

## Abstract

The current study aims to answer the research question, "Does the lack of 24-hour child care impede individuals from economic movement out of poverty?". This study will use the theoretical framework of Byrne's Social Exclusion Theory to attempt to answer this research question. If the lack of 24-hour childcare is confirmed as a barrier to individuals attempting to move economically out of poverty, then the theoretical framework of social exclusion theory will be heightened—meaning that there are forces in a community intended to keep people down or excluded by not having enough resources for all people. To conduct the study, the researcher will form a focus group of 6-8 individuals who are living in relative poverty—meaning they define themselves as living in poverty. These individuals will answer questions from a questionnaire on how child care, or the lack thereof, has affected their lives. After the focus group is completed, the researcher will transcribe the discussions from the session and analyze the transcription for narrative themes or patterns. Possible future implications of this research include being a first step towards developing a 24-hour child care service in Joplin, Missouri.