

A four-hour documentary series exploring our socio-economic and racial inequities in health



Airing four consecutive Thursdays, March 27 to April 17, 2008
(check local listings)

UNNATURAL CAUSES

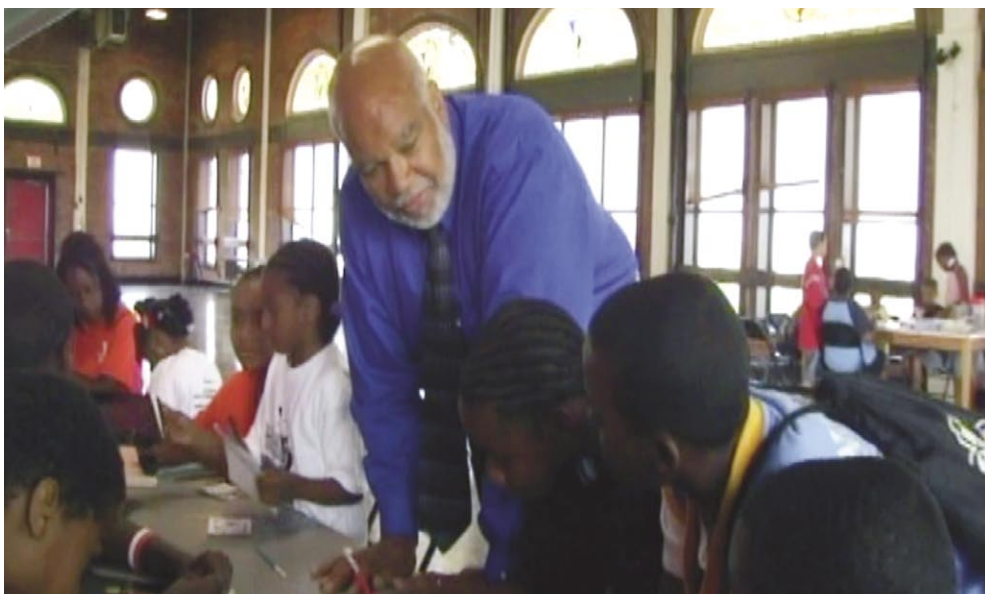
...is inequality making us sick?

IN SICKNESS AND IN WEALTH

Hour One airs Thursday, March 27, 10pm on PBS (check local listings)

What are the connections between healthy bodies and healthy bank accounts? *In Sickness and In Wealth* travels to Louisville, Kentucky, not to explore whether health care cures us but to see why we get sick in the first place. The lives of a CEO, a lab supervisor, a janitor, and an unemployed mother illustrate how social class shapes access to power, resources and opportunity. The net effect is a health-wealth gradient.

Louisville Metro Public Health Department data maps reveal 5 and 10-year gaps in life expectancy between the city's rich, middle- and working-class neighborhoods. Experiments with monkeys and humans shed light on chronic stress as one culprit. We also see how racial inequality imposes an additional burden on people of color. Solutions being pursued in Louisville and elsewhere focus not on more pills but on better social policies and more equality.



unnaturalcauses.org

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



UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

VOICES & EXPERTS

- Adewale Troutman, MD, director, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness.
- Jim Taylor, father, grandfather and CEO of a large Louisville hospital.
- Tondra Young, African American medical technician and supervisor of a hospital blood lab; a homeowner burdened with college debt.
- Corey Anderson, hospital janitor with hyper-tension and little control in his work life; a renter in a neighborhood plagued by violent crime.
- Mary Turner, white, unemployed mother of three; suffered a heart attack and continues to struggle against poor health and hopelessness.
- Sir Michael Marmot, professor of epidemiology and public health, University College London.
- Tony Iton, MD, director, Alameda County (CA) Public Health Department.
- David Williams, Norman Professor of Public Health, Harvard University School of Public Health; director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America.
- Sheldon Cohen, Robert E. Doherty Professor of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University



*In Sickness and In Wealth Credits:
Produced by Llewellyn M. Smith
and Christine Herbes-Sommers
Directed by Llewellyn M. Smith
Co Produced by Julie Crawford*



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REPORTING TIPS

- The Center for Health Equity in Louisville is one of many local initiatives focused on bettering health by improving wages, housing, schools and racial justice.



- For more evidence on health and racial inequality, see Dr. Troutman and former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher's research, *What If We Were Equal? A Comparison of The Black-White Mortality Gap In 1960 and 2000*, by David Satcher et al., available at www.healthaffairs.org.
- The landmark Whitehall Studies provide a fascinating look at the links between health and social status. The work is summed up in the 2003 WHO Europe publication *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts (2nd edition)*, edited by Richard Wilkinson and Michael Marmot: <http://www.euro.who.int/document/e81384.pdf>
- Class and racism affect U.S. health outcomes in overlapping ways. See *Reaching for a Healthier Life: Facts on Socioeconomic Status and Health in the U.S.*, a 2007 report of The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Socioeconomic Status and Health (available at www.macses.ucsf.edu/News/NEWS.html).
- For the physiology of chronic stress, see the MacArthur Research Network on SES and Health Web site summary "Allostatic Load and Allostasis," at <http://www.macses.ucsf.edu/Research/Allostatic/notebook/allostatic.html>.
- On growing economic inequality in the U.S.: Lawrence Mishel, Jared Bernstein, Sylvia Allegretto (2007). *The State of Working America 2006/2007*. Cornell University Press and Economic Policy Institute. <http://www.stateofworkingamerica.org/>

UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

UNNATURAL CAUSES was produced by the San Francisco-based film production and distribution center California Newsreel, in partnership with Vital Pictures of Boston. It is being presented on PBS by the National Minority Consortia of public television. California Newsreel is the nation's oldest nonprofit documentary production and distribution center, dedicated to disseminating social interest films and videos. Vital Pictures is a documentary company dedicated to social justice issues.

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Strategic public engagement partners include the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the American Public Health Association, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Opportunity Agenda and the Praxis Project.

Larry Adelman is the series creator and executive producer; Llewellyn M. Smith is co-executive producer and Christine Herbes-Sommers is series senior producer.

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