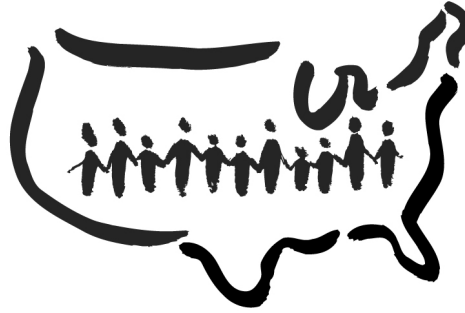


Answers to Poverty Awareness Quiz

- 1. FALSE.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of poor people increased by 1.3 million in 2003, from 34.6 million to 35.9 million. One out of every eight Americans is living in poverty.
- 2. FALSE.** Most Americans living in poverty are too young, too old or physically incapable of working due to illness or disability. In fact, nearly two-thirds of all Americans living in poverty have to depend on someone else in the household to bring in money to live.
- 3. TRUE.** The number of Asian Americans living in poverty rose the greatest among all groups, to 11.8 percent and 1.4 million people in 2003, an increase from 10.1 percent in 2002. For Hispanics, the poverty rate was 22.5 percent in 2003, unchanged from 2001. For African Americans, the rate rose only slightly, up from 24.1 percent. Still, nearly one out of four African Americans is living in poverty.
- 4. FALSE.** The federal government puts the poverty threshold at \$18,810. However, a 2000 poll revealed that the majority of Americans believe it takes at least \$35,000 annually to provide adequately for a family of four.
- 5. TRUE.** The working poor in America grew poorer during 2003, with incomes dipping farther below the poverty line than in any other year since 1975, the first year for which such data is available. The average amount by which people living in poverty fell below the federal "threshold" (\$18,810 for a family of four) was \$3,018 in 2003.
- 6. FALSE.** In 2003, the number of people living in extreme poverty – that is, with incomes below half the poverty line – rose by 1.2 million, to 15.3 million people. The number of Americans living in extreme poverty reached the highest level on record, since data first became available in 1975.
- 7. TRUE.** In fact, the U.S. child poverty rate is two to three times higher than other major industrialized nations. According to the latest comparative numbers, the child poverty rate in Sweden in recent years has been less than four percent; in the Czech Republic, less than six percent; France, seven percent; Germany, 10 percent; Australia and Japan, 12 percent; Canada, 14 percent; while in the United States, the child poverty rate has remained at over 16 percent for the last two years – with some sources placing the comparative number at more than 23 percent of all children in America living in poverty.
- 8. TRUE.** But for a mother who works full time at minimum wage to support one small child, that translates to earnings of \$10,712 a year – which is \$1,303 below the 2003 poverty threshold for a family of two.
- 9. FALSE.** The poverty rate for America's elderly population – those over age 65 – stands at 10.2 percent, or about one out of every ten seniors, while the child poverty rate is 17.6 percent, or one out of every six children in America.
- 10. FALSE.** Nine out of ten Americans believe the federal government has a responsibility to alleviate poverty. A strong majority believes that government should do more, not less, to help people move from welfare to work by providing skills needed to be self-sufficient.

SOURCE: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Campaign for Human Development.
For more information, see www.povertyusa.org

poverty in america



Nearly 36 million Americans live below the federal poverty line.

© 2004, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Catholic Campaign for Human Development).
Source: United States Census Bureau.

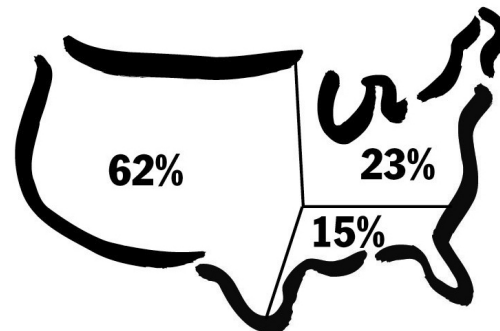
working, but still poor



2.6 million Americans worked full-time but didn't earn enough to raise them above the poverty line.

© 2004, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Catholic Campaign for Human Development). Source: United States Census Bureau.

2003-2004 funding



The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports programs that help poor and low-income people help themselves.

62% Community Development/Housing

23% Family Issues

(Homelessness, Youth Programs, Child Care and Support, Anti-Violence, Welfare, Environment, Education, Health Care, Disability Rights)

15% Economic Development/Jobs

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