Poverty
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Poverty is an aspect of life for some individuals, however, some do not reflect upon it until they drive through a dilapidated neighborhood or see a homeless person on the corner of a street. Whether we as citizens choose to think about it or not, it is a real issue. Between 2004 and 2005, both poverty rates and the number in poverty decreased for non-Hispanic Whites—from 8.7 percent to 8.3 percent and from 16.9 million to 16.2 million, respectively. The rate for non-Hispanic Whites was lower than the rate for any other racial group and the rate for Hispanics. Among Blacks, the poverty rate and the number for people in poverty remained statistically unchanged between 2004 and 2005. With 9.2 million people living in poverty, the poverty rate for blacks was 24.9 percent. ¹

Therefore, the poverty rate for Whites has decreased while the poverty rate for Blacks has not changed. It is a good that the poverty rate for Whites has declined, yet while referring to this number we must also take into account that majority of the U.S. population consists of non-Hispanic Whites. The Black population contributes to the minority population in the United States. This shows that in order for the poverty rate for the Blacks would not cause for drastic changes in their economic status, yet there are many factors holding this race in the strong hold of poverty. Whereas non-Hispanic Whites have many advantages in society they have taken advantage of their resources and caused their rate of poverty to decline.

The poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites declined between 2004 and 2005 due to numerous factors. One of the main factors is that Whites are more accepted when it

comes to the job force, however, due to minimal educational experience and skills one may only be able to get a low-paying job. Even though, the job is low-paying one may work two or three depending on the circumstances, this usually results in an increase in income. With the increase in income, this causes one not to be dependent on welfare system. Also with in the non-Hispanic White population, there are less single parenting households, this means that usually two incomes are coming into a household. Not only, are there usually two parents in a household there is also less teen pregnancy in the non-Hispanic White population. With a decreased single parent rate, there are fewer individuals on welfare, due to having a child out of wedlock. This is majority of the reasons the poverty rate for Whites has declined.

On the other hand, the poverty rate for Blacks remained unchanged. This could be due to numerous reasons, yet the main reason is that the black society is doing the opposite of the White society. The Black population is more dependent on government programs that give them assistance such as Welfare, with this being their “crutch” they have no motivation to achieve higher and get out of poverty.

Not only this, but Blacks are hindered by stereotypes of not having an education past high school, speaking poor English, not having transportation when living in government assisted housing, not having a father in the household when the individual is a female, or possibly having too many children to have adequate childcare. These factors hinder Blacks when applying for a low-income job. Not only are some of these factors stereotypes, they are true for some individuals. These factors cause many employers in the work not to hire these individuals and they then have no way out of poverty, due to not having any income. However, many of these individuals see that there is no reason to
find a job when they have the government to support them. Some also feel scared that they will not be able to support their family on a low income. If the black population feels this way, or even if they do try to work towards succeeding, there are numerous forces that hold them back. This is why the poverty rate remains unchanged, and will not change until these forces are broken and bound.

As a society, we can do many things in order to help decrease the rate of poverty for all races. Yet, it seems that minorities of the U.S. population need some assistance in this aspect of life. The whole issue with Blacks began early in history and it keeps evolving into a bigger issue for society to handle. I think that if we work together as a nation to help decrease poverty many issues would be eliminated in our society today!