

Causes of Poverty

Clarity about poverty's causes is important. The research can be organized into four clusters, as presented in the following table.

Behaviors of the individual	<p>Definition:</p> <p>Research on the choices, behaviors, characteristics, and habits of people in poverty.</p>	<p>Sample topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence on welfare • Morality • Crime • Single parenthood • Breakup of families. • Intergenerational character traits • Work ethic • Commitment to achievement • Spending habits • Addiction, mental illness, domestic violence • Planning skills • Orientation to the future • Language experience
Human & Social Capital in the community	<p>Definition:</p> <p>Research on the resources available to individuals, Communities, and businesses.</p>	<p>Sample topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual capital • Social capital • Availability of jobs • Availability of well-paying jobs • Availability and quality of education • Adequate skill sets • Childcare for working families • Decline in neighborhoods • Decline in social morality • Urbanization • Suburbanization of manufacturing • Middle-class flight • City and regional planning
Exploitation	<p>Definition:</p> <p>Research on how people in poverty are exploited because they are in poverty.</p>	<p>Sample topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug trade • Cash-advance lenders • Sub-prime lenders • Lease-purchase outlets • Gambling • Temp work • Sweatshops • Sex trade • Internet scams
Political/Economic Structures	<p>Definition:</p> <p>Research on economic, political, and social policies at the international, national, state, and local levels.</p>	<p>Sample Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization • Corporate influence on legislators • Declining middle class • De-industrialization • Job loss • Decline of unions • Taxation patterns • Salary ratio of CEO to line worker • Immigration patterns • Economic disparity

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