

The Dynamics of Poverty

Children in poverty are more likely to:

1. be a member of a dysfunctional family that experiences an unusually high stress level
2. lack basic health-care services
3. live in:
 - a shelter for homeless/battered/families
 - crowded housing
 - substandard housing
 - an unsafe neighborhood
 - an area exposed to pollution and/or a chemically toxic environment
4. suffer the effects of being undernourished/malnutrition
5. possess fewer learning resources (i.e., books, tapes, computer, homework supplies, etc.)
6. lack adequate clothing and footwear
7. four times more likely to suffer from abuse and/or neglect
8. witness domestic abuse/family violence
9. know a family member behind bars
10. demonstrate a higher rate of juvenile delinquency
11. spend more time watching television receive less parental supervision
12. attend a poor-quality daycare (non-center-based)
13. receive less parental supervision
14. experience:
 - tracking in low-level classes in school
 - failure in school
 - grade-level retention
 - dropping out of school
15. suffer the consequences of low birth weight and/or prematurity
16. encounter prenatal injury due to parental alcohol/drugs/smoking/abuse
17. experience excessive school absences
18. dwell with a family which is highly transient
19. abuse alcohol and/or illegal substances (self-medication)
20. stay in an alcohol/drug environment
21. live in a single-parent household
22. become a pregnant teenager (5 to 7 times more likely)
23. reside with a parent(s) who is underemployed/unemployed/unemployable
24. remain with a parent(s) who did not graduate from high school

25. lack reliable family transportation
26. die at a young age from: abuse/neglect, disease, an accident, fire, etc.
27. demonstrate low self-esteem
28. exhibit aggressiveness/behavior problems
29. suffer from stress/anxiety/depression
30. speak a primary language other than English which may compound their learning problems
31. become occupants in homes affected by environmental toxins, such as lead poisoning
32. require special education and/or remedial services referrals

Note: Not all low-income children will experience all of the adverse outcomes associated with poverty. The degree to which a child is in poverty will be impacted by the number of circumstances experienced.