

SPECIAL INVITATION

For California Policy Makers – Early 2009



the U.S. has the **greatest**
gap between high and low
mortality rates...



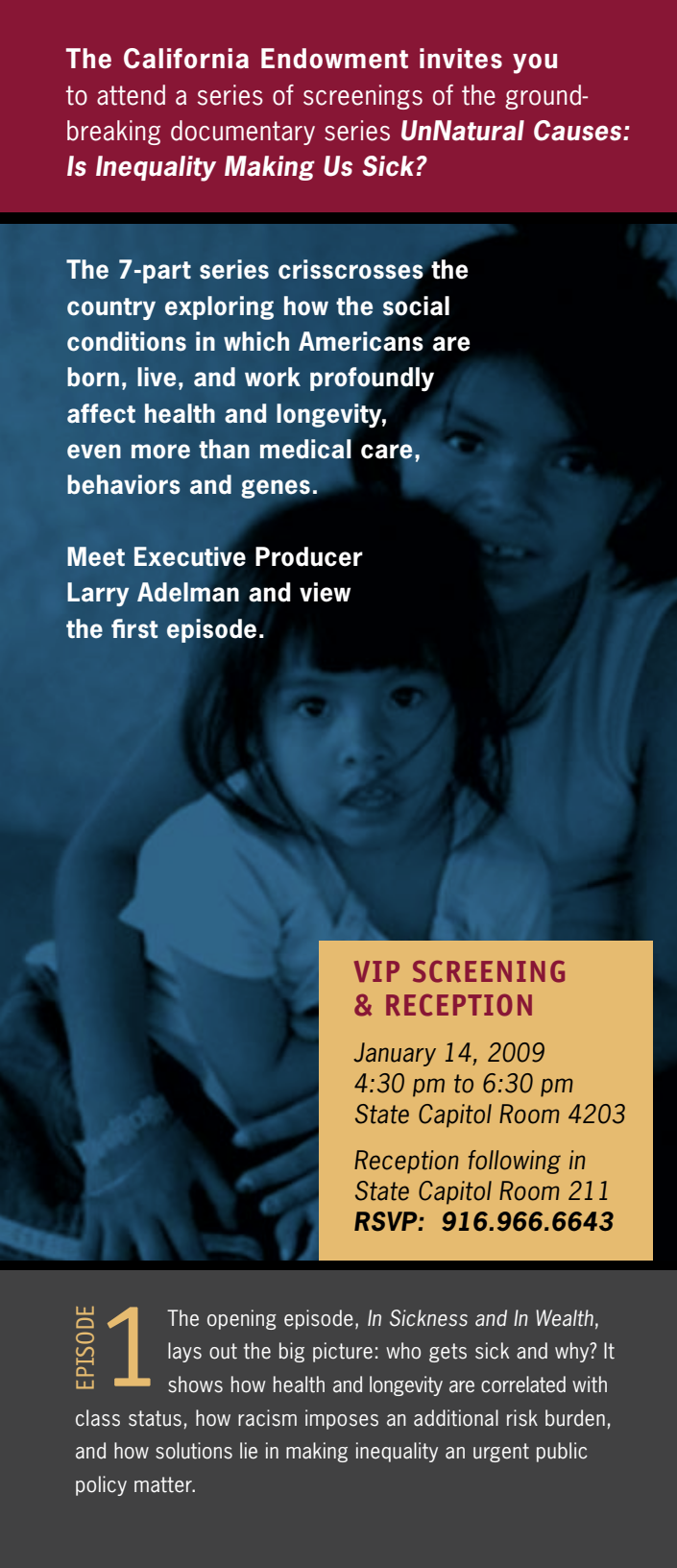
the **largest** wealth gap
between the rich and the rest
of the population...



the **highest**
child injury death rate

**UNNATURAL
CAUSES**

...is inequality making us sick?



The California Endowment invites you
to attend a series of screenings of the ground-
breaking documentary series ***UnNatural Causes:
Is Inequality Making Us Sick?***

The 7-part series crisscrosses the country exploring how the social conditions in which Americans are born, live, and work profoundly affect health and longevity, even more than medical care, behaviors and genes.

Meet Executive Producer
Larry Adelman and view
the first episode.

**VIP SCREENING
& RECEPTION**

January 14, 2009
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
State Capitol Room 4203

Reception following in
State Capitol Room 211
RSVP: 916.966.6643

EPISODE

1

The opening episode, *In Sickness and In Wealth*, lays out the big picture: who gets sick and why? It shows how health and longevity are correlated with class status, how racism imposes an additional risk burden, and how solutions lie in making inequality an urgent public policy matter.

Join us for this Luncheon Screening Series
 1020 N Street, Room 100
 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

EPISODE 2 WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS – 29 mins
 February 6, 2009

African American infant mortality rates remain twice as high as for white Americans. African American mothers with graduate degrees deliver lower birth-weight babies than white women who haven't finished high school. How might the chronic stress of racism over the life-course become embedded in our bodies and increase risks?



EPISODE 3 BECOMING AMERICAN – 29 mins
 February 20, 2009

Recent Mexican immigrants, though often poorer, tend to be healthier than the average American. But the longer they're here, the worse their relative health becomes. How do social inclusion, community ties and economic mobility play a role in maintaining health?



EPISODE 4 BAD SUGAR – 29 mins
 March 6, 2009

O'odham Indians living on reservations in southern Arizona, have perhaps the highest rates of Type 2 diabetes in the world. Increasingly, researchers are reconceptualizing chronic diseases like diabetes as a bodily response to poverty, oppression and futurelessness. A new approach suggests that regaining control over a collective future is vital to reversing this epidemic.



EPISODE 5 PLACE MATTERS – 29 mins
 March 20, 2009

Why are your zip code and street address such a good predictor of population health? What policies and investment decisions create radically different living environments - some that are harmful and others that are protective of health? What actions can make a difference, particularly in low-income communities?



EPISODE 6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE – 29 mins
 April 17, 2009

In the Marshall Islands, local populations have been displaced from a traditional way of life by the American military presence. Now that both their social and immune systems have been eroded, they contend with the worst of the "developing" and industrialized worlds: infectious diseases such as tuberculosis due to crowded living conditions and extreme poverty and chronic disease stemming from the stress of dislocation and loss.

EPISODE 7 NOT JUST A PAYCHECK – 30 mins
 May 1, 2009

How do unemployment and job insecurity affect health? Residents of western Michigan struggle against depression, domestic violence, and heart disease after the largest refrigerator factory in the country shuts down. Ironically, the plant is owned by a company in Sweden, where mass layoffs – far from devastating lives – are relatively benign, because of government policies that protect workers.



highest poverty rate

most hours worked

highest homicide rate

highest infant mortality rate

RSVP for the luncheons
 or for more information
 contact **GACI** at
916-966-6643
 or by emailing
Katie@gacconsult.com.

For all the rich countries for which there is data, the U.S. has:

- the highest infant mortality rate
- the highest homicide rate
- the highest teenage birth rate
- the highest incarceration rate
(we house one fourth of the world's prisoners)
- the highest child poverty rate
- the highest child injury death rate
- the greatest gap between high and low mortality rates within a country
- the highest number of people living alone
- the highest poverty rate
- the most hours worked (except for New Zealand)
- the smallest middle class
- the largest wealth gap between the rich and the rest of the population
- the lowest voter turnout

www.unnaturalcauses.org

UNNATURAL CAUSES was produced by:
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