

America's working poor response

[Sociology](#), [Poverty](#)



Tens of millions of men and women in America struggle because they are stressed out about not making enough money even though they are working as hard as possible. In her book *Nickel and Dimmed*, Journalist, Barbara Reiring writes about her research working as a minimum wage employee attempting to get by in America's tough economy, she describes in depth the struggles that the minimum wage workers suffer through and she witnesses them first hand as she goes under cover and works these jobs herself.

Middle class jobs are being replaced by low income jobs, the people in these jobs are referred to as "the working poor", and are not able to make ends meet at the end of the month. People in America working minimum wage jobs struggle on a daily basis to get by, this causes them anxiety due to their lack of a healthcare plan, living situations, and injuries that occur at work. Health insurance premiums are rising and some employers no longer offer this benefit, the low wage workers are the ones that are particularly affected by this major issue.

Employees without health coverage, are unable to get preventative care or proper treatment for an illness, may become sicker later on. In chapter one of her book "Serving in Florida" Reiring describes her co worker Sail's situation, "Gall, for example, ... is supposed to be on the company health plan by now, but they claim they have lost her application form and to be beginning the paper work all over again. So she spends \$9 a pop for pills to control the migraines she wouldn't have, she insists, if her estrogen supplements were covered. (27) Without the company behind them, employees will end up paying more for individual health coverage than their employers would have paid to put them on group coverage. Similar to

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Rehearing's situation, Morgan Spurious and his flange Alex attempt to survive 30 days living on a minimum wage salary, as in the TV episode "30 days: Minimum Wage". In the episode there is a scene where Splotch's hand is injured and swollen because of the manual labor he is doing. Due to the lack of medical insurance he chooses to try out a free clinic provided by the community for the low income families instead of the emergency room.

Once he is there he realizes that getting checked by a doctor won't be so easy since there is so many people in line and the clinic only takes the first twenty. He then has to resort to the emergency room where he is charged more than he can afford to pay because of his low income. Even though the communities attempt to help the working poor, not everyone is available to take advantage of the benefits. While there is no easy solution to the problem of health insurance, it is obvious that leaving employees on their own to find insurance, rather than giving them the benefit of group rates, is not the solution.

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