



EQUITY SOLUTIONS
Training and Consulting
On Poverty and Economic Inequality
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STATISTICS & RESOURCES

U.S. Statistics on Poverty and Economic Inequality (2015)

poverty

- [43 million Americans](#) live below the federal poverty line of \$24,250/year for a family of 4
- [19 million Americans](#) live in deep poverty - under ½ the federal poverty level
- 61,000 Vermonters live below the federal poverty level – [Talk Poverty](#)
- [Poverty level varies greatly for age, urban or rural, family type, and race.](#)
- People of color are disproportionately living in poverty ([19% Hispanic, 22% Black, 26% Native American, compared to 9% white](#)), yet overall, there are more white people living in poverty ([42% of America's poor are white, compared to 27% of America's poor are black](#))
- Livable Wage in 2015, according to State of VT [Basic Needs Budget and the Livable Wage \(2015\)](#) is \$80,000 for a family of 4.
- [Kids Count Data Center](#) has statistics on key indicators for well-being of families and kids for the nation and by state

economic inequality

- Film clip – [“Wealth Inequality in America”](#)
- [U.S. CEOs made 276x the average employee in 2015, compared to 20x in 1965.](#)
- In 2016 [America's 4 richest families own as much as the bottom 40% of the population](#)
- For research on economic inequality: Economic Policy Institute [www.epi.org](#) We recommend the chapters on [poverty](#) and on [wealth](#) from Economic Policy Institute's “The State of Working America Report” 12 edition, printed in 2012 for more complex data and understanding.
- To learn about the problem and solutions including excellent infographics and [graphs](#) on racial disparities in wealth and the trajectory of inequality over the last 50 years: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org](#)

Resources

Play the game [Spent](#) - a simulation of living in poverty.

Must Listen! [Podcast on Poverty Myths in America](#)

Using Data to Identify Health Inequities. A report by the MN Department of Health
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/healthequity/guide/healthequitydataguideV1.0-final.pdf>

Public Assets Institute Report: [“State of Working Vermont 2015”](#)

PBS on why to take care of other peoples' kids

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/making-sense/care-peoples-kids>

UnNatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? A 7-part PBS documentary on racial and socioeconomic inequalities in health <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>

[How Are Vermont's Young Children & Families?](#) 2016 Report, Building Bright Futures

[Adverse Childhood Experiences, Poverty, and Inequality: Toward an Understanding of the Connections and the Cures.](#) 2014. John F. Tomer, Manhattan College, New York, USA

Adverse Childhood Experiences: (Recommendations for Substance Abuse Prevention)

<https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/practicing-effective-prevention/prevention-behavioral-health/adverse-childhood-experiences#ace>

Guiding Principles of Trauma Informed Care:

https://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsLetter/Volume_22_Number_2/trauma_tip/guiding_principles.html

Video with a different take on addiction based on the book "Chasing the Scream"

Books

A different mirror: A history of multicultural America. 1993. Ronald Takaki. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.

Classified. How to stop hiding your privilege and use it for social change. 2006. Pittleman, K., with Resource Generation. <http://www.classifiedbook.com/>. Available in hardcopy and as free download.

The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide. 2006. Lui, M., Robles, B., Leondar-Wright, B., Brewer, R., & Adamson, R., with United for a Fair Economy. New York: The New Press.

Economic Apartheid in America. Chuck Collins, Felice Yeskel, and United for a Fair Economy. The New Press. UFE publishes updates and corrections to all the charts and graphs in this book at http://www.faireconomy.org/research/Economic_Apartheid_Data.html.

Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness and Liberation. 2nd edition. 2015. Clare, Eli.

Late to Class: Social Class and Schooling in the New Economy. 2007. Jane Van Galen & George Noblit, Eds. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. 2012. Michelle Alexander.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America. 2001. Ehrenreich, Barbara. New York: Metropolitan.

Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law. 2011. Dean Spade. Brooklyn,

NY: South End Press.

Privilege, Power and Difference. 3rd edition. 2017. Alan G. Johnson. McGraw Hill.

Reading Classes: On Culture and Classism in America. 2012. Barbara Jensen. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice. Revised edition. 2017. Kivel, P. Gabriola Island, BC, Canada: New Society Publishers.

Where We Stand: Class Matters. 2000. bell hooks. Routledge.

Who Rules America, 7th edition. 2013. G. William Domhoff. McGraw Hill. Supplementary resources available at <http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/>.

Without a Net: The Female Experience of Growing Up Working Class. 2003. Michelle Tea, Editor. Seal Press.

You Call This a Democracy? Who Benefits, Who Pays, and Who Really Decides. 2004. Paul Kivel. Apex Press.