

Poverty in America

by John Iceland

1. What is poverty? What are some of the causes of poverty? Is it possible to eliminate poverty?

2. What is the Federal Poverty guideline standard and does it have value in today's society?

3. What are some of the causes of poverty, according to Dr. Iceland?

a. Social Stratification

b. Economic Growth

c. Decline of Unions

d. Inequality – Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Culture

e. Segregation

f. Feminization of Poverty- wage inequality, job advancement, single mothers

g. Culture of Poverty

4. Does the data found in Chapter 6 surprise you?

5. Has PRWORA (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996) been successful in reducing the rates of poverty? Why or why not?

6. What are some of the “highlights” of the PRWORA?

7. Dr. Iceland asks these questions:

- a. Why does poverty remain so pervasive?
- b. What does it mean to be poor?
- c. Are people from particular racial and ethnic backgrounds, age groups or family types inevitably more likely to continue to be poor?
- d. What can we expect over the next few years?
- e. What are the limits of policy?