

Popular Conception(s) / The Single Story of U.S.-Americans on Welfare

- **Welfare recipients**
 - Childlike / incapable
 - Need regulation/administration
 - “Welfare queens” – use welfare to buy lobster and other expensive things that most U.S.-Americans not on welfare cannot afford
 - Many have mental illnesses
 - Irresponsible
 - Welfare recipients blame the government for their situation
 - Welfare recipients abdicate personal responsibility
 - Physically unhealthy
 - Single mother (female)
 - Has many children, hyper-fertile
 - Bad mother
 - Come from a difficult economic background, live in poverty
 - Drug addicts
 - Uneducated
 - Lazy
 - Do not want to work
 - Will not take a minimum wage job
 - Skate by
 - Racial minorities (black and brown)
 - Add to / increase crime rates
 - Of child-bearing age
 - Character deficient
- **Welfare is:**
 - Chronic
 - Multi-generational
 - Perpetuated through a “welfare culture” that children are socialized into
 - Caused by character deficiencies
 - Social Security and Medicare are welfare programs? Corporate welfare?
- **The welfare system**
 - Government spending on welfare
 - Is a big part of the government’s budget
 - Has been and is increasing
 - People work and then have to pay out of their paycheck they worked for for people who do not work
 - Is abused
 - Welfare recipients use welfare to support their drug habits
 - Welfare recipients cheat the system
 - Unauthorized immigrants use taxpayer funded welfare
 - Welfare recipients use welfare as free money
 - Welfare recipients intentionally have more children to increase their welfare check
 - Is “natural.” All societies have some form of economic stratification. The U.S. is a meritocracy. It is inevitable that there will always be a segment of the population that is impoverished and in need. (e.g. survival of the fittest).
 - Counter-narrative: People are on welfare because they face many struggles / encounter many barriers
 - Counter-narrative: People are on welfare because they face a lack of opportunities to get out of poverty