Rank (2011) – Rethinking American Poverty

1. The point of this article is to understand how America is one of the wealthiest countries yet has the highest rates of poverty in the developed world. This article also looks at how society has factored into the issue of poverty by how we think about this issue and our responses toward the issue of poverty. This article argues that individuals must look beyond individualist choice and analyze the structural conditions that contribute to the issue of poverty in the United States. This article examines children’s rates of poverty, poverty among working age adults, poverty within single parent families, overall rates of poverty, and why the United States has high levels of impoverishment.
2. They used a perceptive method to understand the major problems of how societies have tended to conceptualize the issue of poverty based on how individuals think about the issue, responded to the issue of poverty, and how Americans have acted towards the issue. This researcher used a literature review to present additional information on poverty in the United States.
3. They found that between the ages of twenty and seventy-five approximately sixty percent of Americans will experience at least one year below the poverty line. Americans first need to understand that poverty affects us all and get rid of ideas such as poverty being confined to certain areas and neighborhoods and ignoring the issue with the “out of sight, out of mind” concept. Also, Americans need to recognize that they are paying a steep price for high rates of poverty such as, spending more money on social problems associated with poverty rather than addressing poverty directly. In America two thirds of Americans between the ages of twenty and sixty-five will end up using a social welfare program such as food stamps or Medicaid. Also, the mismatch between the number of decent paying jobs and the pool of labor in search of those jobs. Lastly, the United States needs to create more a realistic and proactive approach in addressing poverty.
4. The importance of this article is to get individuals to re-evaluate how they think about poverty in the United States. This relates to economic inequality because poverty in not always the individuals’ fault, we must also look at the structural factors that allow for poverty to happen and continue. The findings in this article relates to larger social problems because sixty percent of Americans will spend one year below the poverty line. Also, this article relates to a large social problem of policy makers addressing issue that are associated with poverty instead of directly addressing poverty.
5. If this article was reconstructed in 2020 how has individuals living in poverty and being on social safety net programs increased or been affected due to the pandemic?

Due to the pandemic individuals have receive an increase in welfare benefits, SNAP benefits, WIC benefits, and monetary payments to stimulate the economic. These programs have been implemented due to the pandemic, however if these programs or policies were continued how would this effect how American view or respond to economic inequality?