



Articles:

- **Americans Like Living in States with Less Income Inequality.** The Atlantic. 5/22/2014. “The similarities are striking. Places that had higher self-regard and self-satisfaction, those in blue on the first map, tend to be the same ones that show up in lighter colors on the second, with far less income inequality. The states that rank as the best to live are among the most equal; the states rated as the worst places to live are the most unequal. Americans have realized that growing inequality is a looming and incredibly important economic and social problem. It affects how we can engage with our communities and whether we can afford to live where we do. In so doing, it affects our sense of well-being and satisfaction with where we live.” [Read more](#)
- **Being Poor Can Also Affect the Type of Cancer you Get.** The Atlantic. 5/27/2014. “We know that being poor can make you sick. New research provides more evidence that living in poverty is associated with a higher risk of contracting the kind of tumors that will kill you. Drilling down into the census tracts with higher poverty rates, [researchers] noticed a prevalence of cancers with low incidence and high mortality rates. Wealthier neighborhoods were marked by cancers of high incidence, but low mortality rates.” [Read more](#)
- **Do Drivers Discriminate Against Minorities at Crosswalks?** The Atlantic. 5/28/2014. “Researchers in Oregon had been discussing how implicit racial, ethnic, gender, and class biases affect the way people interact on streets, as well as conflicts between users of different modes. That led to designing a study that would look specifically at racial bias. Results revealed black men in the study were passed by almost twice as many cars as white men before a driver would yield, and their wait times for safe crossing were nearly a third longer.” [Read more](#)
- **Growth Has Been Good for Decades. So Why Hasn't Poverty Declined?** New York Times. 6/5/2014. “Debates over what kind of social welfare system the United States ought to have are always polarizing, from the creation of the Great Society in the 1960s to the Clinton welfare reforms of the 1990s to the Paul Ryan budgets of this era. But the reality is that low-income workers are putting in more hours on the job than they did a generation ago — and the financial rewards for doing so just haven't increased. If you want to address poverty in the United States, it's not enough to say that you need to create better incentives for lower-income people to work. You also have to devise strategies that make the benefits of a stronger economy show up in the wages of the people on the edge of poverty, who need it most desperately.” [Read more](#)
- **How Medicaid Lowers High School Dropout Rates and Leads to More College Grads.** Washington Post. 6/5/2014. “Evidence across states that rolled out more generous programs at different times suggests that expanded access to public health care led to lower high school dropout rates, increased college attendance and more bachelor's degrees. The effects were large and consistent across the country. And they bolster both the underlying idea that health is an important input to education. [One explanation:] Parents may have more resources to spend on their children -- and less stress to contend with themselves -- when they're not spending a disproportionate share of their income on health care...These findings also suggest that we may not yet have seen all of the benefits of public investments in health insurance during the 1980s and 1990s...These same educational outcomes may further translate into higher incomes or

more stable employment for children who once benefited from these programs. In turn, those benefits could influence the life outcomes of their children, too.” [Read more](#)

- **Income Inequality is Not the Biggest Economic Threat to Women.** Washington Post. 6/4/2014. “Since wages for the lowest income group have fallen while wages at the highest income group have grown, income inequality has also increased. However, while there’s lots of talk about the adverse consequences of growing income inequality, it’s really poverty, not income inequality, that’s the problem. And, poverty is a particularly big problem for women and girls, who make up more than half the people living in poverty.” [Read more](#)
- **Is College Worth It? Clearly, New Data Say.** New York Times. 5/27/2014. “Yes, college is worth it, and it’s not even close. For all the struggles that many young college graduates face, a four-year degree has probably never been more valuable. The pay gap between college graduates and everyone else reached a record high last year, according to the new data, which is based on an analysis of Labor Department statistics by the Economic Policy Institute in Washington. The much-discussed cost of college doesn’t change this fact...the true cost of a college degree is about negative \$500,000. That’s right: Over the long run, college is cheaper than free. Not going to college will cost you about half a million dollars.” [Read more](#)
- **Maya Angelou’s Universal Struggle.** The Atlantic. 5/28/2014. ““I’m convinced that the negative has power,” she said. “It lives. And if you allow it to perch in your house, in your mind, in your life, it can take you over. So when the rude or cruel thing is said—the lambasting, the gay bashing, the hate—I say, ‘Take it all out of my house!’ Those negative words climb into the woodwork and into the furniture, and the next thing you know they’ll be on my skin.” [Read more](#)
- **State Governments May Be Expanding Wealth Gap.** Washington Post. 6/5/2014. “Since the mid-1970s, states as a whole have cut their top individual income tax rates by nearly one-fourth, while boosting state sales tax rates by almost half, according to an Associated Press analysis. That has meant lower taxes for those earning the most and a bigger proportionate tax bite for those who spend more of their income on retail sales. At the same time, states have scaled back some of the aspects of the financial safety net that keep low-income people out of poverty.” [Read more](#)
- **The Barriers Keeping Immigrant Parents from Getting Involved in Their Kids’ Education.** Vox. 6/3/2014. “They are often low-income, have limited English proficiency, or feel that the school or community is a hostile environment. But the report doesn’t mention the elephant in the room: it’s harder for unauthorized immigrant parents to get engaged in their kids’ educations. When parents are worried that any contact with a government employee will lead to their deportation, they’re much less likely to show up to parent-teacher conferences or have long talks with Head Start supervisors.” [Read more](#)
- **The Benefits of Redressing Racism With Race-Neutral Remedies.** The Atlantic. 6/5/2014. “A race-neutral approach could still include a historic inquiry into the practice of redlining that would accurately highlight the disproportionate ways that it targeted and harmed blacks. Black victims of redlining would get their measure of justice and recompense as surely as they would under a race-specific policy. Yet when the chosen frame is “let’s redress victims of insidious housing discrimination” instead of “let’s study reparations,” many widely held objections...fall away, as do the significant majorities preemptively opposed to reparations. There is much less risk of pitting groups against one another in our increasingly diverse country. And some of the thorniest problems of implementation go away too.” [Read more](#)



- **The Decreasing Value of the Minimum Wage in Every State, Visualized (INTERACTIVE MAP).** Washington Post. 6/3/2014. “Seattle's enactment of a \$15 minimum wage is a dramatic increase for the city. (Or, it will be, once it is fully enacted in 2017.) (And if it survives legal challenges.) But as is often pointed out when a minimum wage increase is improved, minimum wages rarely keep up with the devaluation of the dollar. We decided to visualize that...” [See here](#)
- **The Power in ‘Choosing To be Gay.’** The Atlantic. 6/3/2014. “Challenging both the fear of homosexuality and the ideology of immutability that attempts to refute that fear depends on a very different set of assumptions: that being gay is just fine, thank you very much; that gayness is not a problem to be understood, or solved, or even tolerated; and, more to the point, that there is a positive benefit to an expansive and open approach to human sexuality and gender. In other words, the framing of "gayness" as an issue of nature versus nurture or destiny versus choice misses the point about sexuality and about civil rights. It's not our genes that matter here but rather our ethics.” [Read more](#)
- **We’re Asking Health Care to Fix Something it Didn’t Break.** Huffington Post. 6/5/2014. “Now more than ever, with the prevention mandates of health reform, we are asking health care to be in the business of preventing illness. That's a tall order when so much of what makes people sick are under-enforced laws and policies, underfunded public programs and ill-conceived public policies way outside the scope of what health care professionals are trained to do. Indeed research shows that only about fifteen percent of preventable illness can be improved with access to better medical care alone.” [Read more](#)
- **Why It Matters That Politicians Have No Experience of Poverty.** The Atlantic. 6/2/2014. “For the first time, more than half of the members of Congress are millionaires. The likelihood of poor or recently poor representatives in a democracy is slim. Not only are representatives themselves far from poor—they have become far from the poor. The increased economic segregation of American neighborhoods means that members of Congress are less likely to mingle with poor...not use food assistance, [and] live in wealthy enclaves, use expensive healthcare services, and send their children to private or high-income schools. Consequently, America’s political elite is often woefully out of touch with economic reality for those living in poverty—or even those struggling to stay out of it. We can’t expect effective and humane policy without representatives who understand, witness, and investigate the experience that they control.” [Read more](#)

Policy, Reports & Tools:

- **A College Degree is No Guarantee.** Center for Economic and Policy Research. May 2014. “The Great Recession has been hard on recent college graduates, but it has been even harder for black recent college graduates. This report examines the labor-market outcomes of black recent college graduates using the general approach developed by Federal Reserve Bank of New York researchers Jaison Abel, Richard Deitz, and Yaqin Su (2014), who recently studied the outcomes of all recent college graduates.” [Read here](#)

- **Can Opportunity Be Bought?** Brookings Institute. 6/3/2014. “Boosting the income of poor families seems to have modest, but positive, effects on a variety of short- and long-term child outcomes, according to a handful of well-designed observational and quasi-experimental studies. Many of the more rigorous income studies find that the effects of increasing family income are largest when children are young, supporting the the growing consensus that early childhood poverty is particularly detrimental to child development. Money, then, matters for opportunity. But careful policy design is needed to ensure optimal outcomes.” [See policies here](#)
- **Child Care: The Strong Start for America’s Children Act: Summary.** National Women’s Law Center. May 2014. [See fact sheet here](#)
- **Child Poverty, Unintentional Injuries an Foodborne Illness: Are Low-Income Children at Greater Risk?** Consumer Federation of America. June 2014. “The purpose of this report is to show that existing data and research, however incomplete, strongly suggest that low-income children are at greater risk than other children from unintentional injuries and foodborne illness. The report will discuss ways that federal safety-related databases can incorporate more information about socioeconomic status to allow researchers and practitioners to learn more about the influence of related factors.” [Read more](#)
- **Helping Parents, Helping Children: Two-Generation Mechanisms.** The Future of Children. Spring 2014. “The two-generation model is based on the assumption that serving parents and children simultaneously with high-quality intervention programs would be more effective (and perhaps more efficient) than serving them individually. The rationale for two-generation programs, and the results of such programs to date (most of which simultaneously enroll parents in job training and their children in quality child care), are examined in this issue.” [Read here](#)
- **Immigrant Parents and Early Childhood Programs: Addressing Barriers of Literacy, Culture and Systems Knowledge.** Migration Policy Insittute. June 2014. “this report identifies the unique needs of newcomer parents across the range of expectations for parent skill, engagement, and leadership sought by early childhood edcuation and care programs, and strategies undertaken to address these needs. The study is based on field research in six states, expert interviews, a literature review, and a sociodemographic analysis.” [See report here](#)
- **Making the Mortgage Market Work for America’s Families.** Center for American Progress. 6/5/2014. “Through [this report and potential solutions](#), we believe it is possible to design a housing-finance system that effectively meets America’s housing needs, as long as we are intentional and thoughtful about doing so. By supporting these core values of access and affordability, the housing-finance system can help provide access to credit, enable families to build wealth, build strong neighborhoods, and support both the local and national economy.”
- **Raising America’s Pay: Why It’s Our Central Economic Policy Challenge.** Economic Policy Institute. 6/4/2014. “This paper argues that broad-based wage growth is necessary to address a constellation of economic challenges the United States faces: boosting income growth for low- and moderate-income Americans, checking or reversing the rise of income inequality, enhancing social mobility, reducing poverty, and aiding asset-building and retirement security. The paper’s key data findings include...” [Read here](#)
- **Rich Parents Get the Biggest Child Care Tax Breaks.** Vox. 6/3/2014. “The federal tax code includes a credit to help parents of children 12 and younger afford child care — the Child and Dependent Care Credit — but barely anyone uses it...worse than it just being small, the credit is



very poorly targeted. The Tax Policy Center estimates that families making between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a year are the credit's biggest beneficiaries. That's not how it's supposed to work; the credit is designed with the intent of being more generous to low income families than high income ones." [See these](#) potential solutions

- **Supporting Low-Income Workers Through Refundable Child-Care Credits.** Hamilton Project. June 2014. "This policy memo introduces a way to restructure an existing federal child-care tax credit to better incentivize work and improve the financial and child well-being for low-income families. Specifically, I propose converting the Child and Dependent Care Credit (CDCC) from a nonrefundable credit—a credit that cannot exceed the income taxes owed by a family—to a refundable credit—one that can result in a net gain after taxes—that is targeted to low- and middle-income families." [Read more](#)

Research & Papers:

- **The Science of Inequality.** Science Magazine. 5/23/2014. "This special issue uses fresh data to explore the origins, impact, and future of inequality around the world. Archaeological and ethnographic data are revealing how inequality got its start in our ancestors. New surveys of emerging economies offer more reliable estimates of people's incomes and how they change as countries develop. And in the past decade in developed capitalist nations, intensive effort and interdisciplinary collaborations have produced large data sets, including the compilation of a century of income data and two centuries of wealth data into the World Top Incomes Database." [Read more](#)
- **Stress and Child Development.** FutureofChildren. Spring 2014. "Children's early social experiences shape their developing neurological and biological systems for good or for ill...the kinds of stressful experiences that are endemic to families living in poverty can alter children's neurobiology in ways that undermine their health, their social competence, and their ability to succeed in school and in life. In particular, warm and nurturing relationships between children and adults can serve as a powerful bulwark against the neurobiological changes that accompany stress, and interventions that help build such relationships have shown particular promise...for this reason, the concept of two-generation programs may need to be expanded, and that we should consider a "multigenerational" approach to helping children living in poverty cope and thrive in the face of chronic stress." [Read more](#)
- **Understanding the Links Between Education and Smoking.** Social Science Research. 5/17/2014. "Results show that school policies, peers, and youths' mortality expectations predict smoking in adulthood but that college aspirations and analytical skills do not. Smoking status at age 16 predicts both completed education and adult smoking, controlling for an extensive set of covariates. Overall, educational inequalities in smoking are better understood as a bundling of advantageous statuses that develops in childhood, rather than the effect of education producing better health." [Read more](#)

Websites & Grants:

- **A Comprehensive Approach to Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country.** Prevention Fund. Approximately 24 awards are available for a five year program with two types of awards averaging \$325,000 and \$850,000 annually. "The primary purpose of this funding is to establish or strengthen and broaden the reach and impact of effective chronic disease prevention programs that improve the health of tribal members and communities... {through} a combination of policy and environmental approaches, community clinical linkages and health system interventions." Due July 23rd, 2014. [More information](#)
- **Marriage Equality's 10 Year Journey, in One Stunning GIF.** Vox. 6/4/2014. "With same-sex marriages taking effect statewide in Illinois this week, a majority of America's same-sex couples can now get married in their state of residence. It's been a very long journey for LGBT rights in the US. An analysis by David Mendoza, based on survey data from the Census Bureau, covers the nation's 10-year journey toward marriage equality in GIF form." [See here](#)
- **Put Care Into Context- a \$10,000 Design Challenge.** The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) announces a design challenge to put "Care in Context" by opening social & financial conversations between patients & providers - specifically to address the social determinants of food insecurity, housing insecurity, stress, and social isolation. Submissions due June 27th, 2014. [See here for more information.](#)

Webinars, Recordings & Videos:

- **Ending Family Homelessness Webinar: Identifying Effective Interventions.** First Focus. This webinar will further detail the findings of the SHIFT study and USICH's Family Connection plan, as well as provide additional policies that would improve outcomes for homeless children and families in the United States. June 18th, 1-2pm CST. [Register here.](#)
- **Health Beyond Health Care.** Washington Post & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Wednesday, June 18th, 7:30am-11am CST. The forum will address innovative efforts to promote healthy living. A broad cross-section of speakers are expected, including members of Congress, the business community, worksite design, health care and academia. [Register here](#)
- **Paternal Incarceration and Child Wellbeing.** Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse. Webinar featuring Dr. Kristin Turney, the current SSRC Emerging Scholar and discussant Dr. Joyce Arditti. June 12th, 1pm CST. [Register here.](#)

Conferences & Presentations:

- **More Than Skin Deep: Uprooting White Privilege and White Supremacy One Cell at a Time—A Three Day Institute.** Aug 1-3, 2014. Minneapolis, MN. "This three-day institute is for White people who already have an understanding of Race, Racism and particularly Whiteness (RRW), and who want to learn more about how to dismantle Whiteness (White Privilege and White Supremacy) through embodiment work, education, visioning and practical action." [Register here](#)
- **Racial Justice Summit.** YWCA-Madison. Oct 2-3, 2014. Call for proposals [here!](#)
- **7th Annual Health Impact Assessment Practitioners Summer Training Course.** Health Impact Project. Oakland, CA. July 14-17, 2014. Register [here](#)