



Championing Kids. Strengthening Communities.



Family & Community



Health



Economic Well-Being



Education

Practical Strategies for Working with Youth in Poverty

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Poverty and the Developing Brain

(Behavioral Scientist)

This article discusses a neuroscientist's answer to whether poverty impacts brain development. The author discusses the various research-based perceptions in the field of the effects of poverty on a child's brain.

The Brain Science Of Poverty

Children in poverty are often exposed to negative influences on brain activity and development, whereas, higher-income children benefit not only from fewer negative exposures but also from more language and cognitive enrichment.

Aspects of poverty that impede brain development go beyond limited financial resources to include neighborhood violence, low-quality schools, environmental toxins, and unstable family life.

Infants whose families are poor and nonpoor have similarly sized brains at birth, but around age 2 brain scans of poor versus nonpoor children start to show differences in the rate of brain growth.

Measures of brain growth do not appear to be permanent: researchers see evidence that the effects of poverty on the brain can be reversed/corrected by identifying and offsetting negative environmental influences.

Source: Institute for Research on Poverty

A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty: Consequences of Child Poverty

(The National Academies Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine)

This chapter in the book *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty* summarizes lessons from research on the linkages between children's poverty and their childhood health and education, their later employment, criminal involvement, and health as adults. It also provides a brief review of research on the macroeconomic costs of child poverty. In addition to this chapter, there are additional chapters that discuss policy and program strategies to reduce poverty and recommendations.

What Inequality Does to the Brain

(Scientific American)

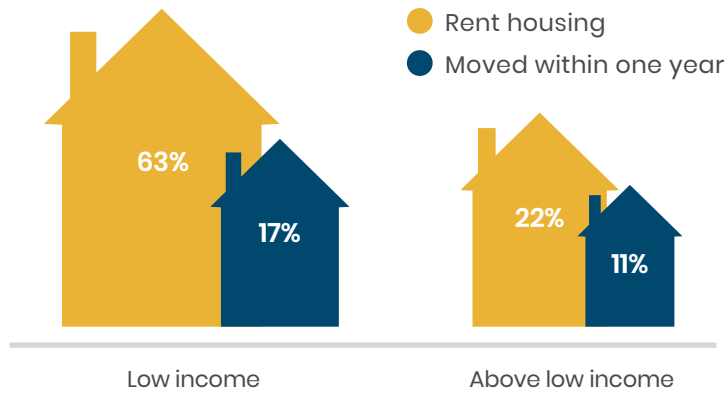
This article explores the relationship between a family's socioeconomic status (SES)—a measure that gauges income, educational attainment and occupational prestige—and children's brain health. The researchers have found that socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with tremendous differences in the size, shape and actual functioning of children's brains.

Brain Drain: A Child's Brain on Poverty

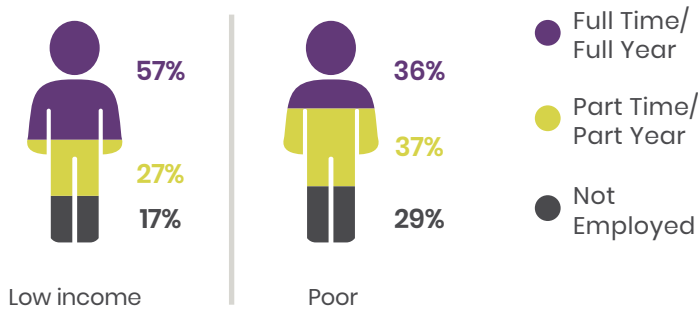
(Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison)

This factsheet outlines evidence suggesting that poverty may alter how the brain grows. In addition, this resource details theories on how poverty and related experiences may affect brain development and offers policies to counter the negative effects of poverty on youth.

Residential Instability and Home Ownership by Family Income, Families with Children, United States: 2020



Parent Employment Among Children by Family Income, United States: 2019



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty

Note: Low-income is defined as children living at 100–200% of the Federal Poverty Level; poor is defined as children living at 50–100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Breaking Barriers: Concrete Communication Tools for Working with People in Poverty

(Communication Across Barriers)

This resource provides guides to improve communication and relationship building skills, to determine your communication style, and provides clear definitions of various types of poverty. Most people in poverty are oral culture communicators. Having knowledge to gain balance between oral and print culture communication styles offers critical insights and skills for reducing misunderstandings and increasing effective communication.

Talking About Poverty & Economic Opportunity Today: Three Core Pillars (Opportunity Agenda)

This resource outlines three core messaging pillars that offer tips for discussing shared values, naming systemic causes of poverty, and addressing common-sense solutions that work for everyone. Poverty and economic opportunity are often difficult subjects for advocates to talk about, especially within today's political climate. Applying the learnings from the three pillars will allow you to reframe economic issues through values-based messaging and remind audiences that we can create an economy that works for all.

2020 Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family/Household	Income
1	\$12,760
2	\$17,240
3	\$21,720
4	\$26,200
5	\$30,680
6	\$35,160
7	\$39,640
8	\$44,120

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Poverty Comes with Few Good Choices

(George W. Bush Institute)

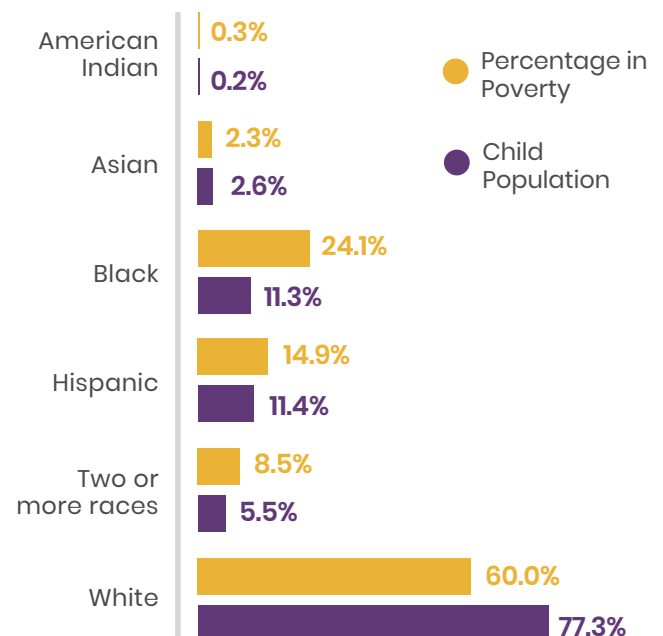
This Interactive Quiz allows participants to experience how people living in poverty face life-altering decisions every day. Unfortunately, the options available often lead to the same result: hopelessness of ever escaping poverty.

The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction

(United Nations)

This publication explains what a Youth Perspective is and why it is essential in all efforts to fight poverty. It gives a deeper understanding of why it is important that young people are integrated and become visible as actors in global development.

Percentage of Children in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity Compared to Overall Child Population, Indiana: 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Tables B17001A-I

Note: American Indian uses a 5-year estimate while all other subgroups are a 1-year estimate.