

# The Impacts of Welfare Reform on Poverty in America

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# Introduction

- Background on Welfare Reform
- My research question:
  - How have the systemic issues embedded withing Welfare Reform inadvertently impacted people living in poverty in America?
- The primary objective of my research

WELFARE  
REFORM



20 YEARS LATER

# Focus and Methodology

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- **Areas of focus:**
    - Decentralized policy design
    - The changes with TANF
    - The strict eligibility requirements
    - "The benefit cliff"
  - **Methodology:**
    - Policy analysis
      - Qualitative
      - Quantitative
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# Findings

- The current policy discourages growth for welfare recipients
- Negative impacts on both parents and children
- The strict eligibility requirements result in inadequate support for people in poverty

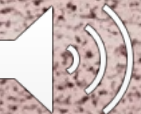




# Recommendations

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- New or improved formula to calculate Federal Poverty Level (Self-sufficiency Standard)
- More investments into education and work training programs
- Placing a cap on co-pay families pay for childcare
- Learning from other countries



# Final Thoughts

- “Poverty is relatively cheap to address and incredibly expensive to ignore.”

- Clint Borgen, President of the Borgen Project

