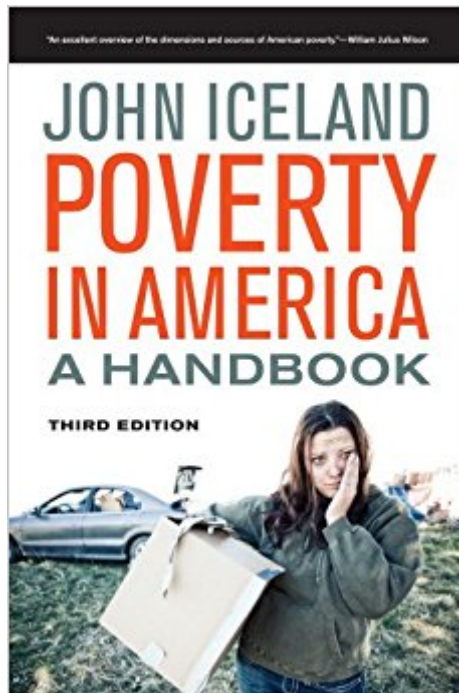




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# Poverty In America: A Handbook



## Synopsis

The United States is among the most affluent nations in the world and has its largest economy; nevertheless, it has more poverty than most countries with similar standards of living. Growing income inequality and the Great Recession have made the problem worse. In this thoroughly revised edition of *Poverty in America*, Iceland takes a new look at this issue by examining why poverty remains pervasive, what it means to be poor in America today, which groups are most likely to be poor, the root causes of poverty, and the effects of policy on poverty. This new edition also includes completely updated data and extended discussions of poverty in the context of the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements as well as new chapters on the Great Recession and global poverty. In doing so this book provides the most recent information available on patterns and trends in poverty and engages in an open and accessible manner in current critical debates.

## Book Information

Paperback: 226 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 3 edition (August 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520276361

ISBN-13: 978-0520276369

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,734 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography](#) #26 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics > Labor & Industrial Relations](#) #27 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Labor & Industrial Relations](#)

## Customer Reviews

"In just a few short pages, Iceland brings anyone--lay reader, student, professional researcher--up to speed on the major issues and debates about poverty in America. With succinct and engaging prose, *Poverty in America* covers the gamut--from theoretical issues to measurement to history to public policy--better than any other book out there right now."

&#147;John Iceland combines statistical data, theoretical arguments, and historical information in a book that is highly readable. An excellent overview of the dimensions and sources of American

poverty. —William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Harvard University "[Poverty in America] is comprehensive, easily accessible, up-to-date, and has a vast reference section for those who want even more detail. It could serve as a textbook for upper level undergraduate or graduate courses, or as a reference book for instructors trying to construct undergraduate lectures. It is an intelligent, balanced, and carefully researched handbook." Social Forces "Poverty, one of the most heavily researched issues in our society, is, ironically also one of the most politicized. In an effort to cut through the thicket of data, studies, rhetoric, and myths, John Iceland has produced a concise book that helps us analyze current thinking." Contemporary Sociology

Great read, even though I bought this for a college course It's a book I really enjoyed reading. Should be a required read for high school aged kids throughout the U.S., these issues are not addressed or taught enough in schools. Iceland does a great job of explaining poverty in America in a way that anybody can understand

These are individual case samples of poverty stricken Americans who have had their hopes, goals, and dreams for a better life smashed to pieces on page 126 Mr. Jerome Greene tells his story "It's been like hell," he says. "It's very hard to see people leave and go to work in the morning and come home every night. It's hard to see people spending money, going out and having fun and you can't. It's very stressing. Greene, about to turn 50, worked for 16 years as an Oracle software developer, most recently at a Pennsylvania company that made electronic components for cars. When he was laid off in June 2008, the recession was just taking hold, and he still had job interviews. By fall, with the economy in free fall, his phone stopped ringing." On page 121 Mr. J.R. Childress shares his experience "He's determined to stay busy, job or no job, for sanity's sake. Maybe he'll help a neighbor. Exercise. Or check out computer blueprints of construction projects around Winston-Salem, N.C., to stay connected to the world where he thrived for three decades. Childress has been laid off twice since late 2009, most recently for 10 months." On page 47 we have "Magdalyn March, 30, of Birmingham, Ala., can relate to those living in extreme poverty. in 2006, she lost a seasonal job at a packing warehouse, split with an abusive boyfriend and was caring for her two children." On page 39 we have hit the jackpot there are four different people who tell their stories "At a food pantry in a Chicago suburb, a 38-year-old mother of two breaks into tears. She and her husband have been out of work for nearly two years. Their house and car are gone. "It's like there is no way out," says Kris Fallon. She is trapped like so many others, destitute in the midst of

America's abundance." Next we have "Bill Ricker, a 74-year-old former repairman and pastor whose home is a dilapidated trailer in rural Maine. He scrapes by with a monthly \$1,003 Social Security check." Then "There's Brandi Wells, a single mom in West Virginia, struggling to find a job and care for her 10-month-old son." Last but not least there is "Ken Bargy, 58, had to stop working five years ago because of his health and is now on disability." These are everyday Americans whose country America has given them a swift kick to the curb of poverty.

Very interesting and well sourced book giving theories and explanations regarding the poverty seen in America. Easy to understand and read, making it a very accessible source for this information.

Excellent read in general and for my son's college course.

Very boring. Just a bunch of statistics. Gives a great overview of the history of poverty in terms of morality and politics. Contributes to the colorblindness of current social measures. This is a good intro book to poverty.

Interesting book

Because I agree with all the chapters in the book. The chapter #1 should the reader how the government could be able to measurement by doing the census every 10 years and another ways too.

Was purchased for someone else.

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