

2011 Hamilton College Youth Poll on Poverty and Policy

Complete results available at www.hamilton.edu/poverty





Contributors

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- Knowledge Networks: www.knowledgenetworks.com
- Results Available: <http://www.hamilton.edu/poverty>

Data Collection and Sample



- Panel's Sample
 - Knowledge Networks [KnowledgePanel](#)®
 - Representative of the U.S. youth population
 - 1,652 surveyed
 - Ages 18 to 29
- 2.5% margin of error

Poll Topic Areas



- Sense of the poverty problem
- Attitudes towards the poor
- Government role in helping the poor
- Who should fund poverty programs
- Background

Overall Findings



- Lack of available jobs is the leading cause of poverty
- Likely to be poor because of bad choices
- Current anti-poverty programs are ineffective
- Wealthy, government have obligation to help the poor
- Majority of young adults not willing to pay more in federal income taxes to aid the poor



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Key Demographics:

- Race: Whites vs. non-Whites
- Gender: Male vs. Female
- Poverty Status*: Poor vs. Non-Poor
- *Calculated from reported categorical income

Key Demographics



- Non-whites, females and the poor more likely to be worse off than they were two years ago
- Non-whites, females and the poor more likely to think that “the growing incomes of the wealthiest people ...negatively affect the quality of life of those with lower incomes.”

Key Demographics:

- Whites, non-whites, males, females, the non-poor and the poor all agree that a poor person is more responsible than an average person they know
- Nonpoor respondents more likely to favor higher taxes on top 4% to help the poor than the poor respondents themselves

Voters (73.8%) vs. Non-voters

- The poor are good money managers
 - 46.8% vs. 63.3%
- Income Redistribution
 - 61.2% vs. 53.9%
- Increased government anti-poverty expenditures
 - 31.8% vs. 38.9%

Bad Choices (82.6%)

vs. Bad Luck



- The poor are good money managers
 - 45.1% vs. 62.7%
- Income Redistribution
 - 54.5% vs. 78.8%
- Increased anti-poverty expenditures
 - Gov't: 29.5% vs. 52.5%
 - Taxes (Wealthy): 59.9% vs. 79%

Conclusion



- Young adults believe:
 - poverty is due to bad choices
 - poverty programs are ineffective
- Voters support income redistribution
- Young adults, especially young females and non-whites, are sympathetic to the poor

Thank You



- Find complete results at
<http://www.hamilton.edu/poverty>
- Thank you to the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center for funding this project.
<http://www.hamilton.edu/levitt>