



Growing Up In Need

How Poverty Affects Our Children

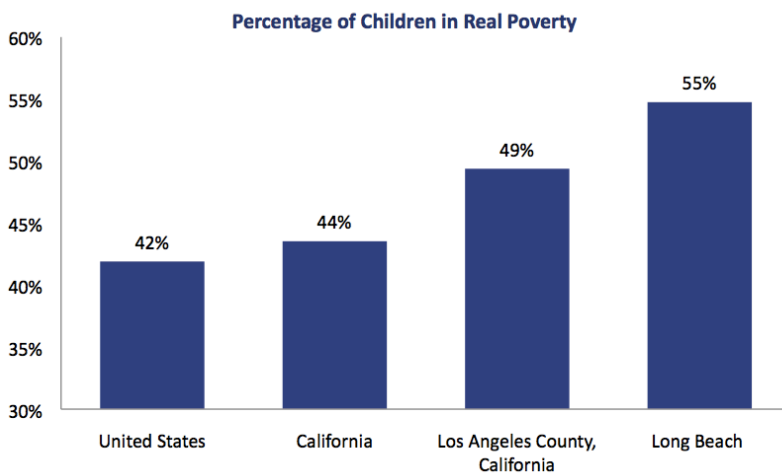
"I work full-time as a bellman at the Hilton Long Beach, but I can barely support my family. We live in a small one bedroom apartment and my two children sleep near the kitchen. My wife battled cancer, but I couldn't even afford to take time off to care for her because I had to choose between spending that time with my family or keeping us from ending up on the streets."

– Romeo Trinidad, Long Beach resident



Romeo's family and children are not alone in their economic distress.

- Twenty percent of Long Beach residents and 27% of Long Beach children live below the federal poverty level.
- Forty-two percent of Long Beach residents and a **shocking 55% of Long Beach children live in real poverty** (below twice the federal poverty level), more than the County, state and national average.



Poverty affects children's educational attainment, development, and health.

- A UC Berkeley study found that certain brain functions of low-income 9- and 10-year-olds pale in comparison with those of wealthy children and that the difference is almost equivalent to the damage from a stroke.
- Even for academically high-performing students, income and poverty greatly affect subsequent educational attainment such as completing college.

Creating pathways out of poverty and a Long Beach that works for everyone

- We need to push for policies that create a thriving community for all Long Beach families. The city should prioritize living wages, access to family health care and affordable housing so that our children can grow up in healthy households.
- In order to create better living conditions for our children and families, decision-makers must allow for transparent processes that involve meaningful community input on decisions that affect Long Beach residents.