

Statistics on Class Differences in the U.S. - A short explanation

Scene 3: May 10, 2007:

Including and Engaging people of all socio-economic levels: Working with the unmentionable difference - Class

The following slides summarize what the United States believes about class and inequality.

Our Beliefs and U.S. Beliefs: Class and Inequality

- Society should make sure everyone has equal opportunity to succeed¹ **91%**
- Most people can get ahead if they work hard² **68%**
- Hard work/determination do not guarantee success² **28%**

¹Pew survey: Beyond Red vs. Blue. May 2005

²Pew survey: Trends in Political Beliefs. March 2007

Our Beliefs and U.S. Beliefs: Class and Inequality

- Corporations strike a fair balance between profits and serving public interest² **38%**
- Poor people “have it easy:” receive government benefits without doing anything in return¹ **34%**
- Favor an increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25/hour¹ **84%**

¹Pew survey: Beyond Red vs. Blue. May 2005

²Pew survey: Trends in Political Beliefs. March 2007

Earned Income vs. Unearned Income

How are wages and return on assets distributed?

Class segment	Wages			Return on Assets		
Top quintile	54.3% ...	Top 1%	10.4%	80.9% ...	Top 1%	47.8%
		96-99%	14.7%		96-99%	16.3%
		91-95%	12.0%		91-95%	7.5%
		81-90%	17.2%		81-90%	9.3%
Second quintile	22.7%			10.0%		
Third quintile	12.9%			6.1%		
Fourth quintile	7.4%			2.7%		
Fifth quintile	2.7%			0.9%		

Inequality and the “American Model,” Harvard Business School Note 9-703-025, March 2006. R. DiTella & I. Vogel.
 Adapted from Mishel, Bernstein, and Schmitt’s “The State of Working America, 2000/2001.” Cornell University Press.

Who Are The Working Poor?

9.2 million families earned low incomes that put them below the poverty threshold (2002 data).

- 39 mil (including 20 mil kids) - low income working families
- 25% of working families are low income earners
- 40% of minority working families are low income earners vs. 20% of white working families
- 20% of U.S. jobs pay <\$8.84/hour (annual income of \$18,387), the poverty threshold for family of four

"Working Hard, Falling Short: America's Working Families and the Pursuit of Economic Security."
Report from The Working Poor Families Project. October 2004.

Who Are The Working Poor?

What kinds of jobs do the working poor do?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Cashiers | ■ Restaurant workers |
| ■ Retail workers | ■ Hotel workers |
| ■ Janitors | ■ Health care aides |
| ■ Secretaries | ■ Child care providers |
| ■ Truck drivers | ■ Housekeepers |
| ■ Laborers | ■ Cooks |

Who Are The Working Poor?

Low income working families ...

Myth	Data
Do not work	71% work
Do not work hard	Work average 2,500 hrs/yr (equal to 1.2 f/t jobs)
Are headed by single parents	53% married
Are headed by immigrants	72% of parents are American-born
Have very young parents	88% - parent between 25 and 54 y.o.
Are predominantly minority	47% - 2 white parents 28% - 1 Hispanic parent 20% - 1 African American parent
Lack high education	42% - some post-secondary ed 35% - 1 parent less than high school ed
Should manage finances better	75% pay over 33% of income for housing

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 Report from The working Poor Families Project. October 2004.

What "Working Wealthy" Earn

Ratio of CEO pay to average worker's pay in U.S.:

1990 107:1
 1995 180:1
 2000 525:1
 2005 411:1

United for a Fair Economy: CEO pay charts

Diversity Learning Series: Class Relations in Organizations
Seattle, Washington
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Scene Three was the third session of the 2007 NW Diversity Learning Series, Life Theater - Inclusion and Engagement: Challenging and Expanding My Diversity Competency: Moving Beyond My Comfort Zone. The Series, held in Seattle, WA, is organized by The GilDeane Group, publishers of DiversityCentral.com.