

2019

Poverty's Impact on Education

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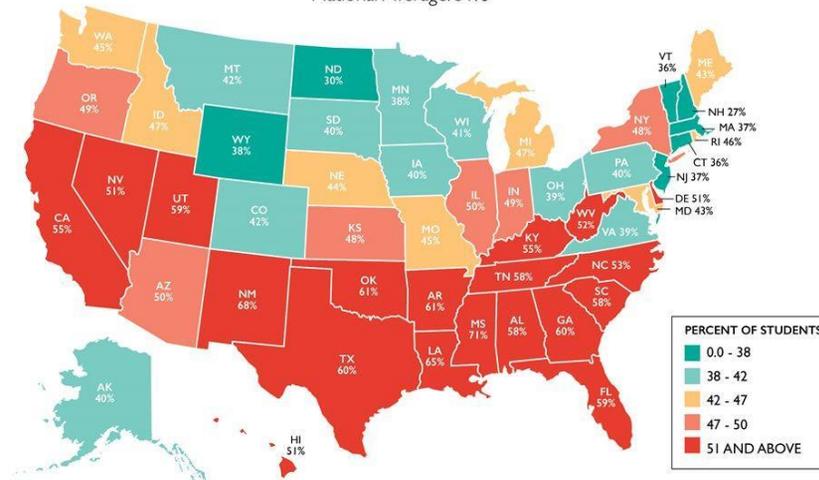
Poverty's Impact on Education

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Quick Facts

- More than 1 in 5 children in the U.S. are living in poverty.
- 30% of children raised in poverty do not finish high school.
- Children who grow up impoverished complete fewer years of schooling and earn much lower income than people who do not grow up poor.
- Children who grow up poor in the U.S. are more likely to be in poor health.
- Standardized testing can be seen as biased because the questions are written by people from a different socioeconomic status. These questions may be difficult to understand if a child is from an impoverished community.

PERCENT OF LOW INCOME STUDENTS IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2013
National Average: 51%

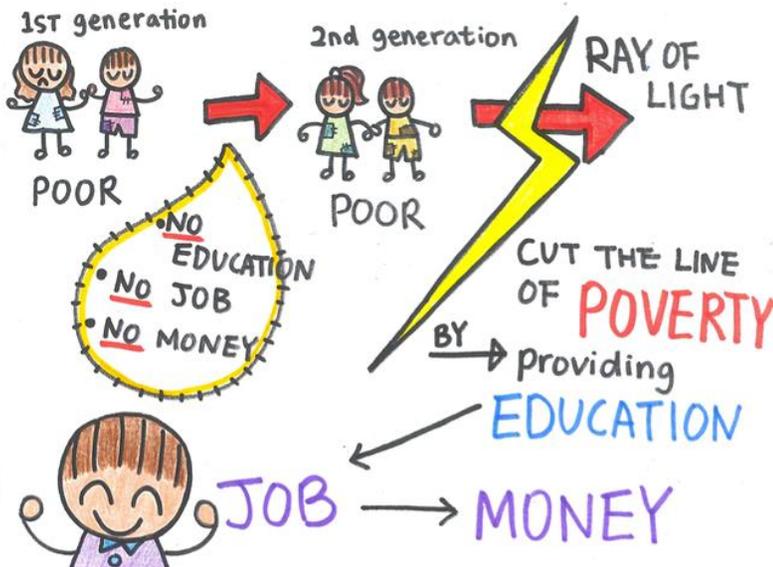


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Data Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data

The Learning Gap

Children born or raised in poverty face reduced readiness for school because they may be in poor physical health; and have delayed motor skills, a diminished ability to concentrate and remember information, and reduced attentiveness, curiosity and motivation.

The readiness gap grows as the children get older. They may feel alienated, powerless and insecure due to their socioeconomic status.



WHAT CAN SOCIAL WORKERS DO:

- Advocate for after-school and summer programs that help children living in poverty to work on their reading, writing and math skills
- Help students become more involved in the school and/or community so they feel a sense of belonging reducing the feelings of alienation
- Advocate for additional funding for schools in impoverished communities
- Create a big brother/ big sister mentor program