

# UNNATURAL CAUSES

...is inequality making us sick?

**May 6, 2008**

**6 to 8 pm**

**Conference Rooms A and B  
Providence Everett Medical Center  
Pacific Campus  
916 Pacific Avenue, Everett**

**Join us for a two-hour community gathering around health care disparities, including a screening of segment from *Unnatural Causes*, a PBS documentary on socioeconomic and racial disparities in health, and a facilitated discussion.**

- **Light supper will be provided**
- **Health screenings and door prizes**

**This event is FREE and open to the general public**

**For more information, call 425-258-8828  
or e-mail [UnnaturalCauses@c3coalition.org](mailto:UnnaturalCauses@c3coalition.org)**

**For more information on the PBS series go to: [www.unnaturalcauses.org](http://www.unnaturalcauses.org)**

Co-sponsors include the Communities of Color Coalition, Providence Everett Medical Centers, Everett Community College, Snohomish County Medical Reserve Corps, Washington State University Snohomish County Extension, Familias Unidas, South Everett Neighborhood Center, Woodburn Company, REI, YMCA of Snohomish County, Korean Womens Association, KSER 90.7 fm, Positive Women's Network, Women's Wellness Center, NAACP Snohomish County, Everett School District.

Endorsers include Snohomish Health District, Everett Clinic, League of Women Voters of Snohomish County.



# Health Inequities Fact Sheet

## Did you know...

- The U.S. spends more per capita on health than any other industrialized country. Yet American life expectancy ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the world. (The Human Development Report 2006)
- Based on 72 years of data, Hollywood actors who won an Academy Award lived, on average, four years longer than those who were nominated but didn't win. (Redelmeier and Singh, 2001)
- The life expectancy gap between the healthiest and unhealthiest counties in the U.S. is 20 years. (Murray, Michaud, McKenna and Marks, 1998)
- Levels of illness for U.S. adults with low income and education in their 30s and 40s are comparable to those of affluent adults in their 60s and 70s (House et al. 1994).
- A baby born to a mother with a high-school education is 1.5 times more likely to die before age one than a baby born to a mother with at least some college-level education. (Health US 2005)
- Children living in poverty are 6 times more likely to have poor health than children living in middle or high-income households. (Health US 2005)
- Adults living in poverty are 4 times as likely to have poor health compared to other adults. (Health US 2005)
- Adults who have not finished high school are almost two times more likely than college graduates to be obese. (Health US 2005)
- Non-elderly adults who are poor are 7 times more likely to be unable to work due to a health problem, compared with those who are not low-income. (Health US 2005)
- The impact of poverty on the overall death rate is comparable to that of cigarette smoking (Hahn et al. 1995).
- White infants born to women who did not complete high school are 80% more likely to die before their first birthday than those born to women with a college degree. (Pamuk et al in Health United States, 1998)
- BUT, babies born to Black women with a college degree still die before their first birthday at greater rates than those born to white women who haven't finished high school (Pamuk et al in Health United States, 1998)

*Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher and his colleagues calculated that in 2002, 83,570 African Americans died who would not have died if Black-white differences in health did not exist, a rate of 229 "excess deaths" per day. That's the equivalent of a Boeing 767 being shot out of the sky and killing everyone on board every day, 365 days a year, points out David Williams of Harvard's School of Public Health. And they are all Black.*

From *California Newsreel* 2007 [www.unnaturalcauses.org](http://www.unnaturalcauses.org)