

..... ENGAGING SOCIOLOGY

Health Care During a Financial Crisis

Look at the following list of basic needs. Most of us provide these for our families through our jobs. Now imagine that you and your family are faced with a major financial crisis, and you simply cannot meet all of your needs.

- Health care and health insurance
- A car or other reliable transportation
- Food for the family
- Clothing—appropriate for the weather and your occupation
- Housing in a safe neighborhood
- Access to good schools for your children
- Other essentials . . .

* * * * *

Engaging with Sociology

1. Which of these items would you give up?
If that was still not sufficient to make ends meet, what decisions would you make to balance the budget?

2. Many people choose to postpone or sacrifice health insurance or doctors' visits. How might poor health care affect your income *and* at least three of the items previously listed?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. Now consider items you chose to eliminate in Question 1. How might those decisions have a long-term impact on other aspects of your quality of life—including the health of family members?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____