

### **Welfare Ripoff**

In reading the “Five Reasons Drug Testing Welfare Recipients Is Profoundly Stupid,” by Tana Ganeva, It’s understood that its mostly our right-wing politicians who continue to push the myths that lower-income people are blowing taxpayers money on useless items. In other words, wealthier people are upset that tax money is being used to redistribute government resources. In reality, there has been research done that precisely measures the rates of substance use amongst the lower-income population in comparison to the general population. The article states, “Researchers largely agree that there's no evidence that substance abuse among aid recipients is a big problem that warrants the privacy intrusion of drug testing someone just because they're poor.”

However, most researchers agree that just because one is poor, one doesn’t have to be associated with substances. Meaning, that low-income families are spending most of their income on necessities like food to survive rather than unnecessary items. Research also shows that 80-85% of an individual’s income is spent on living expenses, I can only imagine what it is like for the lower class. In the text, the author opens eyes to contradictions in society. The irony mentioned is that we are wasting taxpayer’s money on programs like rehabilitation to help someone overcome their addiction but, the truth is; we are wasting our tax dollars on programs that just don’t work.

Sources:

<https://www.alternet.org/2015/10/5-reasons-drug-testing-welfare-recipients-profoundly-stupid/>