Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

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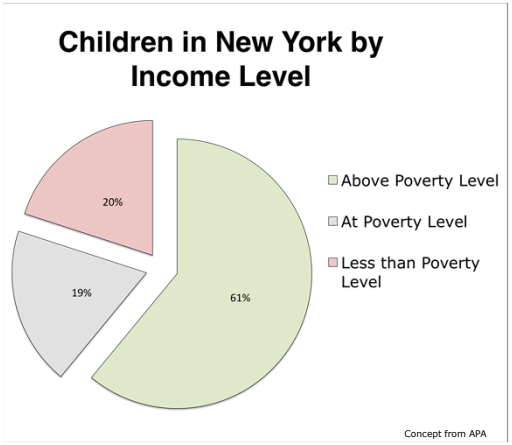
Effects of Poverty on Children:

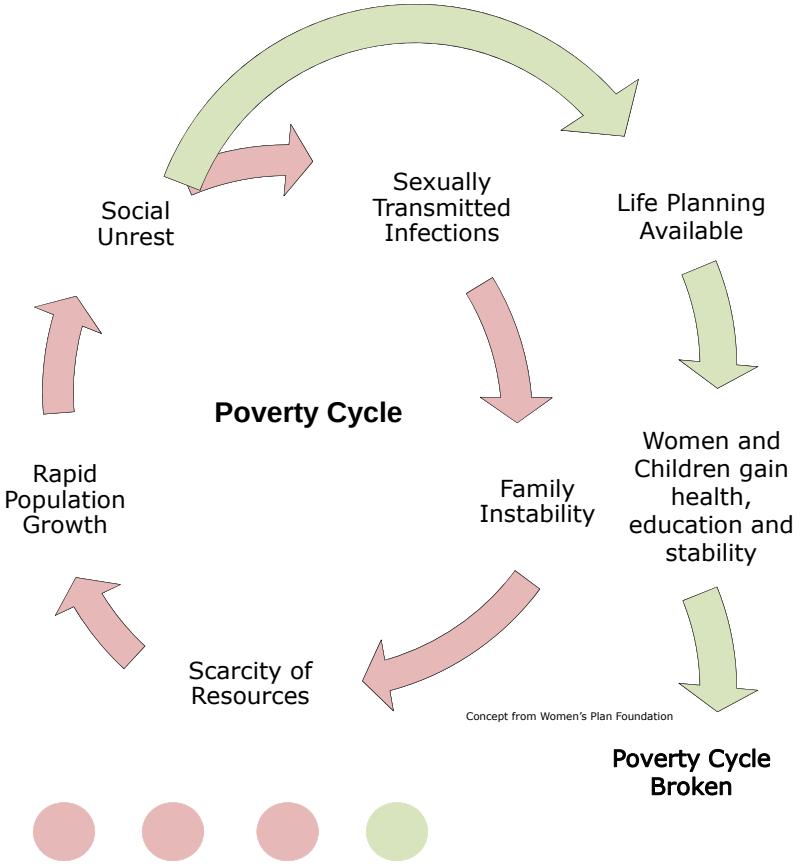
Children living in long term poverty face many physical, mental and social problems. Children living below the poverty level are more likely to be unhealthy due to the higher costs of nutritious foods and basic healthcare. In families that are homeless or living below the poverty level the parents are often less likely to encourage the academic success of their children. The stressful situation of poverty and homelessness often prevents children from excelling in school, making them more likely to stay in the poverty cycle throughout adulthood. Low income neighborhoods are often unsafe and are not the ideal childhood environment, making poor decisions accessible at a young age.

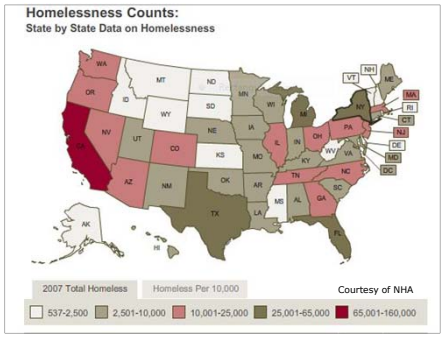


Information provided from Homeless Alliance of Western New York, The American Psychological Association and the National Alliance to end Homelessness.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

-Matthew 23:35





Homelessness by the Numbers:

- Over 670,000 homeless in the United States
- 62,700 homeless in New York
- 23.5% of the homeless population in Buffalo are children
- *2,902 people utilized homeless services in Western New York between October 2007 and September 2008*

Women that have received services from Cornerstone Manor have identified factors that resulted in their homelessness.

- loss of job, lack of skills
- drugs & alcohol
- domestic violence
- mental illness

Our Involvement: For the duration of the semester we have made a weekly commitment with the City Mission at Cornerstone Manor. We provide snacks for the women and children and babysitting services to women who wish to attend chapel alone. By working at Cornerstone Manor we are role models who provide a creative outlet for the children who spend much of the day in school or with their families. This allows the mothers to have a time to worship and reflect on their own progress made with Cornerstone Manor and their faith. Each week we have seen the positive impact that Cornerstone Manor has had on these families. The children tell us about friends they have made, their academic success and how much they enjoy the activities provided by the City Mission. They are often interested in our lives as college students and we encourage them to reach their maximum potential. We have seen how positive influences such as Corner Manor help children in poverty seek better lifestyles.

Future Opportunities: *University at Buffalo can get involved by encouraging students to be strong role models for children who reside at the City Mission which is always looking for new volunteers. The University can also create a program that allows interested students to go to the City Mission and encourage literacy skills.*