



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

ECONOMIC INSECURITY DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY

A briefing was held at the New America Foundation on the “U.S. Economy at Risk”. The presenters at the forum were columnists, experts on global economics, policymakers on economic issues, political scientists and an expert with Federal Reserve experience

Summary

In spite of a massive monetary and fiscal stimulus, the U.S. economy, in 2012, remained at risk of another recession. The civil labor market participation was at a decade long low of 64% and the full time employment ratio had dropped 8% from 2000 to 2010. More than 35 million working age Americans were unemployed or underemployed. On the economic side, consumer spending accounted for nearly 40% of overall GDP growth. Business investment was weak, consumption expenditures were down, and there was massive private sector debt. The potential consequence of these conditions is undermining the living standards of an entire generation. In sum, there was a surplus of labor and capital with plenty of work to be done such as infrastructure development, research and development and service in the public health sector. Proposed remedies to adverse economic conditions were economic development banks, finance for manufacturing and infrastructure development, work force skill development and development in housing and agriculture

Disability Prevention

Income insecurity from economic down turns can result in mental and physical impairments that diminish health and contribute to disability. In 2010, real wages stagnated and household net worth dropped \$2.5 trillion from 2005 to 2010. Further, consumer debt increased 250% from 1980 to 2010. Failure to remedy adverse public health conditions from economic recessions could exacerbate low U. S. world low standing compared to other countries on mortality, morbidity and well being on measures. There was no mention of need for improvements in the public health infrastructure that addressed unnecessary diminished health that could lead to disability associated with economic insecurity of individuals and families.

Activity

There is on-going study of protection of the publics’ health during economic downturns.

Principle

Population based health should be protected during economic down turns to prevent disability.