



**TUESDAY APRIL 5:  
Poverty & Poor Health Go Hand in Hand  
National Public Health Week 2016  
#NPHWinMS**

***Why should I care?***

Poverty and poor health go hand-in-hand. You could fill a textbook with the number of scientific studies that underscore this point. Consider this very brief snapshot:

<i>Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index</i>	<b>Americans living ABOVE the poverty line</b>	<b>Americans living AT or BELOW the poverty line</b>
Suffer from obesity	25%	31.8%
Smoke cigarettes	19.9%	33%
Can easily get affordable fresh fruits and vegetables	91.7%	83.7%

***Just how poor is Mississippi?\****

- Mississippi is one of two states (besides Louisiana) where more than half the counties are classified as persistently impoverished (a poverty rate of greater than 20% for at least 30 years).
- In Mississippi, 59% of counties are in persistent poverty.
- **48 counties out of the 384 persistently poor counties in the United States are in Mississippi.**
- Places that are persistently poor lack important resources like adequate healthcare, education, housing, jobs, and banking services.
- In Mississippi, 28% of low-income census tracts have low access to a healthy food retail outlet, compared to 12% of low-income census tracts in the United States.



***What can I do?***

- Advocate for increased federal, bank, and philanthropic investment in persistently poor communities to create ladders of opportunity.
- Support programs like the [Fresh Food Retailer Initiative](#) that incentive grocery retailers to locate in communities where the need is greatest. By providing critical loan and grant financing, these programs help to expand access to healthy, fresh food in low-income and underserved communities.
- Learn more about the causes and effects of poverty in Mississippi from the Hope Policy Institute’s resources at [hopepolicy.org](http://hopepolicy.org).



Learn more & view national references at: <http://www.nphw.org/tools-and-tips/themes/give-everyone-a-choice-of-healthy-food> \*Mississippi data source: Hope Policy Institute analysis of CDFI Fund & USDA Economic Research Service, Food Access Research Atlas