Poverty and Children

Life for children living in poverty is devasting. Impoverished children lack food which leads to malnutrition, poor development, and poor health. Their unpredictable circumstances often lead to them developing mental health issues. The low-income communities they live in lack the funds to provide an education equal to their non-poor peers. These children are also more likely to become entangled in the child welfare and criminal justice systems. Factors such as these often lead to these children growing up to continue a seemingly unending cycle of hopelessness. Few children living in poverty ever grow up to break this vicious cycle (The Basic Facts About Children in Poverty).

A street with cars parked on the side and buildings in the background

Description automatically generated with low confidenceJust like child poverty is disproportionately high compared to the total population. Certain groups of children have a higher rate of poverty than others. Native American children have the highest poverty rates, followed by Black and Hispanic children. White and Asian child poverty rates are lower and about the same for both groups (How Has Poverty Changed Over Time and The Population of Poverty USA). Family structures are also associated with different poverty rates. Children from single-parent households are more likely to be poor. Children living in particular geographic locations, such as the Southern U.S. and U.S. territories, are more likely to grow up living in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau).

Yazoo City, M.S. by Andrew Morang. Mississippi is the poorest state in the United States.