

# Table of Contents

2 **Editors' Note**

## TRENDS

3 **Has the Great Recession Made Americans Stingier?**

ROB REICH AND CHRISTOPHER WIMER

There's less money to go around in hard times. Have Americans responded to the downturn by reining in their signature commitment to helping the poor?

## RESEARCH IN BRIEF

8 **A Report on New Poverty and Inequality Research**

LUCAS MANFIELD and BROOKE CONROY BASS

More evidence on how credit cards hammer the poor; a new test of whether job ads create gender inequality in the labor market; a surprising ray of hope for the long-term unemployed; and other cutting-edge research.

## MONITORING POVERTY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

10 **The Supplemental Poverty Measure: A New Tool for Understanding U.S. Poverty**

REBECCA BLANK

One of the key architects of the new Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) lays out the case for rethinking how we measure poverty, how we understand it, and even what to do about it.

15 **Understanding Local Poverty:  
Lessons from New York City's Center for Economic Opportunity**

MARK LEVITAN, CHRISTINE D'ONOFRIO, JOHN KRAMPNER, DANIEL SCHEER, and TODD SEIDEL

Does an SPM-style measure actually work? A report from the trenches on how the new measure helps us assess and craft antipoverty policy.

20 **The Future of U.S. Poverty Measurement**

CHRISTOPHER WIMER, BARBARA BERGMANN, DAVID BETSON, JOHN CODER, and DAVID B. GRUSKY

Is it the end of (poverty measurement) history? A discussion of how to move forward in our brave new post-SPM world.

## INTERVENTIONS

26 **Spotlight On...Homeless Prenatal Program**

BROOKE CONROY BASS

Is there a simple economic case for investing in homeless mothers in San Francisco? The Homeless Prenatal Program suggests there is.

28 **How Rich Countries Lift Up the Poor**

LANE KENWORTHY

Many countries have experienced substantial economic growth in the last 30 years. But only some countries have passed on the fruits of this growth to the poor. What accounts for such differences in trickling down?