



# CYCLE OF RISK FACT SHEET: THE POVERTY REPORT

Seventeen years ago, Heartland Alliance identified poverty and economic insecurity as being at the root of many of the struggles faced by the organization's program participants. We realized that no one was talking about poverty in a comprehensive way. We also identified a knowledge gap among legislators and other decision-makers regarding some very basic poverty facts—What is poverty? How many people are poor? Who is poor? The Social IMPACT Research Center began working on a project intended to fill this knowledge gap and address the piecemeal approach to tackling poverty-related issues.

It is one of only a handful of state reports on poverty in the nation. The Report's primary approach involves weaving together data on education, employment, housing, health care, nutrition and hunger, and assets to tell a richer, more comprehensive story of poverty.

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## Poverty Report Goals

- Educate the general public, legislators, and other decision-makers in Illinois that poverty is a reality for millions of people in the state.
- Help people make the links between the various facets of poverty and help them see that educational challenges, health disparities and access issues, hunger, employment barriers, housing hardship, and lack of assets are part and parcel of the broader issue of poverty.
- Influence policy and programmatic changes in order to expand opportunity for the most vulnerable people in the state of Illinois.

## 2017 Report

### *Cycle of Risk: The Intersection of Poverty, Violence, and Trauma.*

This year's report theme explores the relationship between poverty, violence, and trauma and, through its findings, argues that addressing Illinois's violence crisis must involve investing in reducing poverty and treating trauma.

## Past Reports

- Racism's Toll: Report on Illinois Poverty 2016*
- Poor By Comparison: Report on Illinois Poverty*
- 50 Years Later: Report on Illinois Poverty 2014*
- Illinois's 33%: Report on Illinois Poverty*

To view the full list of past reports, visit [www.heartlandalliance.org](http://www.heartlandalliance.org)

## The Social IMPACT Research Center

The Social IMPACT Research Center is a program of Heartland Alliance, one of the world's leading anti-poverty organizations. IMPACT does research that helps leaders create change. We collaborate with clients to measure and grow their social impact. Our work enables nonprofits, foundations, and governments to advance real-world solutions to poverty.

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ENDING POVERTY