

Poverty in Vermont

What We Know and What We Don't
Know

Research Goals

1. Determine a Profile of people living in Deep Poverty in Vermont
2. Determine how these unique characteristics of Vermont would effect programs designed to alleviate poverty

Data Sources

- Nationwide survey Data:
 - American Community Survey and The Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Census
- Government Benefit Data
 - TANF, 3squares Vermont, Vermont Healthcare System
- Interviews
 - Community Action Agencies, Shelters, and Government programs providers

Data Collection Problems

- Hidden Population
 - Highly transient
 - Not connected to government programs
 - Deliberately trying to hide
- Small Population
 - Small sample sizes

Poverty In Vermont

Comparison of Vermont Demographics to National Demographics

	Vermont Low Income (at or below 200% of the poverty line)	USA Low Income (at or below 200% of the poverty line)
Racial Demographics	Approximately 100% White	38% White 22% Black 3% Asian 34% Hispanic 1% Native American
Type of Residential Area	Approximately 100% Rural	20% Rural 40% Suburban 40% Urban

Poverty In Vermont

Parental Marital Status	48% Married	48% Married
Parental Education Status	10% Less than HS 36% High School 55% College	24% Less than HS 36% HS 40% College
Parental Employment	Full time = 55% Part time = 32% None = 13%	Full time = 51% Part time = 29% None = 20%
Parental Marital Status	48% Married	48% Married

Unique Factors In Vermont

1. More Educated
2. White
3. Rural

Compounding Factors with Deep Poverty

1. Sexual Violence and Child Abuse
2. Substance Abuse
3. Mental Illness

Sexual Violence and Child Abuse

- People in Poverty are more likely to be victims of Sexual Assault and Child Abuse.
 - Sexual violence is negatively correlated with Income.
- Victims of sexual violence have a harder time regaining economic independence.

Mental Illness

- People suffering from mental illnesses:
 - more likely to be in poverty
 - self medicate with substances
 - Likely to believe myths about government programs

Substance Abuse

- People who abuse substances:
 - Are much more likely to be in poverty
 - are less likely to seek government benefits

Programs to alleviate poverty

1. Conditional Cash Transfer Programs
2. Community Development Projects
3. Transportation Improvements

Conditional Cash Transfer Programs

- Provide financial assistance in exchange for agreeing to follow certain guidelines
 - New York's Opportunity New York or Mexico's Progresa
- Effective, but less effective than in urban areas
 - Human capital not as much of an issue
 - Increased barriers for disabled

Community Development Projects

- Increase auxiliary services and stability
 - Federal Community Development Block Grants or Step up Savannah
- These projects will be difficult and costly in rural areas

Transportation Improvements

- People in Poverty need public transportation
- 40% of people in Rural areas lack public transportation
- Improvements to public transportation will likely be more effective in Vermont

Conclusions

1. Vermont residents living in Deep Poverty are likely have compounding issues
2. Vermont's rural nature causes barriers to improving poverty which may be alleviated by improving public transportation.