



NewsChieftain | CorridorNews | NewsJournal | Rancho

MYLOCALNEWS



THE
POMERADO
NEWSPAPER
GROUP

Local news from Poway, Rancho Bernardo, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos, Sabre Springs & 4S Ranch

- [Home](#)
 - [Local News](#)
 - [Local Sports](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Editorial](#)
 - [Send a letter](#)
 - [Columns](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
-
- [Business / Real Estate](#)
 - [Rancho Magazine](#)
-
- [Classifieds](#)
 - [Advertising](#)
 - [About us](#)
 - [Contacts](#)
 - [Subscribe](#)
 - [Send a news tip](#)
-
- [Pomerado Publishing](#)
 - [Community Links](#)

Hemphill: U.S. has some of the richest 'poor'

By Alan Hemphill

October 10, 2007

I fully understand the motivation of liberals: They believe there is honor in being generous with other peoples' money! They don't want equal opportunity – they want equal outcomes.

We have poverty in the United States only because of the way we define it. Being below the "poverty level" considers only income, and does not include AFDC payments, subsidized housing, WIC, and more than 60 other welfare programs that total \$600 billion a year, larger than the defense budget.

Don't think that we have "reformed" welfare – we reformed only one of the 60-plus "welfare" programs, and almost everyone thinks that the reform of that one program has been a success.

Get real, we have some of the richest "poor" in the world.

Here is part of a paragraph from an August report by the Heritage Foundation:

"Overall, the typical American defined as poor by the government has a car, air conditioning, a refrigerator, a stove, a clothes washer and dryer, and a microwave. He has two color televisions, cable or satellite TV reception, a VCR or DVD player, and a stereo. He is able to obtain medical care. His home is in good repair and is not overcrowded. By his own report, his family is not hungry and he had sufficient funds in the past year to meet his family's essential needs."

The study, taken from government sources including the Census Bureau, says 43 percent of the "poor" own a home, own a refrigerator, own a microwave, 80 percent have air conditioning, as opposed to 1970 when only 36 percent of the entire nation had A/C. Eighty-nine percent of the "poor" have a microwave. About half the "poor" have a stereo, and about a third have a dishwasher. Ninety-seven percent have a color TV, and about half have two color TVs. Nearly three-quarters of the "poor" own a car, and 31 percent own two cars.

Seventy-eight percent have a DVD or a VCR, and 82 percent have satellite reception or cable TV. A third of the "poor" have both a cell phone and a landline phone. A third have a telephone answering device.

To quote one of the sentences from the report, "The average poor American has more living space than the average individual (non-poor) living in Paris, London, Vienna, Athens, and other cities throughout Europe."

Eighty-nine percent of the "poor" are well-nourished, and only 2 percent report that they have temporary periods of hunger. "Poor" children actually

[Search our site](#)



- [I-15 Construction Updates](#)

[Local Weather](#)

Poway, CA
(92064)
Mostly Clear

66°F

Guide360.com

[Click here for weather forecast](#)

eat more meat than wealthy children, and they eat more than 100 percent over the average protein intake.

I know liberals will scream that the Heritage Foundation is a "conservative" think tank, and it is – but I challenge the liberals to counter that statement with a think tank piece that refutes it or statistics that disprove any statement.

According to the report by Robert Richter, the average "poor child" grows up to be one inch taller and 10 pounds heavier than the GIs who stormed the beaches at Normandy.

None of this report says the poor live luxuriously, or that they do not have problems. A third report that they have at least one problem with health care, or overcrowding, or hunger.

This is just to say that the other two-thirds should not be considered "poor."

Reach Hemphill at ahemphill@cox.

Copyright © Calvert Communications Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this Web site may be reproduced for any medium, including print & electronic media, without written consent of Calvert Communications Inc.