

# Child Poverty, Unemployment, Homelessness: The Role of Social Workers in America

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[socialworkdegreecenter.com](http://socialworkdegreecenter.com)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

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# FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS

## Why Social Welfare is Important

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**WHAT DO THEY DO?**

Support communities in need, and help them survive with:

- ADDICTION
- DISCRIMINATION
- POVERTY
- RAISE AVOIRCE
- LESS EMPLOYMENT
- DISABILITY
- PROBLEMS
- MENTAL ILLNESS
- PHYSICAL ILLNESS

### HOMELESSNESS

#### WHAT IS IT?

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**BY AGE**

Age Group	Percentage
18-24	10.4%
25-34	10.4%
35-44	10.4%
45-54	10.4%
55-64	10.4%
65+	10.4%

### ABUSE

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**TYPES**

Type	Percentage
Physical	78.3%
Sexual	8.5%
Stalking	8.3%
Emotional	3.9%
Financial	7.8%
Other	6.9%

**NUMBERS**

Category	Percentage
50%	40%
12%	5%
10%	7%

### AND IT PAYS OFF

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**Age 74, MORE LIKELY**

**Age 75, MORE LIKELY**

**2/3 of PEOPLE**

**1/3 of ADULTS**

### POVERTY

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**POVERTY**

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**CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY STATE**

State	Percentage
AK	10
VT	10
NH	10
ME	10
CT	10
RI	10
MA	10
NJ	10
NY	10
PA	10
DE	10
MD	10
DC	10
VA	10
NC	10
SC	10
GA	10
FL	10
LA	10
TX	10
OK	10
KS	10
MO	10
IL	10
IN	10
OH	10
MI	10
WI	10
ND	10
SD	10
NE	10
WY	10
MT	10
WV	10
MV	10
AK	10

### ADDICTION

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**ADDICTION**

**MARIJUANA**

**ALCOHOL**

**COCAINE**

**HEROIN**

**PHARMACEUTICALS**

**HALLUCINOGENS**

### REQUIRED EDUCATION

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION**

**WELL KNOWN**

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

**ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?**

...and how it can help people who are struggling to get by.

Falling Through the Cracks: Why Social Work is Important The range of ailments and bad situations in which social workers help is astounding. With over 600,000 in the US today, there's more need for even more social workers than ever.[1]

What do they do?

Support communities in need:

(including those dealing with...)[2]

Poverty

Discrimination

Abuse

Addiction

Physical illness

Divorce

Loss

Unemployment

Educational problems

Disability

Mental illness

Homelessness

What is it?[3]

Definition: lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence or, when a primary residence is a temporary place for people about to be institutionalized or, any place not meant for regular sleeping and accommodation by humans or, a supervised, temporary shelter.

Over 600,000 Americans are homeless on any given night. [11]  
with around 65% living in emergency shelters or transitional housing  
and 35% living in unsheltered locations

Abuse: A new child abuse report is made every 10 seconds[5]

With 4.5 American children dying per day because of maltreatment.

Types of child abuse:

Neglect: 78.3%

Physical Abuse: 18.3%

Sexual Abuse: 9.3%

Psychological maltreatment: 8.5%

Medical Neglect: 2.3%

Other/unknown: 10.8%

By the numbers:

(substantiated instances, roughly, 2012)

Neglect, 500k+

Physical abuse, 120k

Sexual abuse, 60k

Psychological maltreatment, 50k

Medical neglect, 10k

Other/unknown, 70k

And it pays off. Because with help, bad outcomes can be avoided.

Children experiencing child abuse and neglect are 9x more likely to become involved in

criminal activities.

Totaling 14% of men in prison  
and 36% of women in prison  
Were abused.

Other outcomes:

Abused children are 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy

And engage in sexual risk taking. Leading to STD's

2/3 of people in drug abuse treatment facilities report being abused or neglected as children.

With 1/3 of abuse or neglect reporting adolescents having a substance use disorder by the age 18.

Poverty: 15% of Americans live at or below the poverty line[6]

That's at least one person in any room of ten.

Or 46.5 million Americans.

Or 5.5 NY's. Of people living in poverty.

-Including 16 million children.[7]

(22% of all children)

Federal poverty line = \$23,500 for a family of four

Research shows that families need about twice that to cover basic income.

Over 1/3 children in Mississippi live in poverty.

While only 1/10 in North Dakota are under the poverty line.

Addiction

22.6 million Americans used illicit drugs last month. [10]

Leading to over 6 million children living with at least one parent with a drug addiction.

Most common illicit drugs:

Alcohol

Marijuana

Rx painkillers

Cocaine

Hallucinogens

RX drug abuse is on a two decade rise:[9]

The US is 5% of the world's population

And we consume 75% of the world's prescription pills.

With non-medical prescription drug use rising 500% since 1990.

Including non-medical use/abuse.

## **The numbers are massive, and it's not for everyone:**

Required education for social work:

Bachelor's, Masters or Doctorate depending on position.

Average Pay: \$53,000[13]

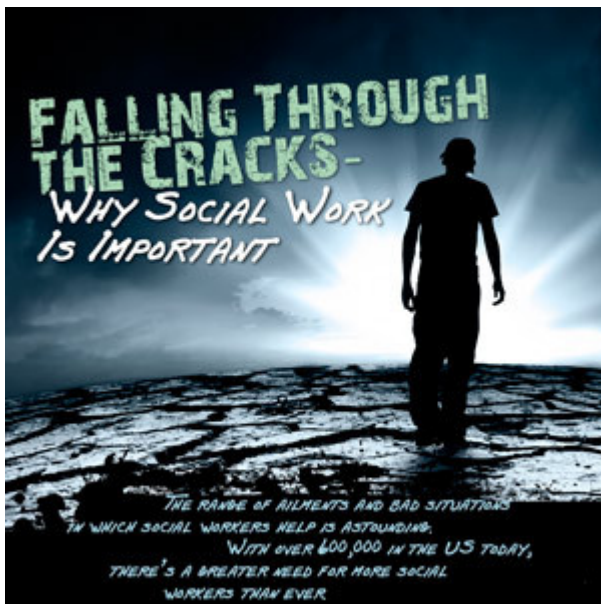
But without good social workers, whole sections of our nation are goners

Some well known social workers:

Two U.S. Senators and seven U.S. Representatives. These include: Sen. Barbara Mikulski

(MD), Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI), Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13), Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9), Rep. Allyson Schwartz (PA-13), Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1), Rep. Luis Gutierrez (IL-4), Rep. Niki Tsongas (MA-3) and Rep. Susan Davis (CA-53). [2]

Are you up to the challenge?



Citations:

1. <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm>
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