

A DIALOGUE ABOUT POVERTY IN AMERICA

September 28, 2021

countyhealthrankings.org

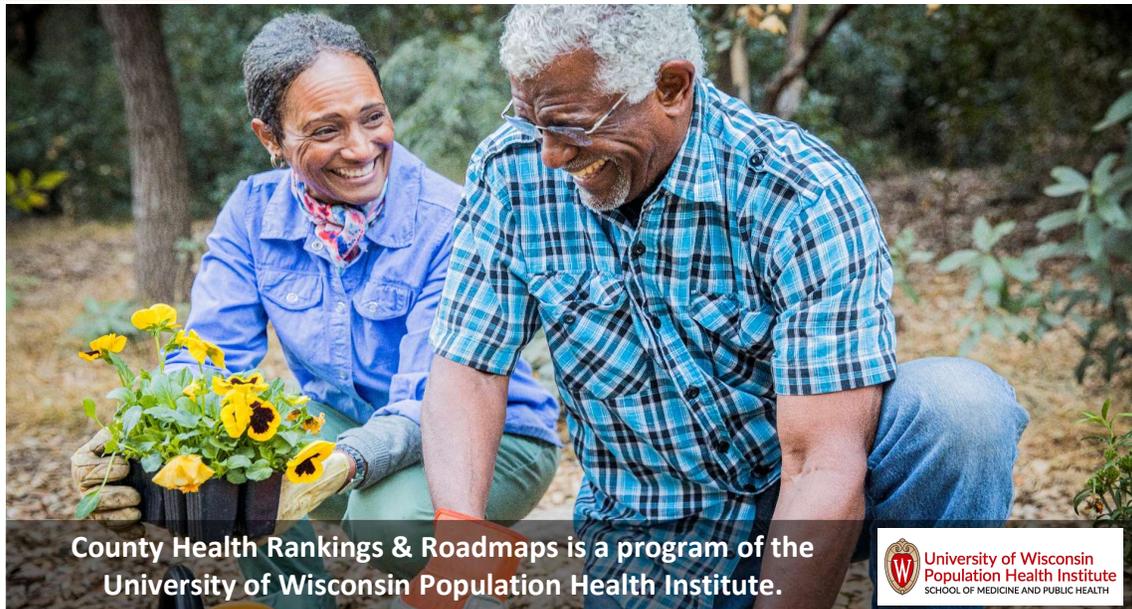


Support
provided by



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Foundation

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps is a program of the
University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.



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YOUR FACILITATORS TODAY



Ericka Burroughs-Girardi
Senior Outreach Specialist
CHR&R



Thomas (Tommy) Jaime
Communications Specialist
CHR&R



Joanne Lee
Collaborative Learning Director
Healthy Places by Design

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TODAY'S GUESTS



Christine Muganda
Data & Analytics Team Leader
CHR&R



David Riemer
Senior Fellow
Community Advocates Public
Policy Institute

The views of the speakers outside of County Health Rankings & Roadmaps are their own.

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QUESTIONS WE WILL ANSWER

How

Do we identify those living in poverty in our community?

Why

Is addressing poverty critical for communities?

What

Are there some federal and local solutions to poverty?

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES WITH



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JOIN US FOR MORE DISCUSSION – TODAY!

- ▶ **When:** Immediately following the webinar
- ▶ **What:** Interactive learning experience, opportunity to share ideas and ask questions
- ▶ **How:** Videoconference and/or phone via Zoom
- ▶ **Why:** Deepen the webinar learning, allow further exploration



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Children in Poverty: percent of people under age 18 living in poverty.

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2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family of 4: \$26,500

Family of 2: \$17,420



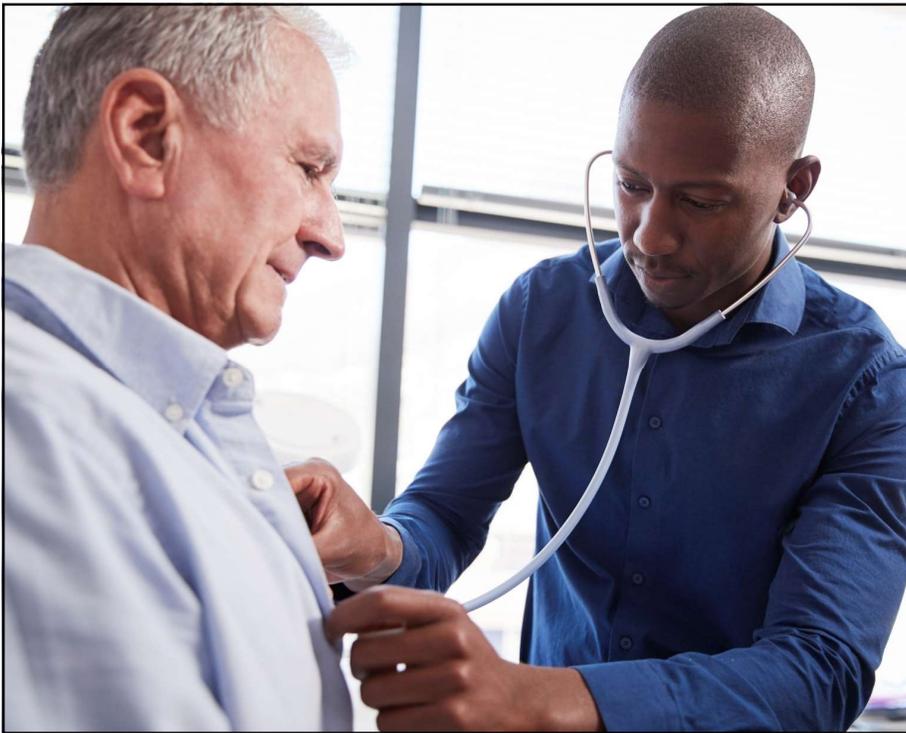
Photo by Juliane Liebermann on Unsplash

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Children in poverty is a measure of both current and future health.



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Experiences
are built into
our bodies

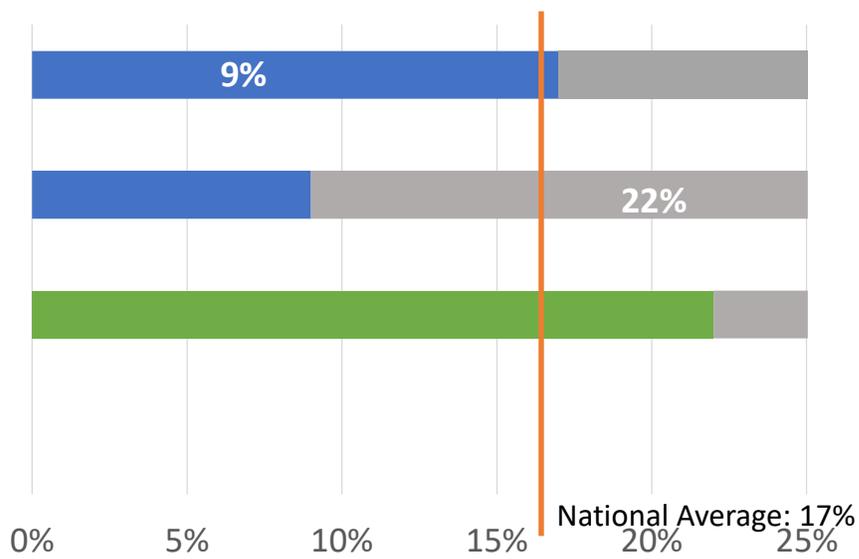
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Percent of Children in Poverty

All
children in
the county



Black
children in
the county



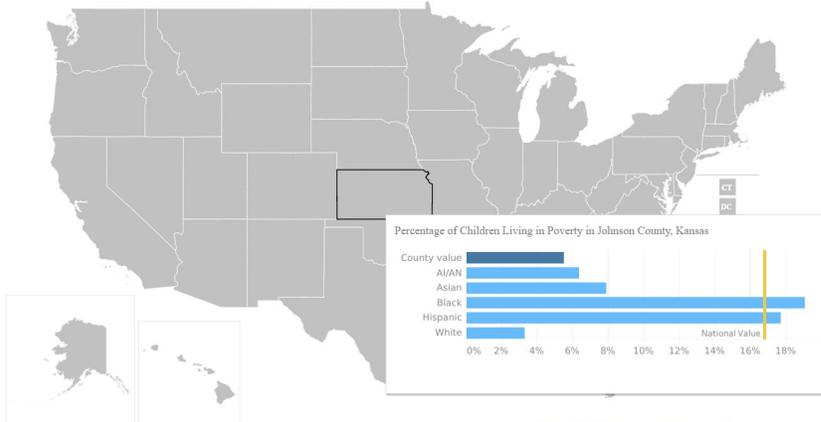
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Explore differences in poverty rates by race in the healthiest counties nationwide

Disparities in the percentage of children living in poverty by race and ethnicity exist across the nation, including nearly all the healthiest counties. Click or hover to see data for the healthiest county in each state.

Data Spotlight

Even in the healthiest counties, nearly 1 in 10 children are living in poverty.



HOW HEALTHY IS MY COMMUNITY?

Explore children in poverty data for your county

Illinois Select a county...

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6 What is Person 1's race? Mark (X) one or more boxes.

- White
- Black or African Am.
- American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Other Asian – *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.*
- Some other race – *Print race.*
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander – *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.*

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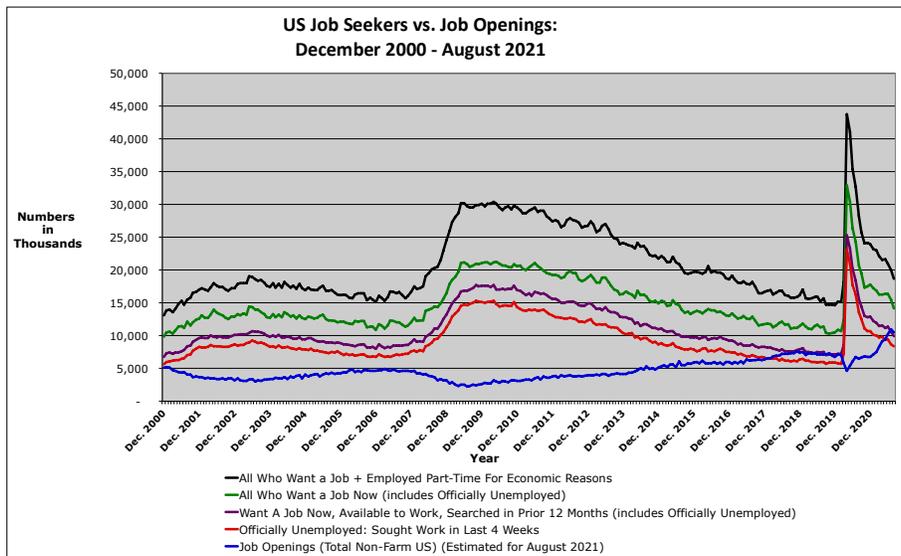


“The John Snow Question”

When Will Doctors and Public Health Experts Make a Priority of Advocating Policies—Outside the Health System— That Will Dramatically Reduce Unemployment and Poverty, and. Thus, Will Greatly Improve Population Health?

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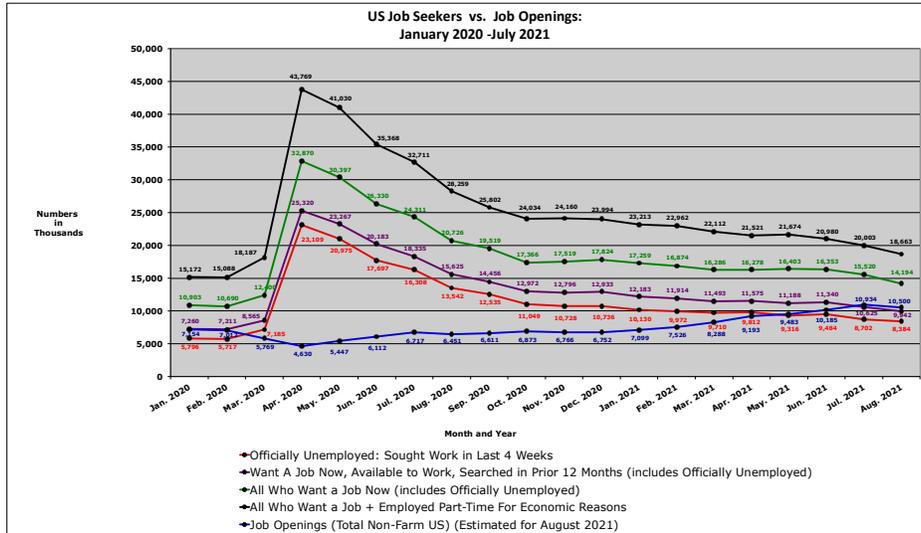
More Job Seekers Than Openings ... Most Years



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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More Job Seekers Than Openings ... 2020--2021



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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What Causes Poverty?

In the U.S., poverty:

- Is mostly due to the labor market's two greatest shortcomings
 - Chronic job shortage
 - Too many low-wage jobs
- Is exacerbated by low minimum benefits for adults with disabilities and retirees on Social Security

Table 5. Quartiles and selected deciles of usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, 2nd quarter 2021 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)	Upper limit of:				
		First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total, 16 years and over	113,583	\$502	\$655	\$990	\$1,557	\$2,405
Men	62,485	525	711	1,094	1,747	2,705
Women	51,108	481	618	899	1,366	2,082

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/wkyeng.t05.htm>

"In 2019, 19 percent of jobs paid below-poverty wages — that is, their hourly pay was too low to lift a family of four with a full-time, year-round worker above the official poverty line (\$26,172 in 2019, equivalent to \$12.58 an hour)."

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/widespread-economic-insecurity-pre-pandemic-shows-need-for-strong>

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Poverty Affects All of Us

Consequences for the Poor

- **Reduced purchasing power**
- **Malnutrition**
 - Individuals cannot afford sufficient healthy food.
- **Homelessness**
 - Poverty is a leading cause of evictions and foreclosures.
- **Exposure to heat or cold**
 - Individuals cannot pay for heat or AC, leading to utility cut-offs.
- **Chronic Stress**
 - Stress causes “dysregulation” of the immune system, resulting in a wide range of health problems and premature death.

Consequences for Society

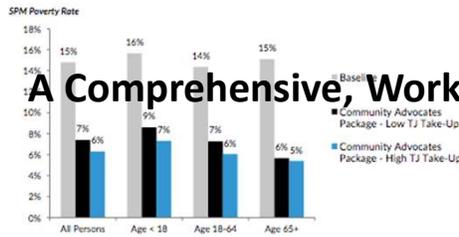
- **We lose people we love**
- **Employers/economy lose productive workers**
- **Tax base loses revenue**
 - Schools, libraries, and other institutions supported by taxes are shortchanged...and/or
 - Taxes are needlessly raised
- **Overall health care costs rise**
 - Since poor cannot pay, the rest of us pick up the extra cost
 - Our disposable income shrinks, curtailing what we would otherwise spend, save, or invest.

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Reducing Poverty in the United States

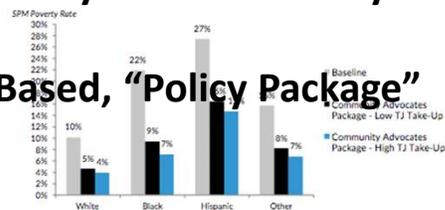


FIGURE 3 Effects of Community Advocates Policies on Poverty, by All Persons and by Age



Source: TRIM3 microsimulation model.
Notes: TJ refers to transitional jobs. “Low” and “high” TJ take-up rates are a maximum of 25 percent and 50 percent, respectively.

FIGURE 4 Effects of Community Advocates Policies on Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity



Source: TRIM3 microsimulation model.
Notes: TJ refers to transitional jobs. “Low” and “high” TJ take-up rates are a maximum of 25 percent and 50 percent, respectively.
Groups other than Hispanic include only non-Hispanic individuals.

**What it Takes To Dramatically Reduce Poverty:
A Comprehensive, Work-Based, “Policy Package”**

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A Policy Package to Reduce Poverty 50% +

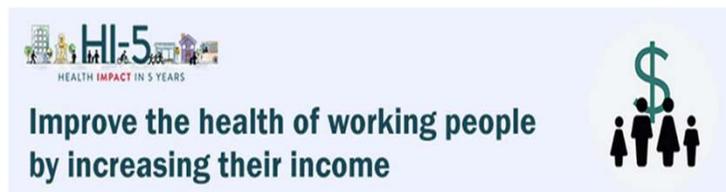
- (1) Useful, wage-paying, subsidized jobs
- (2) Much higher minimum wage...\$10, \$12, \$15/hour
- (3) Bigger Earned Income Tax Credit & Child Tax Credit
 - EITC expanded for “childless” adults
 - CTC extended to almost all children, raised, paid monthly
- (4) Higher minimum benefit for disabled and retired
- (5) Other supports, e.g., free or affordable childcare

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Does Reducing Poverty Improve Health?

 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy

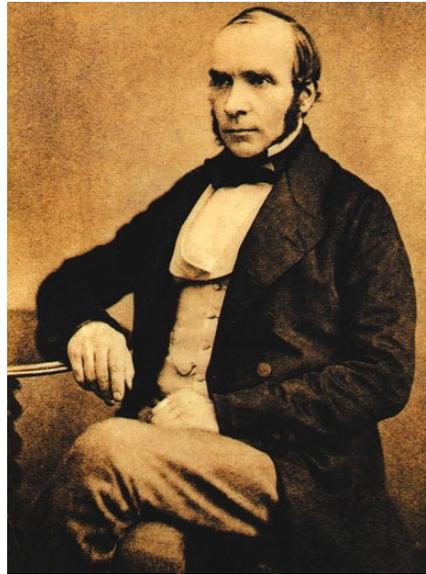


“By reducing poverty and increasing income for working families, EITC has been linked to positive health outcomes, particularly for infants and mothers.^{5, 7-9} Studies show greater health improvements happen when larger, more generous EITC benefits are available.^{7, 10-17}”

<https://www.cdc.gov/policy/hst/hi5/taxcredits/index.html>

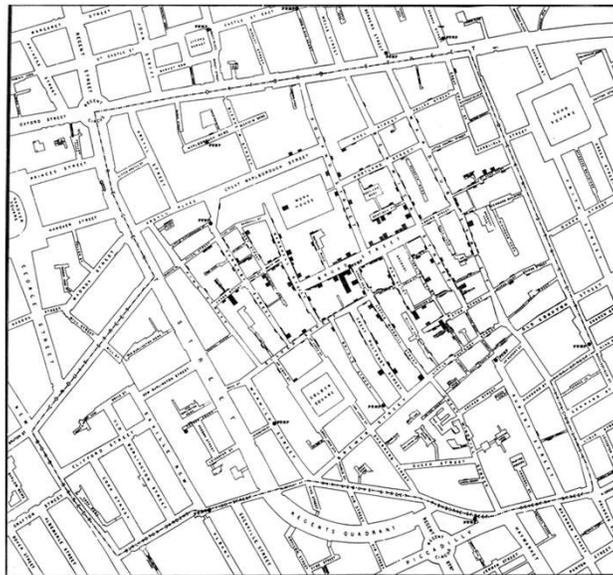
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The John Snow Question(s)



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The John Snow Question(s)



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“Being convinced that water from the Broad Street pump was at fault, Dr. Snow spoke on September 7 to the Board of Guardians, the political group responsible for maintain [sic] the safety and welfare of the area. They listened to his concerns, noted his findings, and on September 8 authorized the removal of the pump handle.”

SoC BULLETIN Vol 34 No 2, 2001, P. 4

[http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow/socbulletin34\(2\)3_7_2001.pdf](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow/socbulletin34(2)3_7_2001.pdf)

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The John Snow Question(s)

First: Which public policy reforms entirely outside the current health care system—indeed, outside the current public health system—would have the greatest impact on improving population health?

Second: If a “policy package” of reforms entirely outside the health system—involving a dramatic reduction in unemployment and poverty—will in fact do the most to improve population health, isn’t it the obligation of doctors and public health experts to make the pursuit of those specific anti-poverty reforms their *top* priority ?

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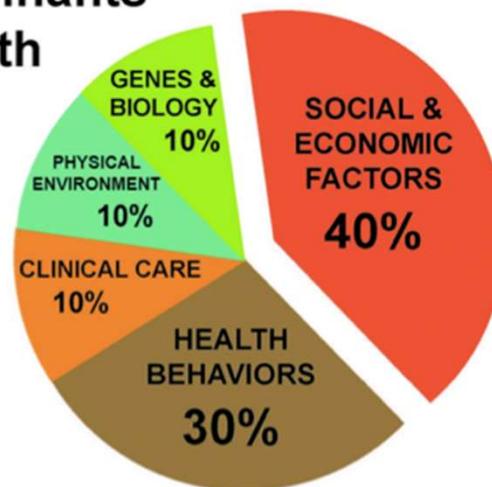
What Dr. Snow Would Prescribe?

Third: Today's doctors and health experts should dedicate themselves to persuading the federal government to enact the optimal anti-poverty policy package—the one that does the most, at an acceptable cost, to greatly improve U.S. population health outcomes.

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What Dr. Snow Would Prescribe?

Determinants of Health



Source: Academy for Research on Community Health, Engagement and Services (ARCHES), <http://arches.uncc.edu/goals-and-objectives>

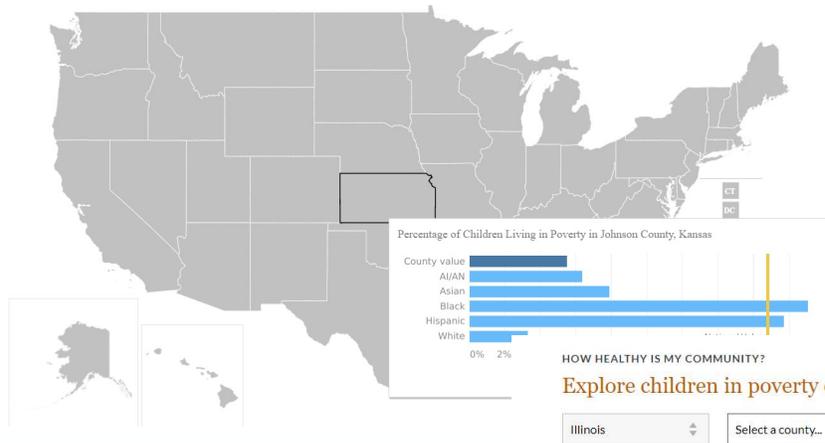
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DATA SPOTLIGHT

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Even in the healthiest counties, **nearly 1 in 10** children are living in poverty.

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TAKING ACTION LOCALLY AGAINST POVERTY

- ▶ Living wage laws
- ▶ Transitional jobs
- ▶ Paid sick leave
- ▶ Debt advice for tenants struggling to pay rent
- ▶ Legal support for tenants facing eviction

Strategies pulled from What Works for Health using keyword "poverty"

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QUESTIONS?

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Click the link to answer a few questions about today's webinar

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JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING WEBINAR!

**Does Civic Health Participation
Influence Health**

October 16, 2021

Register at
countyhealthrankings.org/webinars



Dawn Hunter
Director,
Southeastern Region of
the Network for Public
Health Law



Kim Irwin
Executive Director,
Health by Design
Administrator, Indiana
Public Health Association

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Post-Webinar Discussion Group

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THANK YOU!

Visit us at www.countyhealthrankings.org

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