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Health Care Half-Truths shows the ways in which American health care is tarnished and ways in which it shines, explaining that if we are going to make our health care system work, we must begin with the truth. In this book, Dr. Arthur Garson identifies twenty myths about the U.S. health care system and uses his extensive knowledge and keen insights to blow them apart. The mission of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children through age 4 who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education, and referrals to health care and other social services. Almost half of all infants and about a quarter of all children ages 1-4 in the U.S. participate in the program. WIC accounts for 10% of total Federal spending on food and nutrition assistance. This report describes the WIC program ¿ how it works, its history, program trends, and the characteristics of the population it serves. It also examines current issues facing WIC, focusing mainly on those with important economic implications. Fed. law restricts noncitizens' access to public benefits, incl. Temporary Assist. for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assist. Program (SNAP), and Suppl. Security Income (SSI). Further, when noncitizens who legally reside in this country through sponsorship of a family member apply for these benefits, they are subject to sponsor ¿deeming¿, which requires benefit agencies to combine noncitizens' incomes with those of their sponsors to determine eligibility. This report analyzes: (1) what is known about the size of the non-citizen population potentially affected by the sponsor deeming requirements for TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI; (2) have agencies implemented sponsor deeming, and sponsor repay. Ill. In 2013, 45.3 million people were counted as poor in the United States under the official poverty measure—a number statistically unchanged from the 46.5 million people estimated as poor in 2012. The poverty rate, or percent of the population considered poor under the official definition, was reported at 14.5% in 2013, a statistically significant drop from the estimated 15.0% in 2012. Poverty in the United States increased markedly over the 2007-2010 period, in tandem with the economic recession (officially marked as running from December 2007 to June 2009), and remained unchanged at a post-recession high for three years (15.1% in 2010, and 15.0% in both 2011 and 2012). The 2013 poverty rate of 14.5% remains above a 2006 pre-recession low of 12.3%, and well above an historic low rate of 11.3% attained in 2000 (a rate statistically tied with a previous low of 11.1% in 1973). The incidence of poverty varies widely across the population according to age, education, labor force attachment, family living arrangements, and area of residence, among other factors. Under the official poverty definition, an average family of four was considered poor in 2013 if its pre-tax cash income for the year was below \$23,834. The measure of poverty currently in use was developed some 50 years ago, and was adopted as the "official" U.S. statistical measure of poverty in 1969. Except for minor technical changes, and adjustments for price changes in the economy, the "poverty line" (i.e., the income thresholds by which families or individuals with incomes that fall below are deemed to be poor) is the same as that developed nearly a half century ago, reflecting a notion of economic need based on living standards that prevailed in the mid-1950s. Moreover, poverty as it is currently measured only counts families' and individuals' pre-tax money income against the poverty line in determining whether or not they are poor. In-kind benefits, such as benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly named the Food Stamp program) and housing assistance, are not accounted for under the "official" poverty definition, nor are the effects of taxes or tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Child Tax Credit (CTC). In this sense, the "official" measure fails to capture the effects of a variety of programs and policies specifically designed to address income poverty. A congressionally commissioned study conducted by a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel of experts recommended, some 20 years ago, that a new U.S. poverty measure be developed, offering a number of specific recommendations. The Census Bureau, in partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), has developed a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) designed to implement many of the NAS panel recommendations. The SPM is to be considered a "research" measure, to supplement the "official" poverty measure. Guided by new research, the Census Bureau and BLS intend to improve the SPM over time. The "official" statistical poverty measure will continue to be used by programs that use it as the basis for allocating funds under formula and matching grant programs. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will continue to issue poverty income guidelines derived from "official" Census Bureau poverty thresholds. HHS poverty guidelines are used in determining individual and family income eligibility under a number of federal and state programs. Estimates from the SPM differ from the "official" poverty measure and are presented in a final section of this report. Abstract: Due to the usage of the outdated Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines, many older adults are battling with economic insecurity and are not deemed eligible to apply for means-based assistance. The Elder Index has been identified as a tool to help determine poverty level taking into consideration the cost of living of the older adult's particular geographic area. The purpose of this study was to better understand the concept of empowerment among caregivers of children with asthma. This study investigated what is already known about empowerment among caregivers and the instruments available to measure caregiver empowerment. This study then examined the relationship between social support and caregiver empowerment as well as income level and empowerment amongst caregivers of children with asthma. This study used the Federal Poverty Guidelines, Family Empowerment Scale and MOS Social Support Survey to measure these relationships. It was found that there was no relationship between income level and empowerment, but there was a significant correlation between social support and empowerment. The implications of this study are discussed as this study adds to the existing body of knowledge related to caregiver empowerment and establishes the foundation for further interventions to help increase empowerment among caregivers of children with asthma. VA generally provides Individual Unemployability benefits to disabled veterans of any age who are unable to maintain employment with earnings above the federal poverty guidelines due to service-connected disabilities. Because the population of veterans who receive these supplemental benefits has been growing, GAO was asked to review VA's management of these benefits. This report (1) examines age-related trends in the population of Individual Unemployability beneficiaries and benefit payments; (2) assesses the procedures used for benefit decision-making; and (3) describes suggested options for revising the benefit. GAO analyzed fiscal year 2009 through 2013 data provided by VA—the most recent years available; reviewed applicable federal laws, regulations, and program policies; visited six regional offices selected for their differing accuracy rates, workload, and geography; reviewed a non-generalizable sample of claims; and spoke with rating specialists, experts, and VSO representatives. Discusses how many elderly people enrolled in Connecticut Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract to the Elderly and the Disabled Program (ConnPACE) have incomes below the federal poverty guidelines. Each year the

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) must estimate the number of people who are eligible to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). These USDA estimates have come under critical scrutiny in part because the number of infants and postpartum women who have actually enrolled in the program has exceeded the number estimated to be eligible by as much as 20 to 30 percent. These high "coverage rates" have led some members of Congress to conclude that some people who participate are truly ineligible, and that funding could be reduced somewhat and still meet the needs of truly eligible persons who wish to participate. But some advocates and state WIC agencies believe that the estimates of the number of eligible persons are too low and more people who are eligible and want to participate could do so. In response to these concerns, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the USDA asked the Committee on National Statistics of the National Research Council to convene a panel of experts to review the methods used to estimate the number of people nationwide who are eligible and likely to participate in the WIC program. The panel's charge is to review currently used and alternative data and methods for estimating income eligibility, adjunctive eligibility from participation in other public assistance programs, nutritional risk, and participation if the program is fully funded. The nation's primary program to deliver health care to low-income people, Medicaid cost \$230 billion in 2003. As costs continue to rise faster than revenues, states struggle to maintain coverage while looking for program efficiencies. This booklet summarizes key elements of the program: what Medicaid is, which people are covered, what services are provided, how costs can be controlled, and new developments.--Publisher's description. Resiliency in the low-income population includes individual as well as familial and community achievement. In order to break down the barriers of poverty, all three must be interconnected. This report provides a review of the current literature on factors that affect individuals and families to become resilient and what programs are available for support along the way. Circles Manhattan is one program in the Manhattan, Kansas community that rallies around individuals and families in poverty and works to see them through to earning 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This report also provides an evaluation of the Circles Manhattan Circle Leader training using pre-evaluation, post-evaluation, and weekly evaluation tools. Based on the results of the evaluation, recommendations are made for the future of Circles Manhattan as well as for researchers studying the topic of resiliency and poverty. God's Plan 2020 presents system changes and action plans to help poor people and vulnerable populations obtain and sustain essential basic survival needs for life: water, food, health, housing, income, and education. These essential needs translate into health care, home ownership, income equity, and skills training as part of government programs, services, and social benefit program. God's Plan provides 2020 vision for viewing current health care, housing, income, and education systems through the lens of efficiency and effectiveness which are critical for identifying and addressing system failure. Descriptive narratives and statistical data are used to quantify and highlight the degree and state of system failure for each system. The chapters include actions plans to restructure systems to operate at optimal efficiency and effectiveness. The action plans are designed to provide immediate help to the poor and vulnerable populations to obtain and sustain the basic survival needs for life. A key attribute typically shared among the poor and the vulnerable is poverty. The problem is addressed by the government and organizations using the Federal Poverty Guidelines. However, the guidelines utilize erroneous and deceptive assessment strategies and tools to set eligibility and assistance criteria. A scale that is more precise in assessing poverty is included in the book. Readers can use the scale to accurately determine their poverty level and the actions needed to be poverty-free. After reading this book, individuals and entities will have greater insight, knowledge, and skills to allocate and link resources and assistance directly to the poor and vulnerable. This is God's Plan symbolized and demonstrated by one human being reaching out a hand directly to the hand of another human being to provide immediate help. The minimum wage affects workers regardless of their family status. A full-time, year-round worker at the current minimum wage would gross \$15,080 in the year. A worker's poverty status, however, depends on family circumstance, specifically family size. A single full-year, full-time worker earning the current federal minimum wage would have gross earnings above the 2014 poverty guidelines, but the same worker in a family of two or more people would have gross earnings that fall below these guidelines. Each year's poverty figures are anxiously awaited by policymakers, analysts, and the media. Yet questions are increasing about the 30-year-old measure as social and economic conditions change. In *Measuring Poverty* a distinguished panel provides policymakers with an up-to-date evaluation of Concepts and procedures for deriving the poverty threshold, including adjustments for different family circumstances. Definitions of family resources. Procedures for annual updates of poverty measures. The volume explores specific issues underlying the poverty measure, analyzes the likely effects of any changes on poverty rates, and discusses the impact on eligibility for public benefits. In supporting its recommendations the panel provides insightful recognition of the political and social dimensions of this key economic indicator. *Measuring Poverty* will be important to government officials, policy analysts, statisticians, economists, researchers, and others involved in virtually all poverty and social welfare issues. In order to win the War on Poverty that was officially begun over 40 years ago, the United States must first accurately identify the families that live in real poverty. For the last 40 years, however, the United States has utilized a poverty measure that was defined using the cost of food as the primary determinant. Today, housing costs far exceed any other expense for most families. Therefore, a housing-based measure would more accurately identify the number of families that lack a socially acceptable amount of money, and hence are living in true poverty. This research combines the well-established official federal poverty thresholds with a new construct called housing-induced poverty to answer the following questions: - How many families are living in true poverty in America, as defined using the housing-induced poverty measure? - How many of these families are living in housing-induced poverty but are not currently recognized as living in poverty under the existing guidelines? - What household characteristics increase the likelihood that a family will be living in housing-induced poverty? - What would be the policy ramifications of broadening the definition of poverty to the more accurate housing-induced poverty measure? Using data from the 2003 American Housing Survey, an estimated 28.3 million families (more than one quarter of all households) are living in true poverty based on the housing-induced poverty measure. Of these families, 17.2 million are currently not considered to be living in real poverty under the existing poverty thresholds. Not surprisingly, the likelihood that a family is living in housing-induced poverty varies across race and ethnicity, geography, financial arrangement (owners vs. renters), the type of rental assistance received, the number of children and elderly in the household, and the income earned by the family. Moving to the more accurate housing-induced poverty measure would have huge policy implications, since at least 31 government programs at the federal level alone rely on the official poverty guidelines to help determine program eligibility. Nonetheless, properly identifying who is most in need of help is an absolutely essential step in addressing the needs of America's least fortunate. In 2011, 46.2 million people were counted as poor in the United States, the same number as in 2010 and the largest number of persons counted as poor in the measure's 53-year recorded history. The poverty rate, or percent of the population considered poor under the official definition, was reported at 15.0% in 2011, statistically unchanged from 2010. The 2011 poverty rate of 15.0% is well above its most recent pre-recession low of 12.3% in 2006, and has reached the highest level seen in the past 18 years (1993). The increase in poverty over the past four years reflects the effects of the economic recession that began in December 2007. Some analysts expect poverty to remain above pre-recessionary levels for as long as a decade, and perhaps longer, given the depth of the recession and slow pace of economic recovery. The pre-recession poverty rate of 12.3% in 2006 was well above the 11.3% rate at the beginning of the decade, in 2000, which marked a historical low previously attained in 1973 (11.1%, a rate statistically tied with the 2000 poverty rate). The incidence of poverty varies widely across the population according to age, education, labor force attachment, family living arrangements, and area of residence, among other factors. Under the official poverty definition, an average family of four was considered poor in 2011 if its pretax cash income for the year was below \$23,021. The measure of poverty currently in use was developed nearly 50 years ago, and was adopted as the "official" U.S. statistical measure of poverty in 1969. 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