

# Utah State Omnibus Research

September 2017



WITH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH WE  
YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO ENGAGE  
THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF PEOPLE  
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# Executive Summary

- One-in-four have seen, read or heard anything recently regarding intergeneration poverty in the state of Utah.
- Close to half believe that poverty is passed down from previous generations and living in poverty places children at greater risk for not graduating high school.
- Utah residents believe that parents play the biggest role in helping their children find a way out of poverty. Social welfare programs have the least impact.
- Virtually all Utah residents agree that while financial assistance can help people in poverty get by, it does not help them escape the cycle of poverty. It is seen as a serious threat, but less than half see spending more money on welfare programs as the solution.

One-in-four have seen, read or heard anything recently regarding intergeneration poverty in the state of Utah.

27%

Have heard, read or seen something recently regarding intergeneration poverty in the state of Utah

27% YES Total  
47% - Hispanic  
33% - College graduate  
32% - Ages 18-34  
32% - Children in household  
32% - Household income \$50k-\$74k

What have you heard, read, or seen?

Born into poverty, unable to break out

Problem in Utah/  
Growing problem

Associated with other issues  
(drugs, crime, homelessness)

Children being born into poverty

General awareness – remember hearing, seeing reading about the topic

Ways to help/efforts to address

Hard to break cycle

Dependency on social welfare programs

Affects multiple generations

Negative impact on community

People not making enough money

Can't afford education

More commonly mentioned



Less commonly mentioned

# In their own words...

## Born into poverty, unable to break out

### Problem in Utah/ Growing problem

Associated with other issues  
(drugs, crime, homelessness)

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enough money

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generations

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education

I did a project in one of my classes on child poverty in Utah and learned about how many children who live in poverty have had generations before them living that way as well. Poverty in Utah is becoming a bigger and bigger problem.

Poverty being a cultural and generation problem, where new generations are being born into poverty and know no other way of life than poverty. They learn from within the welfare system.

I have read that there is a cycle associated with the homeless that continues due to drugs and lifestyle

I have just seen headlines and have not read into it

Most children that grow up poor will usually be poor their whole life

Intergenerational poverty is a cycle that is hard to break. Children grow up learning that the way to live is on assistance and have little support.

That the state has started to address the issue, however key programs such as Medicaid expansion and depressed economies outside of the Wasatch Front are making it difficult to fully implement.

I've heard that its having a negative impact. I want to know what can be done about this.

It is when a family is on benefits, and the parent has been on benefits

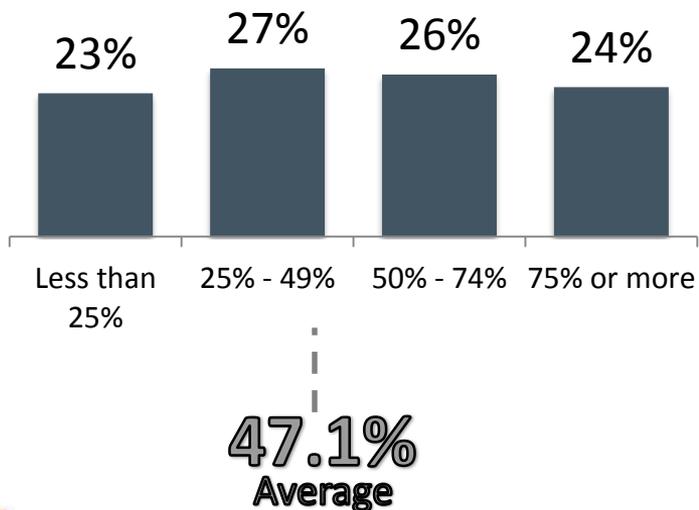
Latinos in Utah suffering from low wages and high cost of living.

When several generations of a family have a hard time paying bills

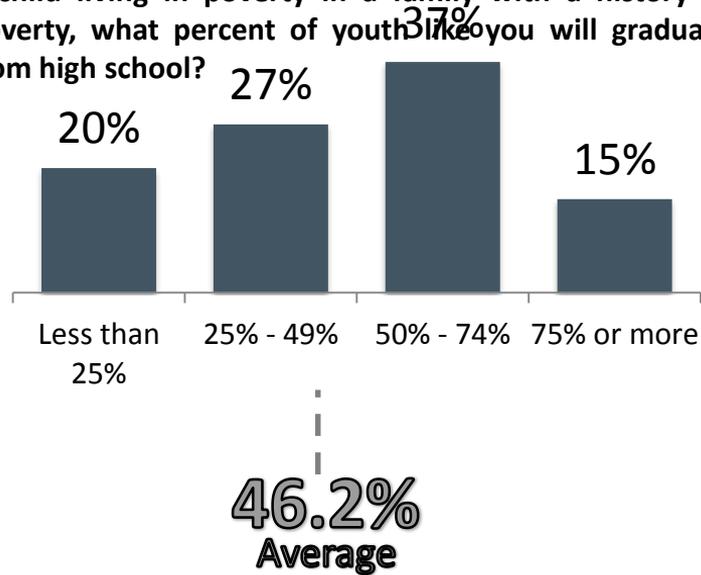
Families who live in poverty have a lot of difficulty being able to afford college education.

Close to half believe that poverty is passed down from previous generations and living in poverty places children at greater risk for not graduating high school.

If you were to guess, about what percent of Utah's children who are currently living in poverty also had parents who grew up in poverty?



In the state of Utah, eighty-three percent (83%) of all students graduate from high school. If you were to guess, if you were a child living in poverty in a family with a history of poverty, what percent of youth like you will graduate from high school?



BASE: TOTAL RESPONDENTS (n=503)

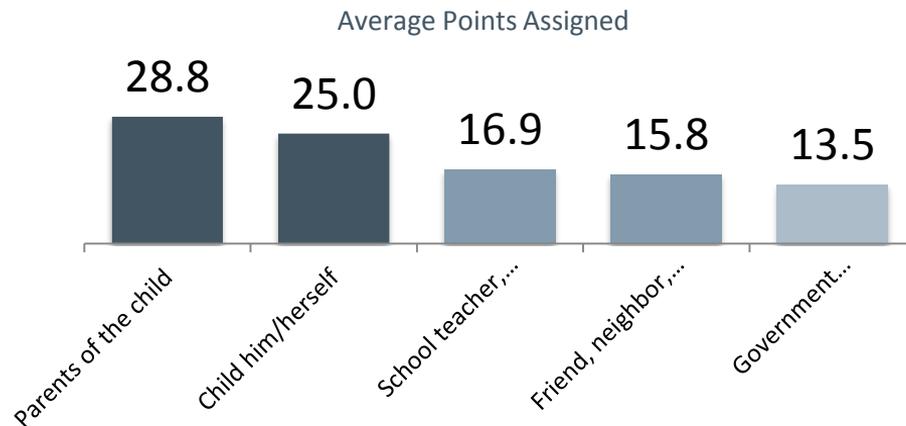
Q3: If you were to guess, about what percent of Utah's children who are currently living in poverty also had parents who grew up in poverty?

Q4: In the state of Utah, eighty-three percent (83%) of all students graduate from high school. If you were to guess, if you were a child living in poverty in a family with a history of poverty, what percent of youth like you will graduate from high school?

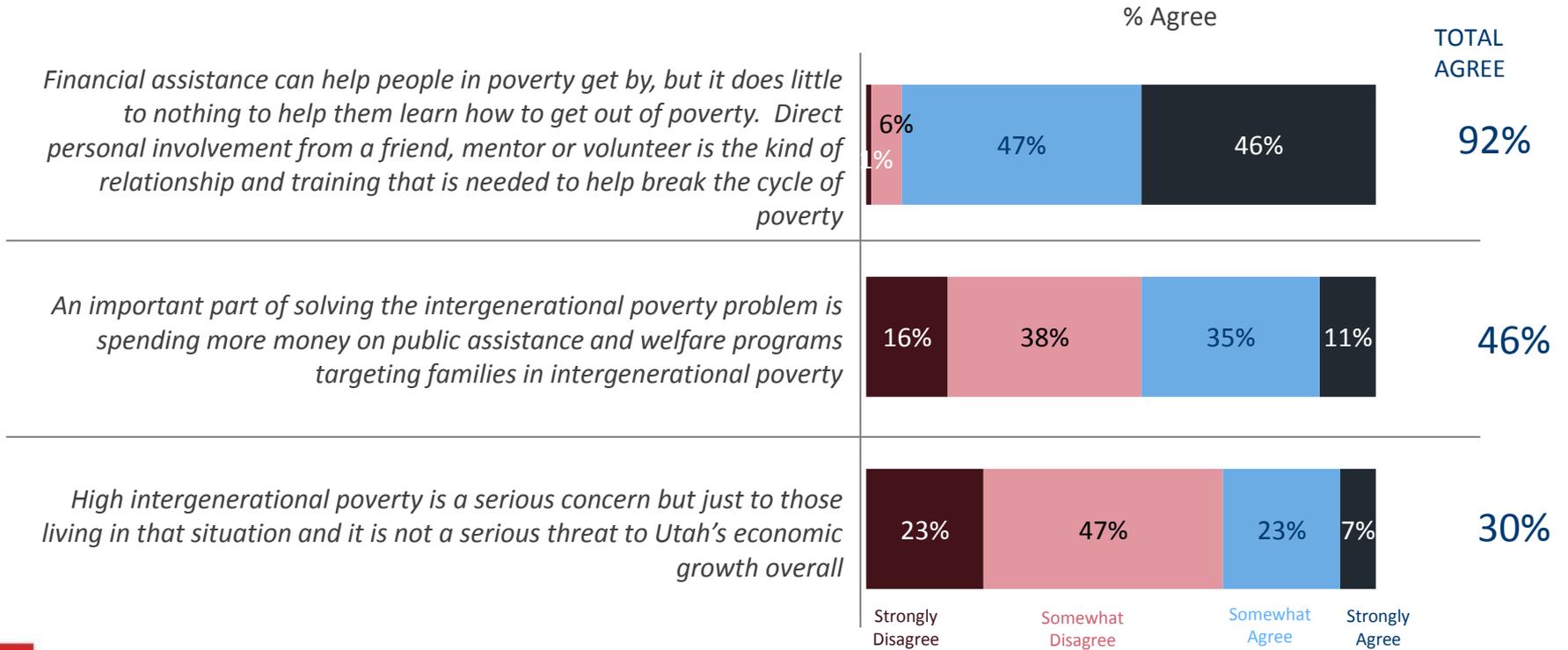
Utah residents believe that parents play the biggest role in helping their children find a way out of poverty. Social welfare programs have the least impact.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard and on any personal experience you may have had, who do you feel plays the biggest role or is most helpful in helping a child living in poverty find a way to get out and stay out of poverty?

If you had 100 points to demonstrate who plays the biggest roles and is most helpful in making it happen, how would you allocate those 100 points among...?



Virtually all Utah residents agree that while financial assistance can help people in poverty get by, it does not help them escape the cycle of poverty. It is seen as a serious threat, but less than half see spending more money on welfare programs as the solution.



BASE: TOTAL RESPONDENTS (n=503)

Q6: Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

# APPENDIX

YOUR GOALS WITH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH WE HELP YOU  
UNDERSTAND HOW TO ENGAGE THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF  
PEOPLE THAT MATTER MOST TO ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

# Methods

- This report presents the findings of a survey conducted among a sample of 503 adults comprising 233 males and 270 females 18 years of age and older who live in Utah. This survey was live on September 19-24, 2017.
- As required by the Code of Standards of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations, we will maintain the anonymity of our respondents. No information will be released that in any way will reveal the identity of a respondent. Our authorization is required for any publication of the research findings or their implications.
- ORC International has exercised its best efforts in the preparation of this information. In any event, ORC International assumes no responsibility for any use which is made of this information or any decisions based upon it.
- ORC International is a collaborative and consultative research partner to hundreds of organizations around the globe. We possess a wide variety of resources, tools and technologies to collect and analyze information for our clients. As a founding member of the Code of Standards of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) and a member of the European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR), we adhere to a rigorous Code of Standards and Ethics for Survey Research. ORC International is ISO 20252 certified. To achieve certification, ORC International passed a comprehensive, on-site audit. The certification establishes globally recognized terms, definitions, and service requirements for project management in research organizations. Processes outlined in ISO 20252 are designed to produce transparent, consistent, well documented and error-free methods of conducting and managing research projects. Adherence and certification to such standards provides a basis of confidence for clients and other constituencies that the work produced is being executed with quality processes and controls in place. The internationally recognized standard also provides a basis for subcontractor evaluation.

# Questions

- Have you heard, read, or seen anything recently regarding intergeneration poverty in the state of Utah?
  - + {IF YES}Please write a couple of sentences describing what it is that you have heard, read or seen recently relating to intergenerational poverty.
- If you were to guess, about what percent of Utah’s children who are currently living in poverty also had parents who grew up in poverty?
- In the state of Utah, eighty-three percent (83%) of all students graduate from high school. If you were to guess, if you were a child living in poverty in a family with a history of poverty, what percent of youth like you will graduate from high school?
- Based on what you have seen, read, or heard and on any personal experience you may have had, who do you feel plays the biggest role or is most helpful in helping a child living in poverty find a way to get out and stay out of poverty? If you had 100 points to demonstrate who plays the biggest roles and is most helpful in making it happen, how would you allocate those 100 points among...?
  - + The parents of the child
  - + The child himself or herself
  - + The benefits and services from government assistance programs and elected officials
  - + Personal direct intervention from a school teacher, educators, and/or coaches
  - + Personal direct intervention from a friend, neighbors, people at church or other members of the community
- ‘Intergenerational poverty’ is a term used to describe the condition where poverty is passed down from one generation of a family to the next and becomes a cycle that repeats itself and creates a dependency on welfare and government assistance. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
  - + High intergenerational poverty is a serious concern but just to those living in that situation and it is not a serious threat to Utah’s economic growth overall
  - + An important part of solving the intergenerational poverty problem is spending more money on public assistance and welfare programs targeting families in intergenerational poverty
  - + Financial assistance can help people in poverty get by, but it does little to nothing to help them learn how to get out of poverty. Direct personal involvement from a friend, mentor or volunteer is the kind of relationship and training that is needed to help break the cycle of poverty