

Subject: **Update from the authors of \$2.00 a Day**

Greetings All-

At some point in the past year you were in contact with us about our book, \$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America<<http://www.twodollarsaday.com/>>.

Today marks the 20th anniversary of the 1996 Welfare Reform, and we are approaching the one-year anniversary of the book's publication. Since publication, we have been conducting further research to deepen our understanding of what is going on with the nation's poorest families. With that in mind, I wanted to share with you a few of our recent entries on this journey. All of these materials can be found on our website, twodollarsaday.com<<http://twodollarsaday.com/>>.

Today at The Atlantic, we published a new essay, 20 Years Since Welfare Reform,'<<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/08/20-years-welfare-reform/496730/>> where we detail what we find to be TANF's major problems.

In our white paper What is the Evidence of Worsening Conditions Among America's Poorest Families with Children<<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/551caca4e4b0a26ceeee87c5/t/56d9f10f1bbee030291fedce/1457123600812/Shaefer-Edin-SIPP-WorseningConditions3-2-16.pdf>>?, we look across a series of metrics, not wanting to rely just on survey data or ethnographic research. All paint a strikingly consistent picture of worsening conditions among America's poorest families.

One of the data points we have been following closely lately is the selling of blood plasma. Our colleague has written two entireties, Plasma Collections Hit All-Time High in 2014<<http://www.twodollarsaday.com/blog/2016/8/20/plasma-collections-hit-all-time-high-in-2014>>, and The Big Business of Blood Plasma<<http://www.twodollarsaday.com/blog/2016/6/16/the-big-business-of-blood-plasma>>.

We just learned of a new survey series on emergency food pantry use. You can read about it in: The Number of American Households Seeking Help at Food Pantries Hits Highest Point Ever Recorded in 2014<<http://www.twodollarsaday.com/blog/2016/8/16/the-number-of-american-households-seeking-help-at-food-pantries-hits-highest-point-in-two-decades-in-2014>>

Our book led us to think about how poverty in this country compares to that in the world's poorest. You can read about the results of our analysis here<<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/551caca4e4b0a26ceeee87c5/t/57948489d1758ec97e7f783b/1469351050367/Shaefer-international-comparisons.pdf>>, or in the coverage<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/poverty-us-world_us_57a4bad8e4b021fd98786aa8> by Jonathan Cohn in Huffington Post.

Curious how much poor American's work relative to their counterparts in our peer countries? Check out this blog<<http://www.twodollarsaday.com/blog/2016/8/20/how-much-do-poor-americans-work-a-comparative-analysis>> by our colleague.

All thoughts are welcome. We will hope to update you from time-to-time on our work. Please feel free to write back and say you'd rather not be included.

Thanks for your time,

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Kathryn J. Edin

Co-authors, \$2.00 a Day<<http://twodollarsaday.com/>>