

UNNATURAL CAUSES...is inequality making us sick?

A documentary and public engagement campaign from California Newsreel



2009 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award

2009 Radio / TV / Film Award, National Academy of Sciences & Institute of Medicine

2009 Henry Hampton Award, Council on Foundations

2008 Leadership in Journalism Award, Congressional Black Caucus Health

Braintrust / National Minority Quality Forum

2009 Hillman Prize, runner-up

2009 Media Award, New Mexico and Illinois Public Health Associations

“Riveting.... Explores why your bank account, race and zip code are more powerful predictors of healthiness than your medical coverage, habits, and genes.”

– **USA Today**

“Instructive, informative, depressing, and occasionally infuriating.”

– **New York Daily News**

“Provides dramatic evidence that we need new prescriptions. Unless we make provisions for all Americans to lead healthier lives, the chronic disease epidemic will continue to grow, as will the strains on our already over-burdened health care system... An invaluable and long-awaited addition.”

– **Dr. David Satcher, Former U.S. Surgeon General**

“Inequality is killing us... Behavior, diet and environment aren't always part of the answer; the stress of living in a win-or-lose society is.... That health message may be a hard sell, but I hope people will at least listen. So eat your spinach at dinner—and then tune in to the series.”

– **Seattle Times**

“This is really disturbing stuff.... Presents a lot of startling information, and hopefully it will get a lot of people asking themselves some serious questions.”

– **Matt Lauer, The Today Show**

“The filmmakers offer plenty of background...but the film's power comes not from experts or statistics but stories of real people.... They powerfully reinforce the fact that where you live can predict not just how well you live but also how long. Hundreds of organizations have begun to use this film as a teaching curriculum. Once you check out the series, you'll see why.”

– **Newsweek.com**

Produced by California Newsreel with Vital Pictures • Presented by the National Minority Consortia of public television



“Unless the nation simultaneously grapples with what are the underlying causes of ill-health in this society, it will never get health care costs under control.... The presidential candidates and everyone running for Congress this year should watch UNNATURAL CAUSES.”

– **The Huffington Post**

“UNNATURAL CAUSES tears back the veil to show the socioeconomic and racial inequities in health as well as the public policies that underpin them. Should be required viewing.”

– **Andy Stern, President, SEIU**

“A quietly withering attack on...the cult of the individual that fractures any sense of community, and the fetishistic worship of the so-called free market that increases the distance between the poor and the tax-averse rich.... Makes clear that only political will can provide a remedy.”

– **Los Angeles Times**

“This amazing documentary notes, 'health is more than health care,' 'social policies are health policies,' and Americans can and must demand new approaches. And so, UNNATURAL CAUSES isn't just a documentary, it's a tool in a public engagement campaign.”

– **Editorial, Louisville Courier Journal**

“UNNATURAL CAUSES is an eye-opening series everyone should watch and discuss. It reveals the links between living conditions, public policy, and health [and is] a powerful and long-awaited resource for all of us working toward health equity.”

– **Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino**

“Ranks among the best of public broadcasting for tackling an intellectually tough but vital issue in a clear, expository and engaging fashion.”

– **In These Times**

“Dramatically and powerfully illustrates the extent and cost of health inequities.... The series offers hope and shows that as a society we can make different policy choices that lead to better health for all members of our communities.”

– **Minnesota Post**

“Every once in a while a television series comes along that can really make a difference in how the public perceives a critical issue. UNNATURAL CAUSES is one of those shows.”

– **Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director, American Public Health Association**

“An extraordinary series that can be an invaluable tool for broadening and reframing the discussion about health beyond health care and building support for actions and policies that promote health equity.”

– **Sarah Olson, Health Promotion Practice**