Poverty – What Do We Know, What Can We Do?

Dr. Timothy M. Bray
For Our Time Together…

- What Is Poverty?
- Why Does Poverty Matter?
- Poverty? In Dallas??
- What Can We Do About It?

Let’s Talk About
Will Rogers

“It’s not what we don’t know that hurts us, it’s what we know that just ain’t so!”
What is Poverty?

We know it when we see it, but how do we define it?
A Litany

Father Robert W. Castle, an Episcopal priest, was rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, from 1960 to 1968, before resigning. In 1968 he wrote Prayers for the Burned-Out City.

The book jacket states "... the city brings into a single focus all of our problems of environmental pollution, inefficient transportation and unwieldy government. Even worse, it is the city which has spawned the ghetto, and the ghetto in turn has begotten economic exploitation, unemployability, ersatz education and chronic despair.

These are the combustible materials heaped high in the ghettos of over forty cities throughout the country, and their burned-out sectors are symbolic of the ravages wrought upon the minds and hearts of those condemned to live in the wasteland of the inner-city."

Robert W. Castle Jr. in 1964
Photo: Maurice C. Carroll/The New York Times
How is Poverty Defined?

How Much Is Enough?

How Much is Too Little?

“Mollie Orshansky 1967” by Unknown
Social Security Administration History Archives.
Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons
## Defining Poverty – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>Related children under 18 years</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
<th>Five</th>
<th>Six</th>
<th>Seven</th>
<th>Eight or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One person (unrelated individual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 65 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder under 65 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder 65 years and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One under 65 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine people or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 2014 Poverty Threshold Table
### Minimum Wage Is Often Below Poverty Wage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>Related children under 18 years</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
<th>Five</th>
<th>Six</th>
<th>Seven</th>
<th>Eight or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One person (unrelated individual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 65 years</td>
<td>122%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>133%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder under 65 years</td>
<td>190%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder 65 years and over</td>
<td>211%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three people</td>
<td>244%</td>
<td>158%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four people</td>
<td>247%</td>
<td>182%</td>
<td>125%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five people</td>
<td>256%</td>
<td>202%</td>
<td>156%</td>
<td>107%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six people</td>
<td>267%</td>
<td>221%</td>
<td>181%</td>
<td>138%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven people</td>
<td>271%</td>
<td>230%</td>
<td>196%</td>
<td>159%</td>
<td>123%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight people</td>
<td>276%</td>
<td>240%</td>
<td>209%</td>
<td>177%</td>
<td>145%</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine people or more</td>
<td>259%</td>
<td>229%</td>
<td>203%</td>
<td>176%</td>
<td>149%</td>
<td>123%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What About a Living Wage?

Costs for a Family of Three in Dallas Co.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$6,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>$7,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>$6,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$11,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$9,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$4,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Income</td>
<td>$46,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$6,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Before Taxes</td>
<td>$52,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Hourly Wage</td>
<td>$25.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Income: $46,713

Taxes: $6,068

Income Before Taxes: $52,781

Required Hourly Wage: $25.38

Typical Annual Wages

- Education, Training, and Library: $47,820
- Healthcare Support: $24,590
- Protective Service: $38,020
- Food Prep, Serving, & Related: $18,930
- Office & Administrative Support: $31,850
- Production: $31,530
- Community & Social Service: $44,040
Poverty Is More Than a Status Related to Income

- Moving 2-3 Times A Year
- Accessing Subprime Financial Tools
- Giving Up, Looking On, Exhaustion
Poverty? In Dallas??

How can the leading region in producing new millionaires be home to a city with almost half of her children at risk?
The Face of Inequality…
Poverty in Dallas

Among Highest in Poverty Rates

- In 2015, 20% of Dallas residents lived below the poverty line.
- 40% lived below 185% of the poverty line.

Among Dallas Children

- In 2015, 31% of Dallas children lived below the poverty line.
- 57% lived below 185% of the poverty line.

Source: Institute Analysis of American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) 2015 1-Year Estimates
Who is Poor in the City of Dallas?

At the Margin

- 19.7% (351,880) of City Residents Live at or Below 100% of the Poverty Threshold (±1.2%)

By Race and Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic White 8.1%(±0.8%) 48,516
- Non-Hispanic African American 27.6%(±2.9%) 96,565
- Non-Hispanic Asian 19.6%(±3.4%) 13,542
- Hispanic of Any Race 26.4%(±2.2%)

By Age

- Under 18 30.8%(±2.5%) 139,804
- 18 to 64 16.6%(±1.0%) 190,379
- 65 and Up 12.0%(±1.6%) 21,697

Source: Institute Analysis of American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) 2015 1-Year Estimates
### What About Dallas County?

#### At the Margin
- 17.5% (455,066) of County Residents Live at or Below 100% of the Poverty Threshold (±0.9%)

#### By Race and Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic White: 8.4% (±0.7%) 65,188
- Non-Hispanic African American: 22.6% (±2.0%) 126,940
- Non-Hispanic Asian: 12.7% (±2.5%) 19,112
- Hispanic of Any Race: 23.1% (±1.7%) 232,690

#### By Age
- Under 18: 26.8% (±1.8%) 182,583
- 18 to 64: 15.2% (±0.7%) 245,319
- 65 and Up: 10.8% (±1.3%) 27,164

Source: Institute Analysis of American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) 2015 1-Year Estimates
Why Does It Matter?

The Very Real, Lifelong Consequences of Growing up in Poverty
A Different World…
Poverty Impacts Brain Development

THE BRAIN

Study Finds Association Between Poverty And Brain Development During Childhood

April 1, 2015 | by Justine Alford
Poverty Impacts Educational Outcomes

**FIGURE 1**

- **2-Year-Olds**
  - Listening Comprehension
    - In poverty: 18%
    - At or above poverty: 29%
  - Expressive Vocabulary
    - In poverty: 25%
    - At or above poverty: 37%
  - Letter Recognition
    - In poverty: 20%
    - At or above poverty: 27%
  - Numbers and Shapes
    - In poverty: 45%
    - At or above poverty: 72%

**FIGURE 4**
Percentage of Students Completing College, by Income Quartile and Birth Cohort

- Top
- 3rd
- 2nd
- Low

Economic Distress Impacts Civic Participation

46% of Non-voters have family incomes less than $30,000 per year.

Only 19% of likely voters are from low-income families.
Why Should We Care?

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood
Measuring Toxic Stress

- Housing Distress
- Over-crowding
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Transportation
- Health Insurance
- Single Parent Households
Toxic Stress Among Dallas County Kids, 2015

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY RISK FACTOR

- No Health Insurance: 72,577
- Overcrowding: 160,391
- Single Parent Household: 56,445
- No Transportation: 29,306
- Below 180% Poverty: 361,449
- Parental Unemployment: 228,445
- Housing Distressed: 289,465

- Only 89,819 Kids Have 0 Risk Factors
- 216,450 Kids Have Only 1 Risk Factor
- 196,162 Kids Have 2 Risk Factors
- 179,845 Kids Have 3 or More Risk Factors
Risk by Race

Probability of Being at Risk by Race and Ethnicity
Dallas County, Texas 2015

NH White  NH Black  NH Asian  NH Other  Hispanic

Source: IUPR Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Public Use Microsample Data
Distribution of Risk by PUMA in North Texas

Legend:
- PUMA Areas
  - 3 or More Factors
  - 2% - 7%
  - 8% - 15%
  - 16% - 22%
  - 23% - 30%
  - 31% - 40%

Map of North Texas showing the distribution of risk by PUMA areas.
What Can We Do About It?

Something Must Be Different
Poverty: Damaged Child

Dorothea Lange
Oklahoma City, OK, USA
1936 (Colorized by Kelly Short)
For More Information

Dr. Timothy M. Bray
Institute for Urban Policy Research
The University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road, WT20
Richardson, Texas 75080
V: 972-883-5430
F: 972-883-5431
timothy.bray@utdallas.edu
http://iupr.utdallas.edu

@timothy_bray

www.slideshare.net/TimothyBray