

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910961396603321
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Titolo	Poor families in America's health care crisis / / Ronald J. Angel, Laura Lein, Jane Henrici
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2006
ISBN	1-107-16182-7 1-280-48014-9 9786610480142 0-511-22049-9 0-511-22102-9 0-511-21903-2 0-511-31623-2 0-511-49954-X 0-511-21971-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 254 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	362.5/82
Soggetti	Poor - Medical care - United States - Finance Poor - Medical care - Government policy - United States Medically uninsured persons - Medical care - United States - Finance Health insurance - United States - Finance Health services accessibility - Economic aspects - United States Equality - Health aspects - United States Right to health - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 213-238) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface -- ; 1. The unrealized hope of welfare reform : implications for health care -- ; 2. The health care welfare state in America -- ; 3. The tattered health care safety net for poor Americans -- ; 4. State differences in health care policies and coverage -- ; 5. Work and health insurance : a tenuous tie for the working poor -- ; 6. Confronting the system : minority group identity and powerlessness -- ; 7. The nonexistent safety net for parents -- ; 8. Health care for all Americans -- References -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

Poor Families in America's Health Care Crisis examines the implications of the fragmented and two-tiered health insurance system in the United States for the health care access of low-income families. For a large fraction of Americans their jobs do not provide health insurance or other benefits and although government programs are available for children, adults without private health care coverage have few options. Detailed ethnographic and survey data from selected low-income neighborhoods in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio document the lapses in medical coverage that poor families experience and reveal the extent of untreated medical conditions, delayed treatment, medical indebtedness, and irregular health care that women and children suffer as a result. Extensive poverty, the increasing proportion of minority households, and the growing dependence on insecure service sector work all influence access to health care for families at the economic margin.
