

Summary Facts from Each Episode

From Episode 1 – In Sickness and in Wealth:

- Americans spend \$2 trillion annually on medical care, nearly half of all health dollars spent in the world.
- Among industrialized nations, the U.S. ranks 29th in life expectancy.
- 47 million Americans have no health insurance.
- In the U.S., the wealth of the top 1% is greater than the combined wealth of the bottom 90%.
- The majority of poor people in the U.S. are white.
- A 2005 study revealed that each year, more than 83,000 preventable African American deaths are attributable to the Black-white mortality gap.
- People who grew up in a house owned by their parents are less likely to get sick as adults when exposed to a cold virus.

From Episode 2 – When the Bough Breaks:

- U.S. infant mortality rate – one of the worst in industrialized world. White America alone would rank 23rd.
- Pre-term birth is the second leading cause of death for infants in the U.S.
- One month's stay in a neonatal intensive care unit averages \$68,000.
- Infant mortality among white American women with a college degree or higher is approximately 4 deaths per 1,000 live births. For similarly educated African American women, the rate is three times as high, 12 per 1,000 live births. Babies of white women who haven't finished high school experience a lower rate of infant mortality than college educated African American women.
- The rate of low birth-weight babies born to African immigrants to the U.S. is comparable to the rate for white Americans. But the daughters of African immigrants experience a higher rate of low birth-weight babies - comparable to the general African American population.

From Episode 3 – Becoming American:

- The average American spends 50 minutes a day commuting to and from work. For ten million Americans, the commute is now two hours or more.
- One in four Americans say there is no one with whom they discuss important matters. That number nearly tripled in the last 20 years.
- After five or more years in the U.S., Latino immigrants are 1½ times more likely to have high blood pressure than when they first arrived.
- The depression rate among immigrants who have been in the U.S. less than 13 years is 8%. For the general U.S. population, the depression rate is 20%.
- Three out of four Americans who started out at the bottom of the income ladder in the late 1980s were still there a decade later.

From Episode 4 – Bad Sugar:

- The Tohono O'odham and Pima Indians of southern Arizona have the highest rate of Type 2 diabetes in the world.
- In upscale Scottsdale, Arizona, the diabetes rate is approximately 5%. In working class Bullhead City, the rate is approximately 11%. On several Arizona Native American reservations the rate is 50% - 7 times the national average.

- In 1902, a survey found only one case of diabetes among the Pima. Within 30 years of building the Coolidge Dam, there were over 500 cases.
- Over half of Pima and Tohono O’odham Indians live below the poverty line.
- Prior to 1999, the U.S. Commodity Supplemental Food Program – which supplies many Native American reservations – included no fresh produce.

From Episode 5 – Place Matters:

- Of 350,000 federally guaranteed new home loans made between 1946 and 1960 in Northern California, less than 100 went to black families. Of \$120 billion in government-backed home loans nationally between 1934 and 1962, less than two percent went to non-white households.
- In Seattle, the typical cost of emergency room visits for a child with asthma living in a disadvantaged neighborhood is \$3,000-\$5,000/year.
- According to University of Michigan epidemiologist Ana Diez-Roux, living in an economically disadvantaged community can increase the risk of heart disease by as much as 80%.
- In Boston, children living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods are six times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than children in neighborhoods at the high end of the economic spectrum.

From Episode 6 – Collateral Damage:

- The U.S. took control of the Marshall Islands from the Japanese in 1944 and kept control until an independent republic was formed in the late 1970s.
- More than 1,100 Marshallese work on the U.S. military installation on Kwajalein Island but they are not allowed to live there.
- TB rates among the Marshallese are 23 times higher than in the U.S. Life expectancy is 15 years less.
- Infant mortality in the U.S. is 7 deaths per 1,000 live births. For the Marshall Islands, it is 52 per 1,000.
- Americans living on Kwajalein have health outcomes similar to the U.S.
- In the Marshall Islands, about 30% of the population has diabetes. In the U.S., approximately 7% of the population has diabetes.

From Episode 7 – Not Just a Paycheck:

- In 2006, Electrolux workers in Michigan earned \$15 an hour plus benefits. Electrolux’s Mexican workers earn \$1.57 an hour plus bus fare and lunch.
- In 2004, the Greenville hospital treated 80 cases of depression, attempted suicide, and domestic abuse. The year after the plant closing, that number nearly tripled.
- Economist Harvey Brenner predicts that the Electrolux closing will result in 135 “excess deaths” in the Greenville area over 10 years.
- In 1965, one-third of the jobs in the U.S. were manufacturing jobs. Today, under 13% of U.S. jobs are manufacturing jobs.
- The top 1% of Americans hold more wealth than the bottom 90% combined.
- CEOs earn more than 250 times the average worker’s pay.