**Poverty: A General Overview**

Every country has its dark and dirty secrets that they would rather never see the light of day, and the United States is no exception. In 2019 and 2020, especially when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, San Francisco's tent cities saturated the nightly news. Tents cities are not new to San Francisco, just like poverty is not new to the United States. The Great Depression saw the U.S. with a historical unemployment rate estimated at more than 20%. With failing banks, no jobs, and no security net to help those in need, millions of Americans fell into poverty (Great Depression History). Because of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's efforts to stabilize the American economy and World War II, the Great Depression came to an end. However, the poverty rate was estimated at 22.4% in 1959 (How Has Poverty Changed Over Time).

In 1964, President Lydon B. Johnson declared a War on Poverty in his first State of the Union address. After Michael Harrington’s 1962 book, The Other America, raised awareness of America’s poverty issue, President Johnson hoped to make America a more fair and just country with a massive reform program known as the Great Society (Review Essay: 'the Other America' is 'Coming Apart', Lydon B. Johnson). In 1963, Mollie Orshansky, an employee at the Social Security Administration, published her first version of poverty thresholds. President Johnson’s administration adopted Orshansky’s thresholds as a way to measure the War on Poverty (From Hunter to Orshansky: An Overview of (Unofficial) Poverty Lines in the United States from 1904 to 1965). The poverty rate reached an all-time low of 11% in 1973. It then fluctuated between 11% and a high of 15% for the next 37 years. The national poverty rate increased for the fourth straight year in 2010, and 46.2 million people were living in poverty, the largest number in the 52 years since the first published poverty report (How Has Poverty Changed Over Time and Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010). The poverty rate reached a new all-time low of 10.5% in 2019. However, 2020 ushered in the Covid-19 pandemic, millions lost their jobs, causing great concern among experts (Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2019).

**Poverty and the Effects On a Child**

Educational Effects

Physical Effects

Mental and Emotional Effects

Gangs and Crime

Long-term Effects