

Poverty in the United States: How to combat a crippling social disease.

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Abstract

According to the CIA *World Factbook* the United States is the seventh richest country in the world with more billionaires than in any other country. For a country in which the average Gross Domestic Product per capita is \$46,000, we are faced with a very serious problem, Poverty. An issue that many think is only of a recent phenomenon, poverty has been an ever-growing problem for the American republic since the colonial 1600s and had continued to spread and increase through the centuries. It is now estimated that about twelve to seventeen percent of Americans live below the federal poverty line at any given moment and about fifty-eight percent of Americans between the ages of twenty-five and seventy-five will spend at least one year below the poverty line. My research then will take an account of the history of poverty in the United States and discuss competing theories of poverty. I will then state the significance of giving attention to poverty and how a poverty free United States is extremely beneficial to us all. Finally I will present a model that I believe can alleviate if not eradicate poverty within the United States.