Course Description

Students in this three-credit course analyze and explore the nature, extent, and demographics of contemporary poverty in the United States, together with major policy and program responses to poverty. The course will examine populations most at risk of poverty, the dynamics of poverty, and trends in poverty rates over time. Attention will also be given to the types of anti-poverty programs that have been implemented since 1935 that underscores the extent of disagreement about the causes of poverty, the situation of the poor, and the role of the government in encouraging income redistribution and social change.

Pre-requisites

Students enrolled in this course must have doctoral student standing and/or signed permission of the instructor.

Specific Course Goals and Objectives

The primary objective of this seminar is to increase students’ ability to critically analyze current social welfare policies in the context of poverty in the United States. Moreover, seminar participants will acquire an understanding of selected current U.S. social policies and improve their fluency in writing about and discussing social welfare policy issues and related research.

The goals of the social work doctoral program include preparing students to make contributions to the profession as researchers, scholars, and educators. Toward this end, the objectives of this course include students demonstrating the following:

- Demonstrate a general understanding of the policy process and social welfare;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between poverty and race;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of research and policy analysis;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the application of qualitative and quantitative research methodology for addressing policy relevant questions;
- Demonstrate an ability to frame policy relevant research questions and conclusions.

Course Requirements
As a doctoral seminar, it is expected that students will take an active role in their own learning process and in that of their peers. Therefore, it is expected that all students will arrive on time, to have read the assigned articles prior to the session in which they will be discussed, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussion. Each student will be asked in class to summarize a week’s readings and to critique particular readings at least once.

All final papers will be presented and discussed in class, on a schedule to be determined. Students are responsible for either e-mailing copies to the instructor and the rest of the class or making copies and distributing them in class the week before.

Student grades in this course are based on the following criteria:

- Major Analytic Paper: \( 0.50\% \)
- Oral presentation: \( 0.25\% \)
- Weekly Critiques: \( 0.25\% \)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Except under exceptionally extenuating circumstances, grades for papers will be automatically reduced by one-half grade point for each day they are late. (i.e an “A” is reduced to a “B+“)

**Course Analytic Paper Guidelines**

A major analytic paper on one aspect of social welfare policy will be required. There will be no final exam.

All papers will be presented and discussed in class, on a schedule to be determined. Students are responsible for e-mailing copies (using D2L) to the instructor and the rest of the class. In preparation for the presentations, the other students in the class are required to submit, in writing, five questions for every paper on the day it is presented to the class.

An annotated bibliography is also required. The annotated bibliography will be graded as a part of the final analytic paper, and will be distributed to everyone in the class.

The following general guidelines are recommended for your papers. Either:

1. Choose one particular demographic group and describe its condition under the various possible definitions of poverty. Then describe how we should think about that group’s need. **and**

2. Choose one particular antipoverty program or strategy (except income support) and describe how it is meant to alleviate poverty. Then evaluate how well it does so or could do so.

The contents and requirements of the paper will be discussed in greater detail in the 2\(^{nd}\) class meeting.
Weekly Critiques

Complete 7 weekly critiques of the readings. Reading critiques should be two pages maximum (double spaced), Times Roman, 12 point font, and one-inch margins and about half devoted to integrative summary comments (demonstrating familiarity with all the required readings for the week), and about half to critical responses or questions. Given 14 weeks of readings (except for the first class) each student may skip 7 weeks. For credit, critiques should be received by the instructor as an e-mail attachment via D2L no later than 8am -- 24 hours prior to the seminar.

Students consistently completing the assignments at the expected graduate level will receive a final grade of A-. Students completing outstanding assignments will receive an A. Students generally completing assignments, but not consistently meeting graduate level standards, will receive a B. Students who do not complete 7 critiques will receive one-half less than the grade earned for the critiques that are submitted.

Texts/Required Reading Sources


Optional References:


Supplemental Reading:
For some class sessions, the reading list includes a number of optional readings. Students with long-term research interests in the area of poverty and welfare will find it useful to become familiar with all of the readings. The majority of these books might also be useful to acquire and read (some are all available for purchase through www.amazon.com) or thorough inter-library loan from the University of Wisconsin library system.


**University Policies**

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has developed policies related to a variety of areas that are pertinent to the success of a students’ academic career. The Secretary of the University Web site ([http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf)) describes the following University policies: Students with disabilities, Religious observances, Students called to active military duty, Incompletes, Discriminatory conduct, Academic misconduct, Complaint procedures, Grade Appeal procedures, and Other.
Learning Environment

Students may utilize the computer lab of the Schools of Enderis (1044 Enderis) while registered for this course. The primary method of communication with the class will be through the D2L website for the class. Information regarding participation by students with disabilities, accommodations for religious observances, academic conduct/misconduct, incomplete grading policies, complaint procedures, grade appeal procedures, sexual harassment and safety policies, and other standing policies/procedures is available either in the doctoral student handbook, the campus website (www.uwm.edu), or ask at the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare reception desk (11th floor Enderis).

Class Schedule

Week One
Introduction – Course overview, including of paper topics, student responsibilities, grading, and introductory discussion of poverty and welfare issues. The following articles must be read before the first day of class.


Week Two
Definitions and Boundaries of Social Welfare Policy


**Week Three**

Why Study Poverty? Poverty and Public Policy


**Week Four**

“Standard” policy analysis on Welfare and Welfare Reform


**Supplemental Reading**


For a summary of the federal and Wisconsin programs:


Week Five
Measuring Poverty – The decision about who is poor and who is not poor is important. The current debate on the definition of poverty embodies a set of assumptions about what constitutes economic need. Furthermore, society (policy-makers) often decide who is or is not eligible for aid by our definition of poverty. Our ability to monitor the effectiveness of interventions designed to reduce or eliminate poverty needs academic researchers be able to measure the extent of poverty before and after the interventions.


**Supplemental Reading:**  
Mead, L. 2002. “Misunderstanding Poverty” *Public Interest*  
http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0377/is_2002_Summer/ai_87774109

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=JEH&volumeId=62&issueId=04

**Week Six**  
Poverty Theories - Causes of Poverty  (Part One)  
*Cultural/Behavioral Models*


**Supplemental Reading:**  
E. Liebow. (1967) *Tally’s Corner*. (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, and Co.).

**Week Seven**  
Poverty Theories - Causes of Poverty  (Part Two)  
*Cultural/Behavioral Models*


*Streetwise: Race, Class and Change in an Urban Community*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)

Available from: http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/20050jargowsky.htm

**Week Eight**  
Who is Poor?


Supplemental Reading


Week Nine
The aged – Understanding the special needs and resources of the aged. (Guest Lecturer)


Optional:
Basic information from the Social Security Administration on Social Security: http://www.ssa.gov

NASW talking points on Social Security http://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/grassroots/toolkit/talkSS.asp

Week Ten
Race and ethnicity— An examination of the complicated connections among past deprivation, current discrimination, and contemporary labor markets.


**Background Reading (optional)**


**Week Eleven**  
**Mental Health, Addiction and Behavioral Health (Guest Lecturer)**


Week Twelve
Gender, Feminism, and the Welfare State


Illustrations From Social Policy

Welfare Reform (Read-only 2 articles)


http://www.cbpp.org/1-30-04wel.htm

Social Security (Read-only 2 articles)


**Week Thirteen**
Welfare (cash and noncash) and the 1996 “reform” – The history, extent, and impact of cash aid, Food Stamps, Child Support, other means-tested government programs and their impact on work, fertility, and savings.

*Welfare (cash and non-cash)*


*Fathers and Child Support*


*Optional:*


Week Fourteen
Child Welfare

Issue Brief: Those Left behind: The Enduring Challenges Facing Welfare Applicants
Barriers to Employment
Income and Poverty
Child Welfare Services Involvement.


**Week Fifteen**

Marriage Policy and Wrap-Up –The current federal administration has implemented a funding initiative to encourage and promote sustainability of marriage amongst low-income families. What do we know about marriage in low-income families? Do these processes differ by race? Does this research provide any guidance for developing policies to strengthen marriage?


“Barriers to Marriage Among Fragile Families” (May 1, 2003). Available at: [http://researchforum.org/project_publications_28.html](http://researchforum.org/project_publications_28.html)


**Same-Sex Marriages**


INTERNET RESOURCES

AGED

The Century Foundation's Social Security Network
The Century Foundation (formerly The Twentieth Century Fund) has launched the Social Security Network site, the source for information, analysis, and expert commentary on the Social Security debate. The site offers one-stop access to everything you ever wanted to know about the program and the controversy, including the full text of TCF's pamphlet, the Basics of Social Security Reform (1998 edition), breaking news on the ongoing debate, background on what's right and what's wrong with Social Security, analysis of the various reform plans proposed, facts about privatization, government statistics, a collection of valuable reference material, a selection of expert commentary and opinion, and a comprehensive list of organizations dealing with Social Security. Journalists can submit online questions to a panel of experts in The Newsroom or browse TCF's experts' biographies and contact information in the Experts Directory and ask questions themselves.

Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being
The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, a consortium of U.S. government agencies responsible for improving the quality and usefulness of data on older Americans, released their first major report, Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being. Presenting a comprehensive profile of this significant and burgeoning demographic, the report seeks "to present data in a non-technical, user-friendly format." It features 31 indicators divided into five sections: Population, Economics, Health Status, Health Risks and Behaviors, and Health Care. True to its word, the report is readable, the graphics quickly comprehensible, and the layout in both HTML and .pdf formats well-organized. One interesting fact, among many, from the report is that there are now "an estimated 35 million people age 65 or older in the United States, accounting for almost 13 percent of the total population" -- an increase of more than ten-fold since the turn of the last century. [DC] Full report in .pdf format (123 pages).

U.S. Bureau of Census
~ Gender and Aging: Demographic Dimensions--Census Bureau [.pdf, 8p.]
This brief, the first time the Census Bureau has focused on the world's older women, uses statistics from the International Database in the Bureau's International Programs Center. These statistics show that because of faster declines in fertility, developing countries are aging at a much more rapid pace than most developed nations. The report summarizes the statistical findings and offers several maps and graphs.

U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging:
"Long-Term Care Financing: Blueprints for Reform" a hearing held June 20, 2002.

U.S. Social Security Administration
~ Income of the Aged Chartbook, 2000
~ Income of the Aged Chartbook, 1998
The Social Security Administration developed this ready reference tool to provide easy to access
information about income for individual's age 55 and older. The charts focus on the portions of income received from a variety of resources (Social Security, pensions, assets, earnings, etc.). Tables in the Chartbook are in .pdf format.

~ The Office of Policy
The Social Security Administration's Office of Policy is responsible for conducting policy analysis, research and evaluation to produce useful, objective, credible and timely data and policy options. This information enhances the abilities of the Commissioner of SSA and the Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Policy to make informed policy choices. OP also shares our work with other analysts and researchers, other decision-makers and the public to increase their ability to contribute to informed policy choices. This Web page is a major vehicle for this information dissemination.

~ Social Security Administration Office of Policy Chartbook
"Facts and Figure About Social Security"
(Social Security Administration Office of Policy, June 2002, .pdf format). This chartbook highlights the most significant data in the Annual Statistical Supplement. It answers the most frequently asked questions about the Social Security and SSI programs: how many people receive benefits, what is the average benefit amount, what are the characteristics of beneficiary population, what role do Social Security and SSI play in helping to reduce poverty (especially among children). Data are also shown on the income and income sources of the aged. ~

Social Security and Private Saving: A Review of the Empirical Evidence
Social Security is the largest single item in the federal budget and has a significant impact on the lives of millions of people. Analysts have long been concerned that Social Security, by providing retirement income, may discourage people from saving. This Congressional Budget Office (CBO) memorandum reviews the evidence from a number of studies on the impact of Social Security on saving.

~ SSA Compendium Data:
The Social Security Administration has provided more statistical tables from the forthcoming Annual Statistical Supplement 2000. Tables are available in HTML and .pdf formats. Interested users should bookmark the site and return periodically.

The John A. Hartford Foundation Available at http://www.jhartfound.org/publications.htm

CHILDREN

The Administration for Children and Families
The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a federal agency funding state, local, and tribal organizations to provide family assistance (welfare), child support, child care, Head Start, child welfare, and other programs relating to children and families. Actual services are provided
by state, county, city, and tribal governments, and public and private local agencies. ACF assists these organizations through funding, policy direction, and information services.

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001
America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 is the fifth report in an annual series prepared by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. A collaborative effort by 20 Federal agencies, the report is required by Executive Order No. 13045. As in past years, readers will find here an accessible compendium of indicators--drawn from the most recent, most reliable official statistics--illustrative of both the promises and the difficulties confronting our Nation's young people. This report updates the information presented last year, maintaining comparability with previous volumes while incorporating improvements. Most notably, regular data on student course taking in high school are now available. This addition closes an important data gap and raises the number of key indicators to 24. Two special features are also included in this year's report—one on the prevalence of asthma and one on youth employment during the school year and the following summer.

Child Care, Job Quality Vital to Staying Employed
The Economic Policy Institute has published a study that shows that a former welfare mother's ability to continue working consistently over time is directly linked to the quality of the job and whether she received child care to support her family. The report, "Staying Employed After Welfare," finds that the quality of the first job taken helps determine how successful low-wage women will be in the working world.

Children's Defense Fund: What's CHIP? An Introduction to the Children's Health Insurance Program
Enacted by the U.S. Congress in August 1997, the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is designed primarily to help children in working families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private family coverage. The vast majority of states are now offering coverage through CHIP and enrollment efforts are underway.

The Future of Children
Children and Welfare Reform: A Synopsis
The primary purpose of The Future of Children is to promote effective policies and programs for children by providing policymakers, service providers, and the media with timely, objective information based on the best available research.

Keeping Pace
Founded in 1983 as a cooperative venture between the schools of education at UC Berkeley and Stanford University, PACE is an independent policy research center whose primary aim is to enrich education policy debates with sound analysis and hard evidence. From issues around preschooling and child development, to K-12 school finance, to higher education outreach, PACE is dedicated to defining issues thoughtfully and assessing the relative effectiveness of alternative policies and programs. PACE provides analysis and assistance to California policymakers, education professionals, and the general public.
Welfare Children, and Marriage Promotion

COMPARATIVE

Eurostat
Statistical Office of the European Communities

Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)
Luxembourg Income Study is a non-for-profit cooperative research project with a membership that includes 25 countries on four continents: Europe, America, Asia and Oceania. The LIS project began in 1983 under the joint sponsorship of the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Centre for Population, Poverty and Policy Studies (CEPS). The project is mainly funded by the national science and social science research foundations of its member countries. Recently, LIS and the Centre Universitaire (CU) de Luxembourg became partners, with offices being provided by the CU.

OECD Online
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

U.S. Bureau of Census
~ State Estimates of Organized Child Care Facilities
Presents data on the characteristics of child care businesses for individual states from the Census of Service Industries. Although primarily focusing on the most recent Census period, 1992, some historical data are shown for the censuses of 1977, 1982, and 1987.

EDUCATION

Keeping Pace
Founded in 1983 as a cooperative venture between the schools of education at UC Berkeley and
Stanford University, PACE is an independent policy research center whose primary aim is to enrich education policy debates with sound analysis and hard evidence. From issues around preschooling and child development, to K-12 school finance, to higher education outreach, PACE is dedicated to defining issues thoughtfully and assessing the relative effectiveness of alternative policies and programs. PACE provides analysis and assistance to California policymakers, education professionals, and the general public.

U.S. Social Security Administration
~ National Center for Education Statistics
Several dozen reports were issued over the summer by the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) on a number of topics, including...academic achievement & assessment; choice; dropout rates; drug abuse; finance & budget; higher education & financial aid; libraries; limited English proficiency; private schools; students with disabilities; teachers & principals, & more.

GENERAL

2004 Green Book, U.S. House of Ways and Means Committee
The Green Book consists of background material and data on programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives. It is compiled by the staff of the Committee from many sources and it provides program descriptions and historical data on a wide variety of social and economic topics, including Social Security, employment, earnings, welfare, child support, health insurance, the elderly, families with children, poverty and taxation. It has become a standard reference work for those interested in the direction of social policy in the United States.

Program Descriptions
Advisory Announcing Release of the Green Book 2004
Letter of Transmittal and Preface
Section 1 Social Security: The Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Programs (Updated on March 17, 2004)
Section 2 Medicare (Updated on March 17, 2004)
Section 3 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Posted on December 18, 2003)
Section 4 Unemployment Compensation (Updated on March 17, 2004)
Section 5 Earned Entitlements for Railroad Employees (Posted on October 10, 2003)
Section 6 Trade Adjustment Assistance (Posted on October 15, 2003)
Section 7 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (Updated on March 17, 2004)
Section 8 Child Support Enforcement Program (Updated on March 17, 2004)
Section 9 Child Care (Posted on January 21, 2004)
Section 10 Title XX – Social Services Block Grant Program (Posted on September 22, 2003)
Section 11  Child Protection, Foster Care, and Adoption Assistance  
(Posted on February 27, 2004)  
Section 12  Social Welfare Programs in the Territories  
(Updated on March 17, 2004)  
Section 13  Tax Provisions Related to Retirement, Health, Poverty, Employment, Disability, and Other Social Issues  
(Updated on March 17, 2004)  
Section 14  The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation  
(Updated on March 17, 2004)  
Section 15  Other Programs  
(Updated on March 17, 2004)  
Overview  
(Posted on February 11, 2004)  
Food Stamp Program  
(Posted on December 17, 2003)  
Medicaid  
(Updated on March 17, 2004)  
State Children's Health Insurance Program  
(Posted on December 19, 2003)  
Federal Housing Assistance  
(Posted on December 5, 2003)  
School Lunch and Breakfast Programs  
(Posted on December 10, 2003)  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)  
(Posted on December 10, 2003)  
Child and Adult Food Care Program  
(Posted on December 10, 2003)  
Workforce Investment Act  
(Posted on December 11, 2003)  
Head Start  
(Posted on October 22, 2003)  
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
(Posted on October 27, 2003)  
Veterans Benefits and Services  
(Posted on December 2, 2003)  
Workers’ Compensation  
(Posted on December 15, 2003)  
Appendices  
Appendix A  
Data on the Elderly  
(Updated on December 10, 2003)  
Appendix B  
Health Status and Expenditures of the Elderly, and Background Data on Long-Term Care  
(Posted on February 11, 2004)  
Appendix C  
National and International Health Care Expenditures and Health Insurance Coverage  
(Posted on February 11, 2004)  
Appendix D  
Medicare Payment Policies  
(Posted on February 11, 2004)  
Appendix E  
Medicare + Choice  
(Posted on January 15, 2004)  
Appendix F  
Data on Employment, Earnings, and Unemployment  
(Posted October 22, 2003)  
Appendix G  
Data on Families  
(Posted on January 23, 2004)  
Appendix H  
Data on Poverty  
(Posted on February 11, 2004)  
Appendix I  
Budget Tables  
(Posted on October 31, 2003)  
Appendix J  
Welfare Benefits for Noncitizens  
(Posted on February 27, 2004)  
Appendix K  
Spending for Income-Tested Benefits, Fiscal Years 1968-2002  
(Updated January 23, 2004)  
Appendix L  
Assessing the Effects of Welfare Reform Initiatives  
(Posted on February 27, 2004)  
Appendix M  
Data on Nonmarital Births to Adults and Teenagers and Federal Strategies to Reduce Nonmarital Pregnancies  
(Posted on September 22, 2003)  
Index  
(Posted on March 30, 2004)
American Enterprise Institute
The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of freedom—limited government, private enterprise, vital cultural and political institutions, and a strong foreign policy and national defense—through scholarly research, open debate, and publications. Founded in 1943 and located in Washington, D.C., AEI is one of America's largest and most respected "conservative think tanks."

The American Prospect
The July-August issue of The American Prospect looks at privatization and Social Security ("Rampant Bull"), Charter Schools ("Charter Conundrum"), and election '98 ("The Turnout Imperative"). Not long ago, messing with Social Security was political death. Now the program may be on the verge of partial privatization. Robert Kuttner attacks the privateers' premises, restates the case for the program--and proposes his own alternative for building individual assets. Messing with public education also used to be off the radar screen; now charter schools are spreading. Are they the solution to America's education problems? A survey by Richard Rothstein, with reports from around the country.

An Introduction to Social Policy, UK Style
Created and maintained by Paul Spicker, a professor of politics specializing in social policy at the University of Dundee, this Website presents a detailed, yet schematic view of the main themes, concepts, and controversies surrounding issues of the welfare state and social services. The site offers sections on social policy, welfare and society, social need, the welfare state, social services, the politics of welfare, British social policy, social services in the UK, and social policy on the Web (a collection of annotated links). Using a hypertext, bulleted format, the author manages to convey significant amounts of information about complex ideas in a relatively brief span without oversimplifying. An excellent resource for economics and sociology students working on social policy topics.

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) encourages excellence in research, teaching, and practice in the field of public policy analysis and management. APPAM operates through its annual fall and spring conferences, a newsletter, and the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM). APPAM's membership includes individual and institutional members, practitioners, scholars and students. The field of public policy analysis and management that APPAM supports encompasses decisionmaking and policymaking theory, quantitative and other methods for analyzing public policies and their implementation, the theory and practice of public management, as well as the application of policy analysis theory and methods to substantive public policy problems.
**Brookings Institution**
A private, independent, nonprofit research organization, Brookings seeks to improve the performance of American institutions, the effectiveness of government programs, and the quality of U.S. public policies. It addresses current and emerging policy challenges and offers practical recommendations for dealing with them, expressed in language that is accessible to policy makers and the general public alike.

**Child Trends - Research Brief Series**
**Child Trends - The Databank Website**
The Child Trends DataBank is designed for anyone who ever spends time searching multiple Web sites looking for reliable, current data on child and youth well-being. It is a user-friendly one-stop shop for continuously updated trend data with the latest national estimates for child, youth and family indicators. The DataBank currently provides about 70 indicators on health, social and emotional development, income and work, education, demographics, and family and community, with new indicators added each month.

**Congressional Budget Office**

**Council on Contemporary Families**
The Council on Contemporary Families (CCF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the national conversation about what contemporary families need and how these needs can best be met.

**Current Demographic Research**
Current Demographic Research Reports (CDERR) is a weekly email report that helps researchers keep up to date with the latest developments in the field. The report tracks new developments in the field.

**Electronic Policy Network**
This site provides links to policy organization home pages including the Center for Law and Social Policy, Children's Defense Fund and others. Look here for sites not listed on this page.

**Family Economic Success – Annie E. Casey Foundation**
Family Economic Success (FES) is a new, comprehensive approach to help build strong financial futures for families and communities. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has developed the FES approach as a broad, inclusive way to address the difficulties low-income families face in trying to move up the economic ladder. FES seeks to bring a wide range of resources together to help these families build economic stability for themselves and their neighborhoods. In the Foundation’s Making Connections sites and elsewhere, the FES approach assists low-income families to achieve economic self-sufficiency, and helps communities become marketable places for investment, by utilizing and linking mutually reinforcing strategies and investments. When linked to meet the specific needs of individual families and individual communities, Casey believes these strategies and investments can create a synergy that leads to permanent, positive change.
Mathematica Policy Research
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., conducts public policy research and surveys for federal and state governments as well as private-sector clients. We study health care, education, welfare, employment, nutrition, child development, and other policy issues.

National Workforce Policy Newsletter
The Annie E. Casey Foundation brings provides the National Workforce Policy Newsletter. On a monthly basis, the newsletter provides updates on the latest policy action surrounding workforce access, retention, and advancement. In addition, you will receive the quarterly Jobs Initiative Update, which provides information and lessons learned from the Foundation's six-city Jobs Initiative. For more information about the Jobs Initiative and past issues of the National Workforce Policy Newsletter, go to http://www.aecf.org/jobsinitiative/

Progressive Policy Institute
The Progressive Policy Institute is a catalyst for political change. Its mission is to modernize progressive politics and government for the Information Age. Leaving behind the stale left-right debates of the industrial era, PPI is a prolific source of "Third Way" thinking that is shaping the emerging politics of the 21st century.

Public Agenda Online: The Inside Source for Public Opinion and Policy Analysis

Russell Sage Foundation (RSF)
In partnership with the Carnegie Corporation, the Russell Sage Foundation has launched a new research initiative to examine social inequality on a number of dimensions, including family well-being, educational opportunity, health care and coverage, legal services and criminal justice, political participation and representation, banking and credit, housing, pension provision, environmental quality, and even access to computers and the Internet. The project will consist of a cluster of working groups, each based at an individual university or research center. The groups will pursue their own portfolio of investigations into one or more of the social dimensions of inequality. They will develop indicators of inequality in the social domains under scrutiny, track trends in each domain, and illuminate how different types of inequality are interlinked.

Three interesting RSF papers:
~ "School Inequality: What Do We Know?" by Meredith Phillips and Tiffani Chin
~ "College-Going and Inequality: A Literature Review" by Thomas J. Kane

Social Science Research Network
Social Science Research Network (SSRN) is devoted to the rapid worldwide dissemination of social science research and is composed of a number of specialized research networks in each of the social sciences.

Sociological Data Archive
Maintained by the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Sociological
Data Archive provides data files derived from social science research projects. Currently, the archive contains information about the surveys, variables, questionnaires, and publications of over 40 projects. All data files in the searchable archive are freely accessible for non-commercial or instructional purposes; however, users must complete an order form in order to obtain some data files.

**Straight Talk About Social Security**

Robert Ball, former commissioner of Social Security and a member of the recent Advisory Council on Social Security, has prepared, with Thomas N. Bethell, this closely reasoned and important report on the central issues in the current debate about the program. The authors clarify the misunderstandings that plague the Social Security reform debate, discuss options for making the trust funds solvent well into the future, and analyze various privatization plans. Finally, they outline nine guiding principles that must be considered for any reform of the Social Security system.

**Tax Foundation Figures Produce Misleading and Inaccurate Impressions of Middle Class Tax Burdens**

by Iris J. Lav, Isaac Shapiro, and Robert Greenstein

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

**U.S. Bureau of Census**


Indicates the decline of the traditional American family, married with children, has slowed as a percentage of all families in the 1990s and the growth of single-parent families -- those maintained by a mother or father with no spouse present -- has also slowed. Supporting tables and text are available on the Internet.

~*Housing Vacancies and Homeownership Survey: Annual Statistics 2001* -- Census Bureau

The US Census Bureau has recently released the latest annual survey of vacancy and homeownership rates. Detailed tables include rates by area, state, and 75 metropolitan areas. Additional tables include homeownership rates by age, family status, race and ethnicity, and tables of standard errors.

~*Housing Vacancies & Homeownership Survey: Annual Statistics 2000*

~*Housing Vacancies & Homeownership Survey: Annual Statistics 1999*

~*Housing Vacancies & Homeownership Survey: Annual Statistics 1998*

~*Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 2000*

~*Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998*

~*Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1996*

A newly released Census Bureau report provides data on significant changes that marital status and living arrangements in the United States have undergone in the past few decades.
Some findings from this report based on the March 1996 Current Population Survey:
- the divorce rate has quadrupled from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996.
- the number of never married adults aged eighteen years and over has doubled from 21.4 million in 1970 to 44.9 million adults in 1996.
- the number of children living with both parents has declined from eighty-five to 68 percent between 1970 and 1996.
- the proportion of children living with one parent has grown from 12 percent to 28 percent during this same time span.


U.S. Social Security Administration

~ Changing America: Indicators of Social And Economic Well-Being by Race and Hispanic Origin - Index of charts
The Council of Economic Advisers for the President's Initiative on Race prepared this document to chart current and historical socioeconomic data related to the differences in well-being among Americans in regard to race and Hispanic origin. Key indicators within seven areas of well-being are presented in the chart book to educate the public: population, education, labor markets, economic status, health, crime, and housing. Users may view charts as separate .pdf files or view the entire chart book in a single .pdf file (688K).

PDF version
~ Expenditures on Children by Families, 2001 Annual Report--USDA [.pdf]
~ Expenditures on Children by Families, 2000 Annual Report--USDA [.pdf]
~ Expenditures on Children by Families, 1999 Annual Report--USDA [.pdf]
~ Expenditures on Children by Families, 1998 Annual Report--USDA [.pdf]

The US Department of Agriculture has released the latest of its annual estimate Index. Price Consumer the using dollars 1997 to updated Survey, Consumeriture 1990-92 from data families single-parent and two- for estimates recent most offers report This seventeen. age through birth children on>

~ Fedworld Information Network
FedWorld has enjoyed thinking outside the box to offer multiple distribution channels to disseminate information to the public and to the Federal Government. The modes of access, the variety of documents available, and the technological expertise at FedWorld are expanding with technology. What FedWorld can offer is a comprehensive central access point for searching, locating, ordering and acquiring government and business information.

~ Fedstats: One Stop Shopping Federal Statistics
More than 70 agencies in the United States Federal Government produce statistics of interest to the public. The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy maintains this site to provide easy access to the full range of statistics and information produced by these agencies for public use.

~ The Women's Bureau
is located within the Department of Labor and is the only Federal Agency devoted exclusively to the concerns of women in the labor force.
Urban Institute
The Urban Institute investigates social and economic problems confronting the nation and analyzes efforts to solve these problems. The Institute seeks to increase Americans' awareness of important public choices and improve the formulation and implementation of government decisions. Much of its research is available to the public.

Urban Institute's New Federalism State Database
This database includes information on the fifty states and the District of Columbia in areas including income security, health, child well-being, demographic, fiscal and political conditions, and social services.

Writer's Handbook
Produced by the Writing Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, this site offers an excellent collection of concise instructional materials for university students and instructors. The Handbook consists of five sections, each of which addresses a different aspect of college-level writing. The Academic Writing section offers brief and useful guides to Writing about Literature, Research Papers, Writing Reviews, and Science Writing. Documentation Styles covers the six major styles and includes a guide to citing electronic resources. Additional guides include Peer Reviews, Grammar and Style, and Writing Letters.

HEALTH CARE

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: National Center for Health Statistic
~ "Health, United States, 2001"
Features more than a hundred tables showing trends in health status, health risk factors, use of health care and a variety of other health topics for the entire U.S. population collected from several federal and non-federal sources. The NIA provided support for the chart book on aging. Editions back to 1993 are available for downloading.

Kaiser Family Foundation
The Kaiser Family Foundation today issued four new and updated fact sheets highlighting key facts and the latest statistics about the Medicare program. The fact sheets are designed to provide an overview of the Medicare program, the new Medicare drug benefit, the program’s financing and the role of private health plans in the program. The fact sheets are part of the Foundation’s wide range of background materials and research about the Medicare program and the drug
benefit. These resources include reports, analysis, charts and "Talking About Medicare," a consumer guide to understand the program. These materials are available at http://www.kff.org/medicare

~ Medicare at a Glance: This fact sheet provides a basic overview of the Medicare program, including how it is financed, who is eligible, and what benefits are covered under the program.


~ Medicare Spending and Financing: This fact sheet provides an overview of spending on the Medicare program, how the program is financed, and Medicare’s future financial outlook.

~ Medicare Advantage: This fact sheet provides an overview of the Medicare Advantage program, including current data on plan participation, beneficiary enrollment, benefits and premiums, and explains changes made by the 2003 law regarding Medicare payments to participating plans.

Kaiser Family Foundation Chartbook:
"Medicare and Prescription Drugs: A Chartpack"
This chartpack presents a brief overview of the state of prescription drug coverage among the Medicare population. It reviews the impact of lack of coverage on beneficiaries' access to prescription drugs, as well as current levels of total and out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs.
"A Side-by-Side Comparison of the Prescription Drug Coverage Provisions of S.1 and H.R. 1"

Kaiser Network: Health Policy As It Happens

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
~ DHHS-Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation is responsible to the Secretary for policy analysis and advice, policy development, strategic and implementation planning, and for the coordination and conduct of evaluation and policy research. Mission, organization, and history are described in separate documents. Employee and organizational directories are also available.

U.S. Social Security Administration
~ Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR)
The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research's Web site makes practical, science-based health care information available in one convenient place. The Web site features an Electronic Catalog to the more than 450 information products generated by AHCPR, with information on how to obtain these resources. Many information products have an electronic ordering form and are mailed free of charge from the AHCPR Clearinghouse within 5 working days.

~ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly HCFA)
As of July 1, 2001, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is now the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS's mission is to serve Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

~ Medicare: The Official US Government Site for Medicare
The Health Care Financing Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services provides this site--a consumer gateway to information about Medicare, a national health
insurance program that covers 37 million Americans, mostly over age 65. Current highlights include a managed care section that contains Medicare Compare, an interactive database that allows users to compare (according to zip code or state) the benefits offered by Medicare managed care providers. Medicare Compare can also be downloaded as a Microsoft Access Database. The managed care section also contains a glossary of terms, frequently asked questions and their answers, and instructions on how to enroll and disenroll in a managed care plan. Users can refer to the overall site for general information on the Medicare program, fraud and abuse, and state contact lists, among other features.

Welfare Children, and Marriage Promotion

POVERTY

2002 HHS Poverty Guidelines
There are two slightly different versions of the federal poverty measure: the poverty thresholds, and the poverty guidelines. The poverty thresholds are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau (although they were originally developed by Mollie Orshansky of the Social Security Administration). The thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes — for instance, preparing estimates of the number of Americans in poverty each year. (In other words, all official poverty population figures are calculated using the poverty thresholds, not the guidelines.) Poverty thresholds since 1980 and weighted average poverty thresholds since 1959 are available on the Census Bureau's Web site. The poverty guidelines are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. (The full
text of the Federal Register notice with the 2000 poverty guidelines is available here.) The poverty guidelines are sometimes loosely referred to as the "federal poverty level" (FPL), but that term is ambiguous, and should be avoided in situations (e.g., legislative or administrative) where precision is important. A more extensive discussion of poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines is available on the Institute for Research on Poverty's Web site.

~ 2001 HHS Poverty Guidelines
~ 2000 HHS Poverty Guidelines
~ 1999 HHS Poverty Guidelines
~ 1998 HHS Poverty Guidelines

**Better Outcomes for Low-Income Youth and Adults**

Richard Kazis, Leslie Haynes, and Martin Liebowitz of Jobs for the Future (JFF) explore strategies that community colleges are using to improve the quality and effectiveness of their services to low-income youth and adults in the June/July 2002 issue of Community college Journal. "Lessons Learned" is part of a JFF-designed and administered "Metlife Foundation Community College Excellence Awards," created to recognize the work of community colleges and highlight model institutions.

**E-Video Clip: Budgeting for Poverty**

**Hard Work on Soft Skills**

Working Ventures, an initiative of Public/Private Ventures, has released a "soft-skills" training video for workforce development professionals. "Creating a Culture of Work" is two 30-minute videos that present six strategies for teaching and creating a work environment for participants.

**HHS Reports on Welfare Dependence**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has presented its fifth annual report to Congress on welfare dependency. Under the Welfare Indicators Act, HHS was directed to address the rate of welfare dependency, the degree and duration of welfare recipiency and dependence, and predictors of welfare dependence. "Indicators of Welfare Dependency" examines the extent to which American families are dependent on income from welfare programs.

**Information for Decision Making: Making Wages Work:**

"Earned Income Tax Credit and Other Tax Benefits"

**Institute for Research on Poverty**

The Institute for Research on Poverty is a national, university-based center for research into the causes and consequences of poverty and social inequality in the United States. It is nonprofit and nonpartisan. The Institute was established in 1966 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, the organization given responsibility for reducing poverty in America. In the years since then, the Institute's multidisciplinary affiliates have
formulated and tested basic theories of poverty and inequality, developed and evaluated social policy alternatives, and analyzed trends in poverty and economic well-being.

**Institute for Research on Poverty Discussion Papers**

**Institute for Social Research**
The Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan is the nation's longest-standing laboratory for interdisciplinary research in the social sciences. A scientific leader for more than 50 years, it has advanced understanding of society and human behavior through empirical research of extraordinary scope and breadth.

**Joint Center for Poverty Research**
The Northwestern University / University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research is a national and interdisciplinary community of researchers whose work advances the understanding of what it means to be poor and live in America.

**National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy**

**Proposed Rule on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program**

(TANF) HHS Press Release and Proposed Regulation

On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act," which established the "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program," designed to replace the longstanding Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Proposed regulations for the TANF program were issued in the Federal Register on November 20, 1997, and are posted at this site by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

**Professionals Gather to "Make Work Work"**
The conference summary from "Making Work Work" is now available for download. In February 2002, 250 workforce development professionals attended a conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, to discuss promotion of self-sufficiency among low-wage workers. The summary includes next steps and top priorities proposed by conference attendees. It also presents brief highlights from keynote speaker Elaine Ryan (American Public Human Services Association) and conference speakers Rip Rapson (McKnight Foundation), Art Rolnick (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis), Kris Jacobs (Jobs Now Coalition), Governor Jesse Ventura, Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch, State Representative Bob Gunther, State Senator Ellen Anderson, and real-life case example from Employer Solutions and C-Pak, Inc.

**U.S. Bureau of Census**

~ **POVERTY:** Poverty is often linked to poor health status. With improved measures, researchers might more effectively explore this relationship and possible remedies. The U.S. Census Bureau report, "Experimental Poverty Measures," examines alternatives to the official definition of poverty that could significantly affect the findings of poverty and health research. The experimental measures discussed include, for example, using an after-tax income measure, adding the value of in-kind benefits (such as food stamps) to income, and taking into account variations in expenses that are necessary to hold a job or to obtain medical care.
The report concludes that future poverty measurement research should focus on refining the poverty thresholds and further examining the resource measure. View the new census report: "Experimental Poverty Measures" [http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p60-205.pdf]

The Census Bureau has recently released these revised state and county income and poverty estimates for 1993. The site offers highlights and background of the estimates, estimation models, tables, and data for downloading; revisions and additions are noted in a separate section.

~ State and County Income and Poverty Estimates --Census Bureau


U.S. Welfare Caseloads Updated Information

- Change in Welfare Caseloads since 1993 (Families)
- Change in Welfare Caseloads since 1993 (Recipients)
- Change in Welfare Caseloads since 1996 (Families and Recipients)

The Administration for Children and Families, DHHS has recently added two new data collections to its web site. The first lists the total AFDC/TANF families and recipients both nationally and by state. The second offers a caseload comparison of welfare recipients since the enactment of the new welfare law.

University of Maryland, School of Public Affairs: Welfare Reform Academy

The School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland has created an academy to help state and local officials, private social service providers, and other interested parties take full advantage of the 1996 welfare reform law. While the law puts pressure on public officials and service providers to make their programs more efficient and better targeted, it also presents an unprecedented opportunity for states to reshape their programs. Since early 1997, the Welfare Reform Academy has provided training in program design, implementation, and evaluation for the new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamp, Medicaid, job training, child care, child welfare, and child support programs.

Welfare Children, and Marriage Promotion


Welfare Related Web Sites

This site provides links to many, many sites concerning welfare, families, and children.