

Period Poverty

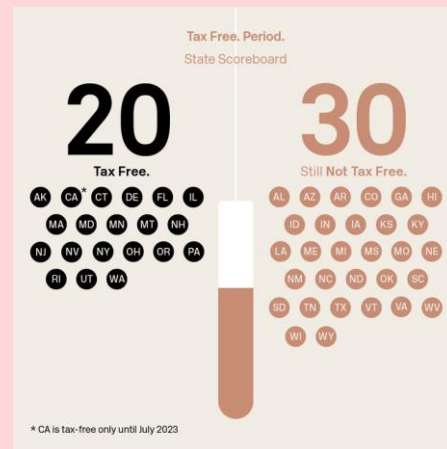
Presented by BELLAs

What is Period Poverty?

Period poverty refers to the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management.

What does Period Poverty look like in the United States?

1. Difficulties for:
 - a. Students, low-income and homeless women and girls, among many others
2. The tampon tax affects low income people with periods
3. Public spaces are inconsistent, leading people to create their own alternatives for period products
4. COVID has exacerbated these problems
 - a. Maya Rairan



Period Poverty in Other Countries

- 2.3 billion people lack access to clean water and sanitation
- 500 million experience period poverty worldwide
- 65% of girls in Kenya cannot afford menstrual hygiene products
- Sanitary products are very expensive in South Korea, menstruators in low-income areas cannot afford them
- Price of tampons increased by 1600% in Venezuela, menstruators must buy products in black markets with prices that amount to $\frac{1}{3}$ of their monthly income
- 70% of those who menstruate miss out on school/work in Canada
- Only 12% of menstruators in India have access to sanitary products

What is Being Done About Period Poverty in Other Countries

- In 2018, Scotland became the first country to make sanitary products free to all students
- Low-income families in Scotland have access period products for free
- England has done the same
- Countries like India, Australia, Kenya, Canada, and Ireland have gotten rid of taxes on sanitary products
- Period poverty could be aided if these changes were incorporated in the US
- Organizations like Days for Girls work to end period poverty around the world

What are the Effects of Period Poverty?

Social/Psychological

- General Stigma: Periods → “something to be ashamed about”
 - Lack of effort to combat issues such as period poverty
- Contributes to feelings of anxiety when one doesn't have proper resources

Health Impacts

- Lack of proper resources → safety put at risk
 - Causes different diseases

What are the Effects of Period Poverty? (cont.)

Educational/Work

- 1 in 5 teens have struggled to afford period products
 - 84% say they've missed school or know someone who has because of it
- In a study conducted in the Netherlands, 13.8% of women indicated that they had to miss work due to their period, with 3.4% missing work every month
 - Of those who work during their period, 80% found it harder work normally

Economic

- Those struggling with homelessness and poverty are especially impacted by period poverty
 - This puts their health and emotional well-being at risk
- Tampon Tax



The movement to End Period Poverty



The movement to End Period Poverty

- States making access to period products in prisons, shelters, and schools more accessible
- Organizations fighting to end period poverty through awareness and donations
- States moving towards ending the tampon tax

Discussion

Where do you think Period Poverty stems from?

Sources

- [The state of period poverty in the US- UPENN](#)
- [Tampon Tax- NY Times](#)
- [Pandemic Health Disparity](#)
- [Period Poverty- UMich](#)
- [Period Poverty and menstrual products- CNN](#)
- [Tampon Tax in the US- Paper Mag](#)
- [What period poverty looks like the in the US](#)
- [Periods in the US](#)
- [The impact of the period products price on low income people](#)
- [Period Poverty Around The World](#)
- [PERIOD POVERTY: PERIOD PRODUCTS BILL IN SCOTLAND](#)
- [The Global Implications of Period Poverty and What You Can Do to Help](#)