

# CAPITALISM AND CARE

Can they be Partners?

Center for Partnership Studies' Caring Economy Campaign  
[www.caringeconomy.org](http://www.caringeconomy.org)

How is U.S. capitalism doing? GDP does *not* tell us. It does not measure the state of our human capital -- our people -- THE key to economic competitiveness today.

**Social Wealth Economic Indicators (SWEIs)** fill this gap. SWEIs show where the U.S. stands compared to other developed nations in human capacities (abilities needed for individual, business, and social advancement) and our investment in developing them.

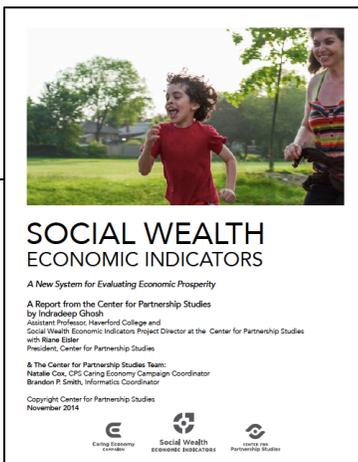
Neuroscience demonstrates that the quality of human capital largely hinges on the care and education children receive early on. Yet the United States:

- Invests less than half as much in family benefits as other OECD nations.<sup>1</sup>
- Is the only developed nation with no national funding for paid parental leave.<sup>2</sup>
- Invests the least in early childhood care and education.<sup>3</sup>

SWEIS document the huge economic value of care work & early education, and the costs of not investing in it:

- If included, care work at home would add another 30-50% to reported GDP<sup>4</sup>
- The ROI for early childhood education is between \$7 to \$16 per dollar invested<sup>5</sup>
- Companies that care for employees have higher returns for investors<sup>6</sup>
- 1 in 3 U.S. women is living below or on the brink of poverty -- largely because they are the bulk of underpaid & unpaid caregivers<sup>7</sup>
- The U.S. has the highest child poverty rates of major developed nations.<sup>8</sup>

Social Wealth Economic Indicators (SWEIs) corroborate that prioritizing support for caregiving and early education will radically reduce poverty and improve our quality of life – and is good for businesses and key to U.S. economic competitiveness.



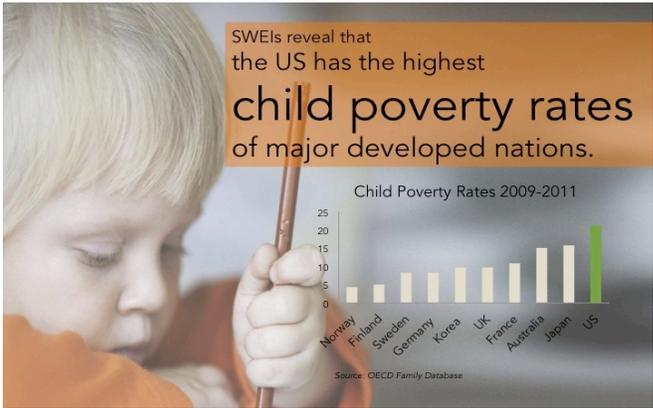
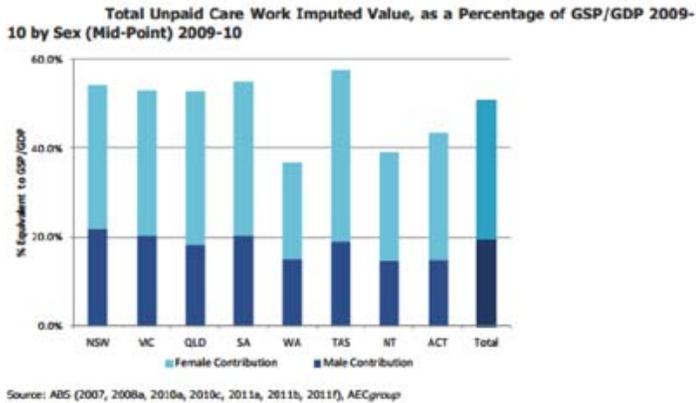
Download the full report, at:  
[caringeconomy.org/where-the-us-stands/](http://caringeconomy.org/where-the-us-stands/)

- <sup>1</sup> Social Wealth Economic Indicators: A New System for Evaluating Economic Prosperity
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Unpaid and undervalued care work keeps women on the brink, *2014 Shriver Report*.
- <sup>6</sup> Social Wealth Economic Indicators: A New System for Evaluating Economic Prosperity
- <sup>7</sup> Unpaid and undervalued care work keeps women on the brink, *2014 Shriver Report*.
- <sup>8</sup> Social Wealth Economic Indicators: A New System for Evaluating Economic Prosperity

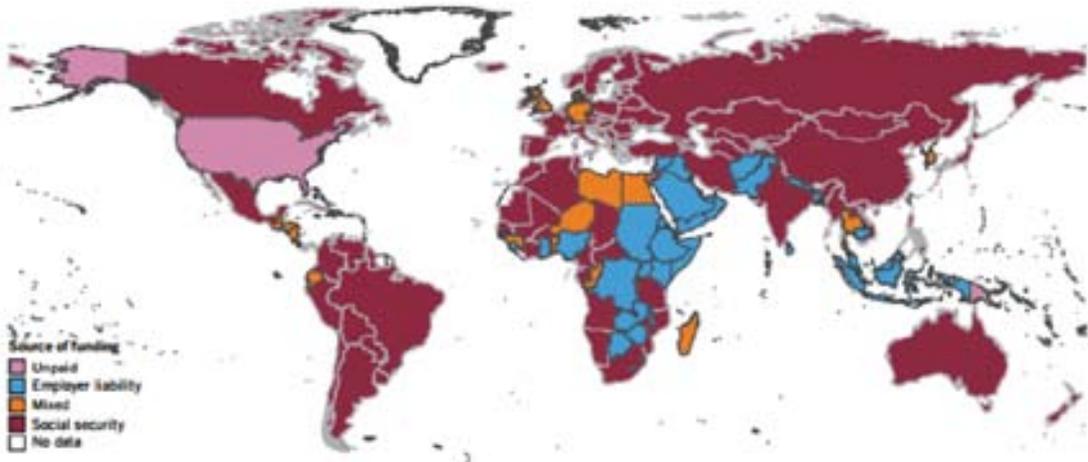
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## Sample graphs

### *Social Wealth Economic Indicators: A New System for Evaluating Economic Prosperity*



Map 2. Source of funding of maternity leave cash benefits, 2013 (185 countries and territories)



Source: ILO Working Conditions Law Database – Maternity Protection, 2013. Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/travailbase>.