increase access to job-protected leave for 1.4 million to 8.3 million more employees in the private sector. Women of childbearing age would especially benefit from an expansion in eligibility coverage.” [See more](#)
- **Family Matters: Caregiving in America.** Center for American Progress. 2/5/2014. “All Americans need care at some point in their lives, and there are currently 41.6 million family caregivers across the United States...The estimated economic contribution of unpaid family caregivers, approximately two-thirds of whom are women, was \$450 billion in 2009, up \$100 billion from 2006 and a number that is likely to grow as our population ages and lives longer. This issue brief will examine the breadth of caregiving challenges facing many different communities—from families with aging relatives, to people with disabilities, to individuals dealing with their own illnesses, and more. It will highlight the diverse needs of families and caregivers alike and explore what steps we can take—now and in the future—to find responsive solutions that work for everyone.” [Read more](#)
- **Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 State Baseline and Health Disparities Report.** Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Released 2/11/2014. The report provides baseline data for Wisconsin’s state health plan—Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, and provides information to document a range of health disparities for populations and communities in Wisconsin. Given its scope, the report encompasses 26 chapters and more than 1,100 pages and is in chapter form in two formats. [See here.](#)
- **Low-Income Working Mothers and State Policy: Investing for a Better Economic Future.** The Working Poor Families Project. Winter 2013-2014. “Between 2007 and 2012, there was a four percentage-point increase in the share of female-headed working families that are low-



income. Addressing challenges specific to these families will increase their economic opportunity, boost the economy and strengthen the fabric of communities across the nation. In this brief, we highlight the latest data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey and recommend state government policies and actions that would facilitate the economic advancement of femaleheaded, low-income working families with children under age 18." [Read here](#)

- **Most See Inequality Growing, but Partisans Differ over Solutions. 54% Favor Taxing the Wealthy to Expand Aid to Poor.** Pew Research Center and USA Today. 1/23/2014. "The new national survey by the Pew Research Center and USA TODAY, conducted Jan. 15-19 among 1,504 adults, finds that 65% believe the gap between the rich and everyone else has increased in the last 10 years. This view is shared by majorities across nearly all groups in the public, including 68% of Democrats and 61% of Republicans. Yet there is a sharp disagreement over whether this gap needs government attention." [Read more](#)
- **Our Tax System Should Be a Tool to Fight Poverty—But Instead It's Pushing People Into It.** Spotlight on Poverty. 2/3/2014. "Efforts to use our tax system to address poverty are being threatened on two fronts. First at the federal level, there has been an escalation of misleading rhetoric designed to delegitimize the Earned Income tax Credit (EITC) and the progressive income tax more generally. Then at the state level, regressive tax systems are actually pushing low-income families into poverty. Astonishingly, policymakers in some states seem intent on exacerbating the problem." [See more here](#)
- **Tackling the Long-Term Unemployment Crisis: What the President, Congress and Business Leaders Should Do.** National Employment Law Project. January 2014. "It is clear that a falling unemployment rate and improving economic conditions are not translating into adequate job opportunities for millions of long-term unemployed job seekers. There are still nearly three unemployed workers for every one job opening, and as economic research and the experience of unemployed workers illustrate, jobless Americans are not sharing in the economic recovery because employers are disinclined to hire even well-qualified job applicants who have been out of work for six months or longer. [Here](#) are recommendations we are urging policymakers, business leaders, and lawmakers to adopt."
- **Redesigning and Expanding School Time to Support Common Core Implementation.** Center for American Progress. January 2014. "With the widespread adoption of the Common Core State Standards, public education in the United States is poised to take a major step forward in readying the next generation of Americans for success in higher education and the workforce. Implementation of the standards, as currently planned in 45 states and the District of Columbia, also means that the vast majority of students will soon be held to the highest set of English language arts and math literacy expectations in U.S. history. We strongly encourage states, districts, and schools to consider the benefits of expanding the school day or year to support teachers and students. As such, we offer [the following recommendations](#)."

- **The State of America's Children.** Children's Defense Fund. Jan 2014. "The greatest threat to America's economic, military and national security comes from no enemy without but from our failure, unique among high income nations, to invest adequately and fairly in the health, education and sound development of all of our young. We call on President Obama and America's political leaders in every party at every level to mount a long overdue, unwavering, and persistent war to prevent and eliminate child poverty and finish the task President Johnson and Dr. King began. Two- and three-year-olds have no politics and we must reject any leaders who for any reason play political football with the lives of millions of our children and our nation's future. If America is to lead in the 21st century world, we must reset our economic and moral compass." [Read more](#)
- **Treading Water in the Deep End: Findings from the 2014 Assets and Opportunity Scorecard.** CFED-Corporation for Enterprise Development. January 2014. "Five years into the economic recovery, most American families no longer live in fear of losing their jobs or their homes. Yet, these families continue to exist in a state of persistent financial insecurity, making it difficult to look beyond immediate needs and plan for a more secure future. While indicators like unemployment, foreclosure and credit card debt show a slow but steady decline, the percentage of people who do not have a personal financial safety net hasn't budged. Nearly half (44%) of households in the United States are "liquid asset poor," meaning they have less than three months' worth of savings." [More here](#)
- **10 Inequality Myths Debunked (INFOGRAPHIC).** Christian Science Monitor. 2/4/2014. [See here](#)

Websites:

- **Communities Taking Action: Profiles of Health Equity.** Prevention Institute. "Communities Taking Action is a collection of profiles that showcase successful community initiatives aimed at improving health equity. Promoting just and equitable health outcomes require social, cultural and physical environments that prevent illness and injury in the first place and a commitment to promoting racial and social justice. The profiles demonstrate how strong leadership, community engagement and advocacy, innovative thinking and changes in local policies and institutional practices can successfully converge to shape healthier, more equitable community environments." [See here](#)
- **National Diners Guide.** Restaurant Opportunities Centers United. 2014. "Unfortunately, the workers who cook, prepare, and serve restaurant goers suffer from poverty wages, a lack of basic benefits like paid sick days, and often have little or no chance to move up to better positions. Our National Diners' Guide provides information on wages, benefits, and the promotion practices of the most popular restaurants in America in at least 9 major cities across the country, from Los Angeles to D.C. to New York City." [See guide here](#)
- **Our Future, Together. Immigrants and the American Economy (Video and interactive tool).** Center for American Progress. "Baby Boomers, the largest generation of Americans, will continue to retire in unprecedented numbers, and today, one in four young people are from immigrant families. By 2030, immigrants and their children will play a big part in reshaping our workforce and filling the roles left by the Boomers. The interactive tool below allows you to explore the changes in workforce distribution of various generations and racial or ethnic groups between 1990 and 2030." [Play here](#)



- **The Next Step for Family Leave (INFOGRAPHIC).** Center for American Progress. “Making paid leave a reality for working Americans.” [See here](#)
- **U.S. Scores Low in Children’s Well-Being.** Gallup Poll. 1/23/2014. “Eighty percent of Americans in 2012 said most children in their country have the opportunity to learn and grow every day, while 66% said they are treated with dignity and respect. Although these figures might seem high, they are actually on the low end among 29 advanced economies where UNICEF studies children's well-being.” [See here](#)

Webinars, Recordings & Videos:

- **Inequality for All: The American Workforce [Documentary clip].** Film by Robert Reich: “I believe America could use a discussion about the future of the middle class and widening income inequality, but not in purely partisan terms. I think we’ve had enough of that. The film I hope we made is one that educates at the same time it inspires, and speaks to what we can hope for to make America better. That large, idea-driven story, for me, is as personal as it gets.” [Watch here](#)
- **Promise Zones. Going local: Place-Based Solutions to Combat Poverty.** PolicyLink. “On Tuesday, February 4, PolicyLink hosted a webinar where Angela Glover Blackwell spoke with the Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack about federal place-based programs as an effective means of reducing inequality and lifting communities out of poverty.” [Archived webinar here.](#)
- **The New Black: LGBT Rights and African American Communities.** California Newsreel. Coming April 2014. “This award-winning documentary boldly examines the controversial and challenging issues facing African American communities on gay civil rights, campaigns for/against marriage equality and in particular the role of faith institutions. The film makes a compelling case that the fight for LGBT rights in black communities is an extension of the Black Freedom Struggle.” [More here](#)
- **The One Thing Native Americans Don’t Call Themselves.** Colorlines. 1/31/2014. “Just two days away from Super Bowl Sunday, the National Congress of American Indians has a friendly reminder of what Natives call themselves—to drive the point home of what they do not.” [Watch here](#)
- **5 Things We Can Do to Cut Poverty Today.** Center for American Progress. 2/11/2014. “Economic inequality is rising and one in six Americans live in poverty. Here are five concrete steps we can take to significantly reduce poverty today.” [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](#)
- **Healthy Food for All Summit.** March 27th, 2014. Neenah, WI. “UW Cooperative Extension and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The Summit will feature a keynote by Madeleine Levin from Food, Research and Action Center (FRAC) in Washington D.C. and multiple tracks including: the role of schools, the relationship between hunger and obesity, barriers to food access, and hunger and health.” [Register here](#)
- **Health Impact Project: 2014 Call for Proposals.** Due April 2, 2014. “The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), promotes the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) and related approaches to help policy-makers in a wide range of fields incorporate health considerations into new policies, programs, plans, and projects, and make decisions that reduce unnecessary health risks, improve health, and decrease costs. This call for proposals (CFP) supports two types of initiatives.” [See 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](#)
- **White Privilege Conference.** March 26-March 29th, Madison, WI. “WPC is a conference that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world.” [Register here](#)
- **Wisconsin Public Health Association Annual Meeting:** Navigating Change Through Social Innovation. May 13-15, 2014. Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. [More here](#)