



Vote Yes: SB 37 Intergenerational Poverty Provisions

Sen. Stuart Reid and Rep. Jeremy Peterson

Child poverty and economic hardship can have significant consequences for children's development and life chances. Growing up in poverty can be harmful to children's cognitive development and ability to succeed in school, to their social and emotional well-being, and to their health.

The research is clear that **poverty is the single greatest threat to children's well-being**. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to be poor as adults, while those who grow up in more affluent families are more likely to be affluent later in life. While even a few years in poverty can have a significant impact on children's economic trajectories, the risks are particularly severe for those who experience many years of poverty.

SB 37 Intergenerational Poverty Provisions requires the Department of Workforces Services (DWS) to track intergenerational poverty and publish an annual report on the data, findings, and potential uses of the tracking system.

DWS would gather and track available local, state, and national data to provide a more complete understanding of the contributing factors and help inform the development of effective policies and practices to address intergenerational poverty.

What data will be tracked?

- Official poverty rates
- Child poverty rates
- Years spent by individuals in childhood poverty
- Years spent by individuals in adult poverty
- Other available data including public assistance data, census data, and other relevant data available to the department.

SB 37 Intergenerational Poverty Provisions will help raise the visibility of children and poverty, and serve as a tool to make better decisions. Good data are always needed to develop the most effective policies and practices but they even more critical at this time when more children are living in poverty. At the same time, the state continues to make tough budget decisions. It's more important than ever that we use the best data available to monitor the impact of these decisions on the life outcomes for thousands of Utah's most vulnerable children.

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