

UNNATURAL CAUSES ...is inequality making us sick?

A documentary and public engagement campaign from California Newsreel



MEET THE EXPERTS

UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? benefited from the contribution of some of the country's leading health equity researchers, practitioners and advocates. (*appears in the documentary)

- **Dolores Acevedo-Garcia**, Associate Professor of Society, Human Development and Health, Harvard University, researches the impact of segregation and other non-health policies on health inequities (www.diversitydata.org).
- **Nancy Adler**, chair of the MacArthur Network on Socio-Economic Status and Health (www.macses.ucsf.edu) and director of the Center for Health and Community at the University of California, San Francisco, is a leading expert on psycho-social factors and health inequities.
- **Margarita Alegría*** is Director of the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research (www.multiculturalmentalhealth.org/) at Cambridge Health Alliance, is the principal investigator for two large-scale studies on Latino health, including the National Latino and Asian American Study (NIMH).
- **Hortensia Amaro** is director of the Center for Urban Health Research and Distinguished Professor at the Bouve School of Health Sciences, Northeastern University, where her research focuses on substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, mental illness and inter-personal violence.
- **Georges Benjamin** is Executive Director, American Public Health Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization of public health professionals, and is well known in the world of public health as a leader, practitioner and administrator.
- **Lisa Berkman*** is Chair of the Dept. of Society, Human Development and Health and Cabot Professor of Public Policy & Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health. Her work is largely devoted to identifying the role of social networks and support in predicting declines in physical and cognitive functioning, onset of disease and mortality, especially related to cardiovascular or cerebro-vascular disease
- **Stephen Bezruchka** is founder of the Population Health Forum, a lecturer at the University of Washington Department of Health Services, and an emergency room physician. He has published extensively on the social determinants of health.
- **Angela Glover Blackwell*** is founder and CEO of PolicyLink, an Oakland-based research and advocacy organization advancing economic and social equity. She is a renowned community building activist and expert on race, policy and neighborhood revitalization (www.policylink.org).
- **Paula Braveman** is director of the Center for Social Disparities in Health and a professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. She is also research director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America.
- **Harvey Brenner*** is Professor Emeritus of Johns Hopkins University and Chair of the University of North Texas School of Public Health, has tracked the relationship between unemployment and death rates for 30 years.
- **Gail Christopher, DN**, former director, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute, is a vice president at W.K. Kellogg Foundation and has helped launch a "fair health" movement.

- **Sheldon Cohen*** is Robert E. Doherty Professor of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University, has conducted rhino-virus experiments that explore the role of social and environmental stress on health and well-being.
- **James Collins* MD, and Richard David* MD** are neonatologists in Chicago who specialize in the care of infants born too early or underweight. Several of their studies, including one comparing birth outcomes in the U.S. among African-born, African American, and white women, point to racism – not genetics – as a key risk factor.
- **Ana Diez-Roux* MD**, is an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan and a leading expert on neighborhoods and health.
- **Troy Duster**, professor of sociology, New York University, and former president of the American Sociological Association, is a leading authority on the use and misuse of race and ethnicity in biomedical research.
- **Richard Hofrichter**, senior analyst, National Association of County and City Health Officials, edited *Tackling Health Inequities through Public Health Practice* (www.naccho.org/topics/justice/documents/NACCHO_Handbook_hyperlinks_000.pdf/) and others books on health inequities.
- **Tony Iton* MD** is Director of the Alameda County Public Health Department in the San Francisco Bay Area. His survey found that recent Latino immigrants, though poor, have the best health in the county, but their health status deteriorates the longer they are here.
- **Fleda Mask Jackson***, Senior Scientist, Atlanta Regional Health Forum, and Professor of Applied Public Health, Emory University, community-based work advances wellbeing of African American children, families and communities. (<http://www.drflledamjackson.com/>)
- **Camara P. Jones* MD** is Research Director on Social Determinants of Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She works on ways to measure racism and investigates the structural causes of health inequities.
- **Ichiro Kawachi* MD**, director, Harvard Center for Society and Health (www.hsph.harvard.edu/centers-institutes/society-and-health/), Harvard School of Public Health, has authored or co-authored several books linking larger social forces such as income inequality to population health.
- **Jim Yong Kim* MD** is an expert on tuberculosis, chief of the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of health and human rights, Harvard University School of Public Health. He is a co-founder of Partners in Health (www.pih.org).
- **James Krieger* MD**, is Director of Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation, Seattle-King County Public Health Department, and one of visionaries behind the new High Point mixed-income neighborhood in West Seattle.
- **Nancy Krieger*** professor of society, human development and health, Harvard School of Public Health, is an international leader in social epidemiology whose research explores the links between social justice and public health.
- **Steve Larson* MD**, worked with the Kennett Square Mexican community in the early 1990s. During his career he has treated and researched thousands of Latino immigrants.
- **Michael Lu* MD**, is an obstetrician and gynecologist at UCLA. His “lifecourse perspective” suggests that the added stress burden of racism over a lifetime, not just during pregnancy, increases the risk of pre-term labor.
- **Sir Michael Marmot*** is chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health and Professor at University College London, is an epidemiologist and author of the groundbreaking Whitehall Studies of British civil servants, which link lower social status to increased health risks.

- **Bruce McEwen*** is Albert E. Mirsky Professor and Head of the Hatch Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology, Rockefeller University. His lab explores the long-term impact of stress and stress hormones on the brain and on immune function.
- **Neal Palafox* MD**, a native of the Marshall Islands, is a University of Hawaii professor and family practitioner who researches health issues affecting Pacific Islanders.
- **Richard Price*** psychologist, directs the University of Michigan Prevention Research Center, which is a national resource on the connections between employment conditions, economic stress and health (www.isr.umich.edu/src/seh/mprc/).
- **Dennis Raphael**, is professor at the School of Health Policy and Management at York University in Toronto, Canada, and a member of the advisory committee for Canada's National Collaborating Center on the Determinants of Health. He is editor of *Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives* and author of *Poverty and Policy in Canada: Implications for Health and Quality of Life*.
- **Carol Shively*** is Professor of Pathology, Wake Forest University Bowman School of Medicine and Professor of Psychology, has conducted studies on social hierarchy and health in macaque monkeys.
- **Jack Shonkoff* MD**, Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of child health and development, Harvard School of Public Health; director, Center for the Developing Child (www.developingchild.harvard.edu) and chairs the National Scientific Council for the Developing Child.
- **Brian Smedley**, research director and co-founder, The Opportunity Agenda (www.opportunityagenda.org) was study director for the landmark Institute of Medicine report "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Barriers in Health Care."
- **S. Leonard Syme*** is professor of epidemiology (Emeritus), School of Public Health, University of California-Berkeley, principal investigator of the Youth Empowerment Strategies Project (YES!), and many other studies.
- **Makani Themba-Nixon**, is executive director of The Praxis Project (www.thepraxisproject.org), which helps community-based organizations advocate for healthier and more just communities.
- **Adewale Troutman* MD**, is director of Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness and founder of the Louisville Center for Health Equity (www.louisvilleky.gov/health/equity).
- **Donald Warne* MD**, comes from an Oglala Lakota family of traditional healers and is a Harvard-trained doctor, a professor of law at Arizona State University and an expert on American Indian health policy.
- **David Williams* PhD**, Norman Professor of Public Health, Harvard University School of Public Health; Executive Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America, is one of the country's leading authorities on health inequities.

UNNATURAL CAUSES is a four-hour documentary series exploring America's racial and socioeconomic inequities in health. Produced by California Newsreel with Vital Pictures. Presented by the National Minority Consortia of public television. Outreach in association with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute.