



**ABSTRACT**

The issues of Poverty include hunger, education, family, racial inequality, social inequality, disability and more. This month we look at Education and its role in perpetuating poverty.

*Mission Statement: Partnering with the community to serve those in crisis to restore them to freedom and purpose through the transforming power of the Gospel.*

Education is the ladder that allows people that grew up in poverty or are currently living there, to pull themselves out. Forty-six percent of Americans who grew up in low- income families but failed to earn a college degree stayed in the low-income bracket, compared to sixteen percent of those who earned a college degree. Children living in poverty tend to have worse educational experiences, and lack of proper education can lead to poverty. Children growing up with poor families are more likely to drop out of high school. Those who drop out of high school are far more likely to live in poverty than those who continue their education.

**34.7 percent** of 25-34 year olds without a high school diploma were living in poverty compared to **16.7 percent** of individuals whose highest

The trends start early in the education process. Children that come from a household

income of less than \$15,000 a year have 20 percent less enrollment into pre-primary education compared to those that have a household income of \$50,000 a year. Those students that went through a pre-school are 31 percent less likely to repeat a grade and 32 percent less likely to drop out of high school. Attending a pre-primary program shows to reduce crime rates,

“The more you learn, the more you earn.”

giving adults from low-income families one- fifth the chance of becoming chronic criminal offenders.

- The average dropout can expect to earn an annual income of \$20,241, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (PDF). That’s a full \$10,386 less than the typical high school graduate, and \$36,424 less than someone with a bachelor’s degree.

- Of course, simply finding a job is also much more of a challenge for dropouts. While the national unemployment rate stood at 8.1 percent in August, joblessness among those without a high school degree measured 12 percent. Among college graduates, it was 4.1 percent.

- The challenges hardly end there, particularly among young dropouts. Among those between the ages of 18 and 24, dropouts were more than twice as likely as college graduates to live in poverty according to the Department of Education. Dropouts experienced a poverty rate of 30.8 percent, while those with at least a bachelor's degree had a poverty rate of 13.5 percent.

Less than 10 percent of school revenue comes from the federal government while about 90 percent comes from the state and local government. The lack of funding has many effects. Top teachers are less likely to stay in a low-income area, they tend to gravitate towards schools with higher pay, better facilities, safer working environments, and schools that provide more advanced courses. All this affects the schools in the low-income areas to settle for uncertified educators, fewer resources, and substandard facilities.

From 1993-2007, tuition and fees for attending in-state public universities rose an inflation-adjusted 79 percent. In 2008, the cost of attending a public college was \$14,000 a year, about half the nation's median personal income. The high cost of attending higher education prevents nearly half of college-qualified high school graduates from attending a four-year institution keeping one-fourth from attending any college at all.

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, only **51 percent** of teen moms earn a high school diploma compared to **89 percent** of female students who did not give birth as a teen.

The Census Bureau reports poverty rates by educational attainment for people aged 25 and

older. In 2014, the overall poverty rate for people aged 25 and older was 12 percent.

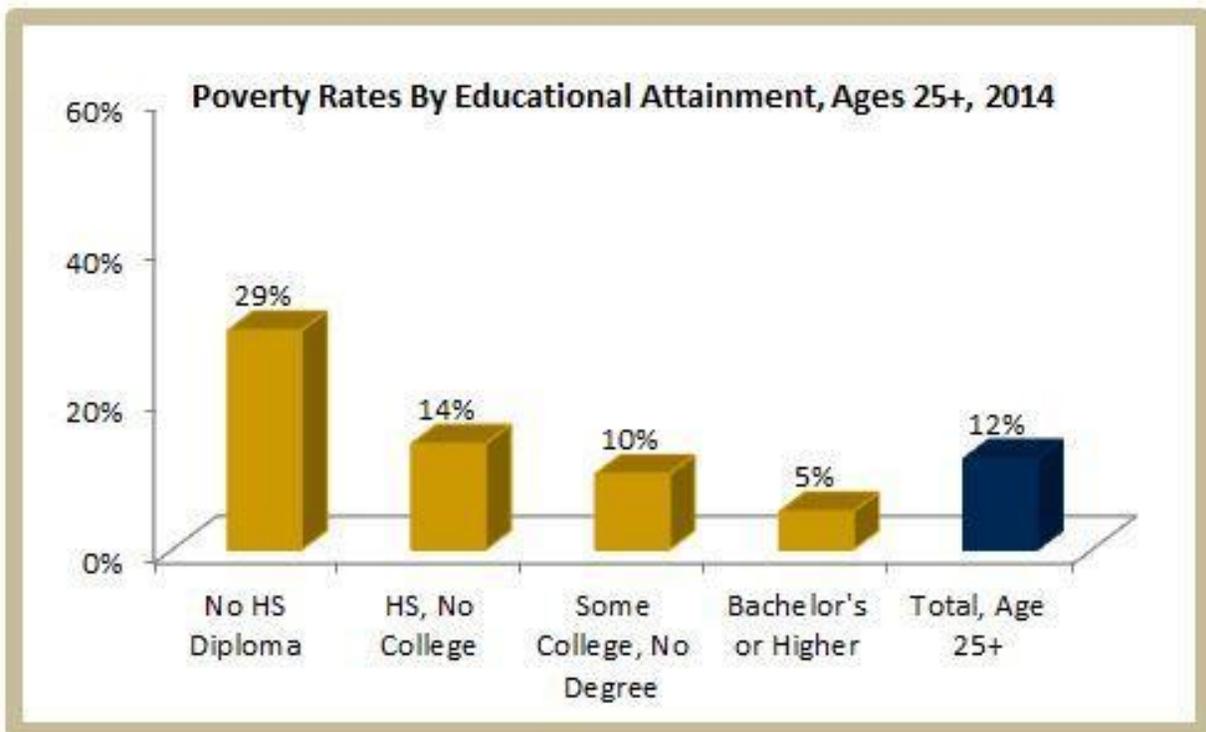
The poverty rates by work experience for that age group ranged from 5 percent to 29 percent.

| 5% for people with a bachelor's degree or higher

| 10% for people with some college but no degree

| 14% for people with a high school diploma and no college

| 29% for people with no high school diploma.



#### 15 Poverty and Education Statistics (International)

Accessing education is not easy in many poor areas of the world. Widening access to education is a key method in reducing global poverty. Here are 15 poverty and education statistics to better understand the relationship of how these two issues interplay.

1. There are more than 124 million primary or secondary school-aged children who are not in school around the world.
2. The reasons children do not attend school vary. Some children belong to families who cannot afford it, while others are sick or too hungry to attend. All of these reasons trace back to poverty

3. The cost of providing 13 years of education for a child living in a developing country is around \$1.18 a day
4. One of the first steps in overcoming poverty is receiving an education
5. With each year of schooling, an individual's income potential increases by around 10 percent
6. With more education, one has more opportunities
7. Girls have a harder time accessing education than boys. Ten million boys and 15 million girls will never receive a primary education
8. Gender inequality in education is predominantly seen among the poor
9. If every girl had access to an education, the number of child marriages could decrease by 14 percent
10. If a mother has the ability to read, her children have a 50 percent greater chance of surviving past the age of five.
11. Nearly 800 million people do not have the basic ability to read or write
12. Conflict, one of many causes of poverty, is also a leading cause of disruption in education. About 35 percent of kids who are not in school are not receiving an education due to conflicts such as war.
13. Poverty decreases as more people have access to education. Investing in education leads to further development.
14. Rural areas yield more poverty and less access to education. A child from a rural area is twice as likely to not attend school as a child from an urban area.
15. According to WE Charity, \$26 billion more each year would give every person a basic education, which is "less than five percent of what the U.S. Military spent in 2015."

Although increased education isn't a total answer to the dilemma of poverty, statistics show it usually increases financial stability.

Trade schools are often a very valuable tool to assist in climbing out of poverty.

## Reform Ideas

Problem: Many in the culture of poverty are functionally illiterate.

Reform Idea 1: Communicate in person with men and women in poverty. There are many resources to help men and women gain reading skills and move toward a GED

- DHS can help men and women get a GED
- Muskogee Library offers literacy classes
- Workforce Ok has GED classes
- Agencies helping men and women in poverty need to communicate in person or over a phone.

We will need to work hard to help men and women overcome the stigma of illiteracy.

Problem: Many students don't see the purpose of their classes.

Reform 2: Successful High School students can tutor men and women at Gospel Rescue Mission.

- This would be a win/win situation as the men and women at the mission could improve their reading and writing skills in the safety of the Miller Family Center for Life Change and the students would be able to experience the joy of teaching.

Problem: With the more prevalent absence of fathers. Young men often become part of an underground workforce supporting their families.

Reform 3: Develop programs to send mentors and life coaches into the schools.

- There is already a good model that is flexible for any community. “My Brother’s Keeper” Work should be done to bring this program into more communities.
- These men and women can partner with teachers to teach values, encourage homework and inspire the students to better success.

Problem: Our current education program is not preparing students for real life.

Reform 4: Develop interest based learning.

- It all starts with dreams. Testing before junior high to discover areas of personal interest.
- Send students to schools based on interest more than neighborhood
- Example
  - Mechanic School
    - Math is appropriate for mechanics
    - History ties in with the history of industrial machines
    - English and literature ties in with cars and other mechanical areas
    - Basic business would tie in with owning your own auto shop
  - Art School
    - Math would include measurements and basic business math

- History would include art in history
  - English and literature would be around art
- Grade schools through High School need to teach
  - Stress management
  - Healthy eating and exercise
  - Conflict resolution
  - 40 Values from Parenting University
- School incentives
  - Students get paid by success. Their product is successful citizens
  - Schools get paid more if students go to trade schools or college
  - Schools lose money if students choose criminal behavior and jail.
  - Standard testing is done to help the students not to test the school. Areas of strength and weakness become focused after testing demonstrates issues.

- Marital disruption occurred in roughly 20 percent of the families, and four percent of children experienced more than one major change, e.g., two divorces.
- While more than 78 percent of those in two-parent households graduated from high school by age 20, only 60 percent of those who went through a big family change graduated in the same amount of time.
- The younger a child is when a divorce occurs, the more likely it can impact the child.
  - Law Offices of Molly B Kenny

Problem: With the breakdown of the traditional family structure kids are too often left to fend for themselves as parents are too tired or absent to help with homework.

Reform 5: Schools and the local church need to partner together to help develop healthier marriages and unite families.

- There are many great formats available.
- Focus needs to be on values.
- Could be done simultaneously with Khan Academy training and personal tutoring.

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