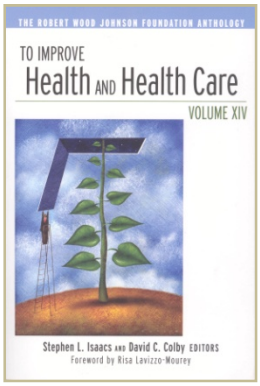
Editors' Introduction to Section Two

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Excerpted from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology: **To Improve Health and Health Care, Volume XIV**



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This section of the *Anthology* features five chapters highlighting programs from the Foundation's Vulnerable Populations portfolio–that part of the Foundation that works at the intersection of health and the social and economic factors that influence it, or, as stated on the Foundation's Web site, that "create new opportunities for better health by investing in health where it starts–in our homes, schools and jobs."[1]

The chapters that follow illustrate the Foundation's commitment to improving the care of seniors (Green House Program); children (Playworks); immigrants and refugees (Caring Across Communities); and people living in remote, underserved areas (Dental Health Aides and Therapists), as well as its efforts to reduce inner-city gang violence (United Teen Equality Center). These represent only a small sample of the kinds of programs supported by the Vulnerable Populations portfolio. Earlier volumes of the *Anthology* series have examined other programs to improve services for or conditions of vulnerable populations, including homeless people,[2] people in trouble with the law,[3] seniors,[4] children and adolescents,[5] needy people living in New Jersey,[6] Native Americans,[7] and people victimized by natural disasters.[8]The exhibit on the following page lists programs to improve the health of vulnerable populations of more than $1 million.

The Foundation's staff members have worked to ensure that some of these creative approaches become part of the mainstream. That involves identifying breakthrough approaches, testing them at pilot sites, and preparing some of them for widespread adoption. As Risa Lavizzo-Mourey observes in her foreword to this volume, the Foundation's Vulnerable Populations portfolio and its predecessors have been a proving ground for developing creative approaches to improve the lives of the nation's neediest people–approaches that have been and can be expanded to reach significant numbers of America's most vulnerable populations.

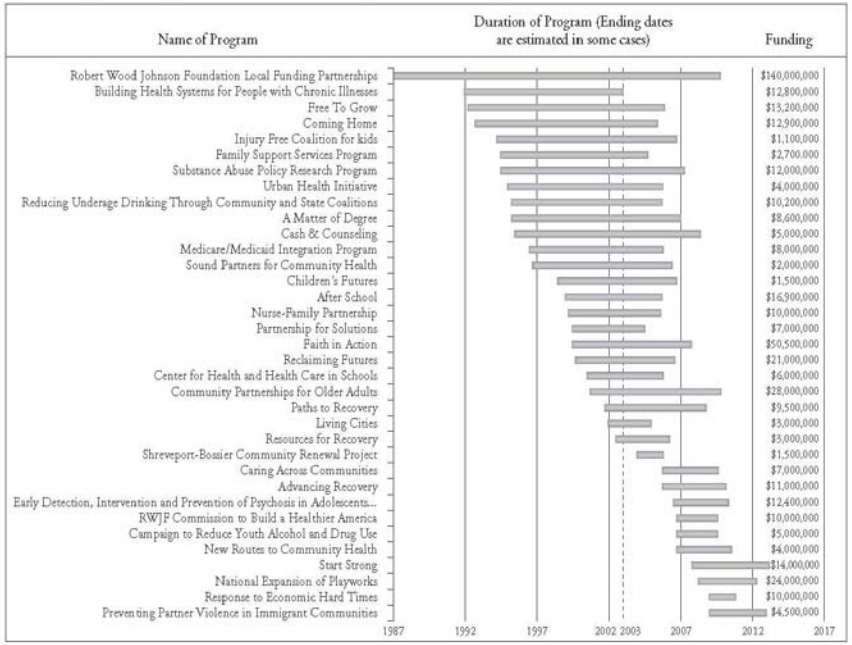
Notes

1. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "Vulnerable Populations." 2010. http://www.rwjf.org/vulnerablepopulations/index.jsp.
2. Rog, J. R., and Gutman, M. "The Homeless Families Program: a Summary of Key Findings." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 1997: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997; Bornemeier, J. "The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Safety Net Programs." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. IX: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006; Diehl, D. "The Homeless Prenatal Program." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. VII: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004.
3. Bunch, W. "Helping Former Prisoners Reenter Society: The Health Link Project." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. XII: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009; Solovitch, S. "Reclaiming Futures." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. XIII: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009.
4. Allen, S. M., and Mor, V. "Unmet Need in the Community: The Springfield Study." *To Improve Health and Health Policy, 1997: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997; Jellinek, P., Appel, T. G., and Keenan, T. "Faith in Action." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 1998–1999: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998; Alper, J. "Coming Home: Affordable Assisted Living for the Rural Elderly." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 2000: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* Jossey-Bass, 1999; Smyth, H. R., Cox, N. J., Reifler, B. V., and Ashbury, C. "Adult Day Centers." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 2000: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999; Alper, J., and Gibson, R. "Integrating Acute and Long-Term Care for the Elderly." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 2001: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001; Benjamin, A. E., and Snyder, R. E. "Consumer Choice in Long-Term Care." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. V: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey- Bass, 2002; Dentzer, S. "Service Credit

Banking." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. V: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002; Bronner, E. "The Teaching Nursing Home Program." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. VII: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004; Mockenhaupt, R. E., Lower, J. I., and Magan, G. G. "Improving Health in an Aging Society." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. IX: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006; Alper, J. "The Partnership for Long-Term Care: A Public-Private Partnership to Finance Long-Term Care." *To Improve Health and Health Policy: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology, Vol. IX.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.

5. Begley, S., and Hearn, R. P. "Children's Health Initiative." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 2001: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001; Brodeur, P. "Students Run LA." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. IX: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006; Wielawski, I. M. "Mentoring Young People." *To Improve Health and Health Policy, Vol. XI: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
6. Dickson, P. S. "Tending Our Backyard: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Grantmaking in New Jersey." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. V: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.
7. Brodeur, P. "Programs to Improve the Health of Native Americans." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. V: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002; Brodeur, P. "Fighting Back and Healthy Nations in Gallup, New Mexico." *To Improve Health and Health Care, Vol. VI: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
8. Isaacs, S. I. and Rogers, J. H. "Partnership Among National Foundations: Between Rhetoric and Reality." *To Improve Health and Health Care, 2001: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

Vulnerable Populations Program Investments of More Than $1 Million Since 2003



Note: This figure includes programs that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supported beginning in 2003, when the Vulnerable Populations portfolio was established. It indicates the date when the Foundation's support began and is currently scheduled to end.