

# ANESTHESIOLOGY & PAIN MEDICINE

## EDI BRIEF

### January 2025

#### Poverty in America Awareness Month

Homelessness is a public health crisis linked to discrimination, lower accessibility to social services and healthcare (Das and Drolet, 2022). Healthcare access, neighborhood environment, and economic stability are key [social determinants of health](#) that are often directly influenced by poverty in America.

The [2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report](#) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development revealed that almost 772,000 people experienced homelessness – the highest number ever recorded in our country. Between 2023 and 2024, the number of families that experienced homelessness grew by 39% while unaccompanied youth homelessness grew by 10%. There was also a 6% increase in chronic patterns of homelessness, which impacts more than 152,000 people nationwide.

Unhoused patients with emergency general surgery conditions have lower rates of outpatient follow-up care and greater odds of being readmitted within 30 days of discharge (Smith, et al., 2024). The impact housing status has on a patient's ability to adequately recover after surgery is significant, and it also directly impacts how patient care services can be offered and utilized.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." While honoring Dr. King's legacy, let's also focus on addressing the ills related to social determinants of health to improve outcomes for perioperative and patient care.

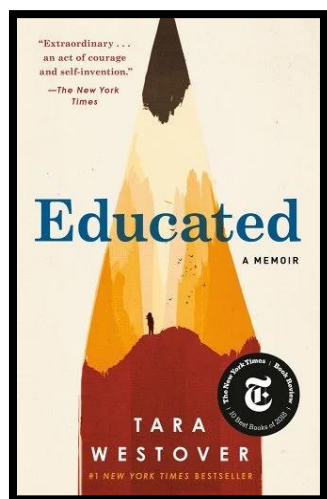
Please review our resources for this month: [The King Center](#) and [Poverty Awareness Month 2025](#)

#### Department Highlights

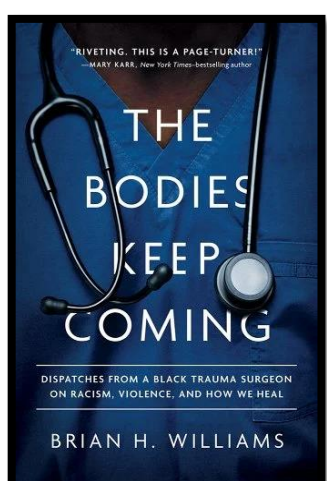
- **Winter All-Staff Meeting, January 29:** Please mark your calendars for the Staff Meeting on January 29, as there will be important updates from the Vice Chair of EDI, Dr. Nathalia Jimenez.
- **Faculty Virtual Revisit:** The residency program is hosting two sessions to connect with applicants who interviewed for our program. Please [sign up to volunteer](#) if you can attend on **January 30 or February 1**. If you have any questions, reach out to Robin Boland ([bolaniss@uw.edu](mailto:bolaniss@uw.edu)).
- **Volunteers needed for Shoreline Post-Bacc WISH Simulation Session, Friday, March 21:** Students in the Shoreline Postbaccalaureate Program will join us for hands-on simulation training at the UW Medical Center – Montlake WISH Lab from 11am to 3pm. Email Jaelen Barnett for more info ([jb82@uw.edu](mailto:jb82@uw.edu)).

#### Resources

##### Recommended Reading:



[Educated: A Memoir](#), by Tara Westover shares the story of a girl from rural Idaho who did not receive any formal education until the age of 17. Her parents were survivalists, and the family was isolated from the rest of the world, but Tara's yearning for education and a better life helped her to become college educated, understand the world from a different viewpoint, and use that viewpoint to change the world she grew up in.



[The Bodies Keep Coming: Dispatches from a Black Trauma Surgeon on Racism, Violence and How We Heal](#), by Dr. Brian H. Williams depicts the grief, anger, and will of a Harvard-trained Black doctor navigating racism within the healthcare system. He discusses white supremacy, gun violence, and the experience of trying to revive Black bodies while knowing everyone cannot be saved.