

Myths: People on welfare

- live in poor areas of big cities
- are black
- have a lot of children
- are teenage mothers (sexually active, irresponsible)
- on welfare for a very long time

BUT

Families on AFDC

White	38.8 %
Black	37.2
Hispanic	17.8
Asian	2.8

Time on AFDC

Less than 7 months	19.0 %
7 to 12 months	15.2
One to two years	19.3
Two to five years	26.9
Over five years	19.6

Number of children

One	43.2 %
Two	30.7
Three	15.8
Four or more	10.3

Age of Mother

Teenager	7.6 %
20 - 29	47.9
30 - 39	32.7
40 or older	11.8

Status of Father

Divorced or separated	28.6 %
Deceased	1.6
Unemployed/ Disabled	9.0
Not married to mother	55.3

Sexually active teenage population:

United States	65 %
United Kingdom	57
Germany	56
Canada	53
France	34

Sexually active single 15 to 19-year olds using birth control:

Germany	95 %
United Kingdom	92
Netherlands	88
Sweden	79
Denmark	70
United States	56

*lack of education about birth control?
almost all sexually active teenager!*

Teenage mothers per 1,000 teenagers

United States	54	5,4 %
United Kingdom	31	
Canada	28	
France	25	
Norway	25	
Germany	20	
Finland	19	
Denmark	16	
Switzerland	10	
Netherlands	9	

Government payments to individuals in more than 50 benefit programs, from food stamps to Medicare accounted for 25.6 percent of 2009 personal income in urban areas like the city of St. Louis. Rural areas exceeded these percentages by drastic amounts. Government payments to individuals residing in rural areas as a percentage of personal income are as follows:

Hickory County, MO – 46.7 percent
Wayne County, MO – 45.1 percent
Ripley County, MO – 44.7 percent
Reynolds County, MO – 42.4 percent
Carter County, MO – 42.3 percent.

(MO = Missouri)

Prepare a short speech to debunk the popular myths about people on welfare!
Look at your book, p. 289 → Useful vocabulary!