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
- 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](http://www.faireconomy.org)

**Resources**

Play the game [Spent](http://www.sorted.com/play) - a simulation of living in poverty.

Must Listen! [Podcast on Poverty Myths in America](http://www.sorted.com/podcast)


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:

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

Books


NY: South End Press.


