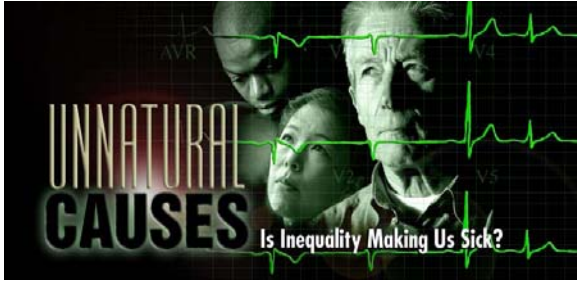


Series on Health Disparities Among Americans To Dispel Myths and Rally Change

The United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, yet the Superpower ranks 41 among other industrialize nations for life expectancy. A documentary series on PBS will explore the



economic, physical and social background behind health disparities among the poor and middle-class, in addition compare how race and geography affect who receives health care, factors more profound than smoking.

Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? which is set to air in some cities starting March 27, shows Americans that other aspects beyond our

behavior, medicine and genes have an overwhelming impact on our health.

“Improvement in our neighborhoods, living wage and jobs are as much health issues as diet and exercise,” said Larry Adelman, executive producer of the series. “Social policy is health policy.”

The four-hour series reveals examinations of various populations, including Native Americans, and questions why some African American and Native Americans are less likely to reach age 65 than people from Bangladesh or Ghana. In another episode of the six-part series, *Becoming American*, producers explore why some Latino immigrants have better health than the average American when they arrive in the U.S., yet suffer a rapid decline the longer they are here.

In episode four, *Bad Sugar*, the Tohono O’Odham tribe south of Phoenix has suffered some of the highest rates of type II diabetes in the world. About half of the adults have the disease and the rate of diabetes among their children is growing.

But historically the Pima had relied on local game and farming before a massive dam was built in 1930. A survey conducted in 1902 found only one case of diabetes among the Pima, but within 30 years of the building of the Coolidge Dam, there were more than 500.

To view a trailer and read more about the series, go to www.unnaturalcauses.org.

“We’re not trying to say that diet and exercise are not a factor because they are,” said Jim Forte (Metis-Ojibwe), *Bad Sugar* producer and director. “But things didn’t happen (to the Pima) by chance. These things are based on decisions that somebody else made and they are now having horrible consequences on Indian people.”

Bad Sugar, a look at some of the highest rates of diabetes in the nation and how restoration of water rights are restoring segments of traditional life, airs **Thurs., April 10**. Check with [your local PBS station](#) to see what time the series *Unnatural Causes* airs: www.pbs.org/tvschedules. Or request it be shown in your area.

Unnatural Causes is produced by California Newsreel with Vital Pictures, Inc. It is being presented for PBS broadcast by the National Minority Consortia of Public Television, which includes NAPT, and the Public Impact Campaign. It is also being showing in association with the Joint Center Health Policy Institute.

To request a screening for discussion in your community, call Kim Baca at NAPT at 505-604-3517.