



People in the Shadows: Local, National, and Global Poverty Facts

Gather local statistics on poverty and related issues of hunger, homelessness, health care, educational opportunity, and any other issues you would like to point your young people toward for their service projects. Your local Catholic Charities office may have these statistics or should be able to point you toward them. Record the facts on the “Local Poverty Facts” template below, one fact per box. Then print the entire handout, local facts as well as national and global facts. Cut the boxes apart as indicated, and fold the slips so that the facts are on the inside. Mix the slips up and then arrange them into three equal sets, one set for each small group. Color-code the outside of the slips with markers (draw a dot, line, or border), using a different color for each small group. Hide the facts around the room (tape under tables or chairs, in window frames, etc.). Let the small groups know which color slips each should look for. When someone finds a slip, he or she should read the fact to the group, and then the group should decide which sheet of newsprint to post it to: “Global,” “National,” or “Local.” If any young people find facts that are not their group’s color, they should just leave them where they found them.

Local Poverty Facts



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National and Global Poverty Facts

<p>Poverty does not strike all demographics equally. For example, in the United States 13% of men live in poverty, compared to 16% of women.</p>	<p>The poverty rate in the United States for single-parent families with no wife present is 16%. For single-parent families with no husband present, it is 31%.</p>
<p>Poverty is often perceived as a problem of urban environments and inner cities in the United States, but the poverty rate in metropolitan areas (15%) is actually lower than the poverty rate for people outside of metropolitan areas (17%).</p>	<p>In the United States, the poverty rate for people living with a disability is 29%. That's more than 4 million people living with a disability—in poverty.</p>
<p>In the United States, about 1 in every 5 children, or 21% (15.5 million kids), lives in poverty.</p>	<p>Nationwide, 1.6 million children experience homelessness in a year.</p>
<p>The National School Lunch Program provides low- or no-cost meals to impoverished children. In 2012 alone, the program served subsidized lunches to more than 31.6 million children.</p>	<p>14% of the nation's senior citizens live in poverty.</p>
<p>In the United States, the highest poverty rate by race is found among blacks (26%), followed by Hispanics (24%). Asians have a poverty rate of 12%, while whites have a poverty rate of 10%. But the white poor outnumber the black poor considerably: 19 million to 7.8 million. White people make up 42% of America's poor, while black people make up about 28%.</p>	<p>In the United States, 7% of the population, or 21 million people, live in deep poverty, with incomes below 50% of the poverty line.</p>



<p>The USDA estimates that 14% (or 17 million) of households in the United States are food insecure, meaning that they had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources.</p>	<p>More than one-fifth of children in the United States (21.7%) live below the poverty line, and nearly one-tenth (9.6%) live in deep poverty, defined as having incomes below 50% of the poverty line.</p>
<p>In the United States, 4 out of every 10 children live in low-income families.</p>	<p>The poverty line for an individual in the United States is \$12,000. For two people, the poverty line is \$15,000, and for a family of four people it is \$24,000. Compare these figures to estimates of what it costs to live the “American dream with a house, car, health insurance, and retirement and college savings, which is \$130,000 a year.</p>
<p>Around the world, nearly 842 million people suffer from hunger.</p>	<p>The poorest 20% of the world’s children are twice as likely as the richest 20% to be stunted by poor nutrition (not grow at a normal rate) and to die before their fifth birthday.</p>
<p>98% of people suffering from hunger live in developing countries.</p>	<p>About 2.7 million newborns worldwide die within their first month of life.</p>
<p>Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry in the world after illegal drugs and arms trafficking.</p>	<p>Almost 200 million children under the age of 5 in developing regions are underweight for their age.</p>



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Hunger kills more people globally every year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.	Approximately 179 million infants in the least developed countries are not protected from diseases by routine immunization.
Hunger causes the deaths of about 5 million children each year.	About 3.2 million children under the age of 15 currently live with HIV.
About 17 million children in the world are born underweight annually, the result of inadequate nutrition before and during pregnancy.	Approximately 161 million children do not attend primary school.
Almost 3 billion people in the world lack access to toilets.	Globally, almost 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water.

