

To Improve Health, the Evidence Shows Housing Matters

*“In the three months we’ve lived here, my son hasn’t had a single asthma attack.”
– a mother who moved into “green” affordable housing*

- Spending on **food and healthcare** is less for those with housing cost burden.¹
- Prenatal homelessness adversely affects **birth weight** and **preterm delivery**.²
- Low **birth weight** and **preterm birth** are affected by neighborhood air quality.³
- **Lead, asthma** triggers, and other **hazards** are related to housing quality.⁴
- Neighborhoods affect **stress, violence** exposure, **diabetes, & obesity**.⁵
- **Hospital admissions** drop with service coordination.⁶

Health

Healthier, more productive people and neighborhoods.



*“I would pay it and not have the food. The food is, is always shorted of food.”
– a Boston parent on the struggle to pay her mortgage*

¹ Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. (2015). *The State of the Nation’s Housing 2015*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University. Meltzer, R. & Schwartz, A. (2015). Housing affordability and health: Evidence from New York City. *Housing Policy Debate*, 26, 80-104.

² Cutts, D.B. et al. (2015). Homelessness during pregnancy: A unique, time-dependent risk factor of birth outcomes. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 19, 1276-1283.

³ Currie J. & Walker R. (2009). Traffic Congestion and Infant Health: Evidence from E-ZPASS. *NBER Working Paper* 15413.

⁴ Ault, M., Viveiros, J., and Maqbool, N. (2015). *The Impacts of Affordable Housing on Health*. Washington, DC: National Housing Conference.

⁵ Ludwig, J. et al. (2012). Neighborhood effects on the long-term well-being of low-income adults. *Science*, 337, 1505-1510.

⁶ Sanders A. & Stone R. (2015). *Affordable Senior Housing Plus Services: What’s the Value?* Washington, DC: LeadingAge Center for Housing Plus Services.

To Improve Education, the Evidence Shows Housing Matters

“That’s my biggest problem with all the moves. They have to adjust all over.”
– a mother in the Moving to Opportunity demonstration on making multiple moves

- **Child enrichment** spending is higher when rent is 30% of income.¹
- Kids are more likely to **dropout** or have low **reading & math scores** if they move frequently.²
- **Academic & behavior problems** are connected with housing quality.³
- Low-income kids’ **achievement gap** narrows in a low-poverty neighborhood school.⁴
- 1 in 4 voucher recipients live near schools ranked in their state’s **bottom 10th**.⁵

Education

Better educational opportunities and outcomes for children.



“My son’s going to be able to go to a better school.”
– a mother on her impending move due to public housing redevelopment

¹ Newman, S. J. & Holupka, S. (2014). Housing affordability and investments in children. *Journal of Housing Economics*, 24, 89-100.

² Garriss-Hardy, B. & Vrooman, C. (2005.) *School stability and school performance: A review of the literature*. Greensboro, NC: National Center for Homeless Education, SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

³ Coley, R.L., Leventhal, T., Lynch, A.D., & Kull, M. (2013). Relations between housing characteristics and the well-being of low-income children and adolescents. *Developmental Psychology*, 49, 1775-89.

⁴ Schwartz, H. (2010). *Housing Policy Is School Policy*. New York : The Century Foundation Inc.

⁵ Ellen, I.G. & Horn, K.M. (2012). *Do Federally Assisted Households Have Access to High Performing Public Schools?* Washington, DC: Poverty & Race Research Action Council.

For Family Finances, the Evidence Shows Housing Matters

*"I'm just trying to find out the eviction date, so I can get my things somewhere."
– a Baltimore tenant facing eviction*

- **1 in 3** Milwaukee renters facing eviction paid at least **80%** of income on rent.¹
- Low-income children who move to areas with better children's outcomes have higher **adult earnings**.²
- Savings for **retirement** are less for those with housing cost burden.³
- Home equity is half of the **asset portfolio** for Americans age 55+.⁴
- **Higher incomes**, communitywide, for adults in public housing with job supports.⁵

Economy

Stronger economic foundations for families and communities.



*"It was scary because, you know, you're not always sure from month to month with the financial."
– a former Los Angeles public housing resident on living without a subsidy*

¹ Desmond, M. (2012). Eviction and the reproduction of urban poverty. *American Journal of Sociology*, 118, 88-133.

² Chetty, R. & Hendron, N. (2015). The impacts of neighborhoods on intergenerational mobility: Childhood exposure effects and county-level estimates. *Harvard University Equality of Opportunity Project Working Paper*.

³ Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. (2015). *The State of the Nation's Housing 2015*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University.

⁴ Englehardt, G.V., Eriksen, M.D., & Greenhalgh-Stanley, N. (2013). *A Profile of Housing and Health among Older Americans*. Washington, DC: Research Institute for Housing America.

⁵ Riccio, J.A. (2010). Sustained Earnings Gains for Residents in a Public Housing Jobs Program. New York, NY: MDRC.