

Ending child poverty now ^[1]

Author: Various

Source: Children's Defense Fund

Format: Report

Publication Date: 28 Jan 2015

AVAILABILITY

Full report in PDF ^[2]

Description:

For the first time, this report shows that by investing an additional 2 percent of the federal budget into existing programs and policies that increase employment, make work pay, and ensure children's basic needs are met, the nation could reduce child poverty by 60 percent and lift 6.6 million children out of poverty.

The United States has the second highest child poverty rate among 35 industrialized countries despite having the largest economy in the world. A child in the United States has a 1 in 5 chance of being poor and the younger she is the poorer she is likely to be. A child of color, who will be in the majority of U.S. children in 2020, is more than twice as likely to be poor as a White child. This is unacceptable and unnecessary. Growing up poor has lifelong negative consequences, decreasing the likelihood of graduating from high school and increasing the likelihood of becoming a poor adult, suffering from poor health, and becoming involved in the criminal justice system. These impacts cost the nation at least half a trillion dollars a year in lost productivity and increased health and crime costs. Letting a fifth of our children grow up poor prevents them from having equal opportunities to succeed in life and robs the nation of their future contributions.

The U.S. can end child poverty by investing more in programs and policies that work. Substantial progress in reducing child poverty has been made over the past 50 years, despite worsening income inequality and increased unemployment and low-wage work. Child poverty dropped over a third from 1967 to 2012 when income from in-kind benefits like nutrition and housing assistance and tax credits are counted. Without these federal safety net programs child poverty would have been 68 percent higher in 2013, and 8.2 million additional children would have been poor. Despite this progress, 12.2 million children were poor in 2013 even after taking into account federal safety net programs because good jobs are still too scarce and safety net programs are stretched far too thin.

Related link: [Ending our obscene level of child poverty](#) ^[3]

Region: [United States](#) ^[4]

Tags: [poverty](#) ^[5]

Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/15/01/ending-child-poverty-now>
Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/15/01/ending-child-poverty-now> ^[2]

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/PovertyReport/EndingChildPovertyNow.html> ^[3]

<https://www.childcarecanada.org><https://www.childcarecanada.org><https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/15/01/reducing-our-obscene-level-child-poverty> ^[4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7865> ^[5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/poverty>