Does living in poverty in the United States of America lead to and/or result in addiction?

**Background**

**Background of The United States**
- Population: Over 308,745,000, as of 2010
- 1 in 6 American citizens struggle with poverty
- Minimum wage: $7.25, Yearly income (with minimum wage): $13,900
- President Obama has reduced jobless rate from 8.1% to 7.8%

**Poverty and Addictions**
- Addiction often overlooked as major health concern
- Rarely diagnosed by doctors
- Yearly poverty rate stays consistent
- Addict often overlooked as major health concern
- condensed or concentrated areas result in worse condition
- Easier to receive and distribute

**Government Introduced “Addiction Equity Act”**
- Lists reasons for using drugs: early exposure, stress management and/or reality escape
- Suggests specialized programs for addicts living in poverty
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- List of poverty as main risk factor for addictions
- Lists poverty as main risk factor for addictions
- One main cause of poverty is debt

**National Institute on Drug Abuse**
- Focuses on rising poverty rate
- Connects substance abuse and poverty

**Poor and Unemployed**
- Full-time workers only use drugs 8.2% of the time, while unemployed people use 17.4% of the time

**The Evidence**

**Government Reports**
- Complex social problems
- Drug and alcohol abuse rates are climbing rapidly
- Population as a whole and as a minority
- Young teens
- Drug use rates for teens aged 12-17: 10.1%
- Condensed or concentrated areas result in worse condition
- Easier to receive and distribute

**Media Reports**
- Connects substance abuse and poverty
- Focuses on rising poverty rate
- One main cause of poverty is debt

**National Agencies**
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Lists reasons for using drugs: early exposure, stress management and/or reality escape
- Suggests specialized programs for addicts living in poverty
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**But...**
- Full-time workers only use drugs 8.2% of the time, while unemployed people use 17.4% of the time

**What Can Be Done?**

**For the Government...**
- Create more employment opportunities
- Implement a accessible health care system

**For the Schools...**
- Address peer pressure, poverty, and substance abuse through assemblies and within the classroom
- Offer religious guidance
- Provide assistance in locating employment and residence opportunities
- Supply location for meetings and other fundraising events

**For the Churches...**
- Inform children and exemplify behaviour appropriate to be a role model
- Take the initiative to help others in the community when needed

**Illicit Drug Use in America 2011**

- Number of Users
- Rate of Use (Percentage)

**Illicit Drug Use in America 2011**

**Conclusions**

- Addiction is both a cause and effect of poverty in the United States of America
- Unemployed people use drugs more frequently
- Debt caused by addictions is prevalent when discussing poverty

**References**

- Jackson, D. (2012, October 5). Obama: Jobs, economy are ‘moving forward’. USA Today