

Poverty Reflection

Children living in poverty happens more than I could have imagined. Some children grow to believe it's normal more than others. Others get made fun of for their old clothes or shoes in school. I can gather how much of an impact poverty can have on a person in their future.

I was blessed enough to not have to experience it for myself. My father was born and raised in Mexico with 10 siblings with him being the oldest. He did have a stage in his life that he had to deal with poverty. From his experience, I understand that poverty can have a positive or negative outcome. You can continue to live in poverty or grow out of it. It allows somebody to become or be humble and set priorities if you allow it to. Which is the route my dad chose to take to better his life and future.

Poverty can be a dark hole that many children experience. No age is a target, but it is often known to start early. Although, it tends to start with the parents which the child reflects. This can lead to the first step of drug addiction and/or crimes. Depending on where you are located, you more than likely are exposed to more violence and crime. African Americans and Hispanics have the highest percentage rate in both poverty and crime rates.

Poverty can also come from communities due to financial issues. Many cities have their side of town that are carried by families living in tents, cars, or homeless. Its sad to realize that not every victim living in poverty came from a poor community. I have come across many who are ex veterans asking for cash, rides, or help with food. Also, some are satisfied to live on the edge, who are not capable of budgeting. They have lived their whole life spending money rather than saving it or prioritizing their earnings.

There are many resources available that the state offers for low-income populations to prevent them from hitting rock bottom. Low income tax payers have access to state help that they have yet to be educated on. Medicaid for pregnant women and their children is a great benefit, especially for a single

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mother. Resources such HUD, WICC, SNAP can help a person financially in the Childs first year of life, if the employment income is spent carefully on needs and not wants.

During the ACE quiz I answer according to my personal experience but, also compared my answers to my husband's whose score was a 10. Every questioned asked he responded with a yes. With every question I came to realize that he was at risk for a hardship in adulthood. As he has overcome this challenge throughout early childhood and mid-age childhood, he is now a responsible, hardworking father. He chose to not relive that time of his life again . He stated he was constantly ill as a child and remembers staying under a bridge for a couple of days, while his mother a drug addict. Thankfully he is currently healthy but was incarcerated at the age of 18 due to an act of violence and burglary.

A high ACE score doesn't necessarily mean you are going to be unhealthy or facing adversity. It does not tell you a person is at risk but who potentially can be at risk. If a score was at 4 parents were given education on ACE score and what their child could be at risk for. The higher the number the more severe the situation was taken into effect with health care professionals and team.

At my current employment I see newborn involved in CPS cases due to mothers recovering or currently drug addicts, and/or previous loss of custodial rights of previous children. Although, it is a sad situation the newborn can be at risk for adversity. During pediatric admissions, I will assess my patient's behavior and hx further when he or she is acting out in a reckless way. I understand that research has shown many children are often misdiagnosed to ADHD due to their behavior and actions.

The youth does not always show impulsive behavior when living through a difficult timeframe, or when they are a witness to drug use, domestic violence, or have feelings of being unwanted. The victim can also show symptoms of depression and may be seeking the help but is unsure where to start or possibly afraid of the outcome. I will take into consideration the different types of responses when assessing my patients history, their home, family, or lifestyle.

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