Evicting Children: How Babies Bear the Brunt of the Affordable Housing Crisis And What We Can Do About it

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
General Housekeeping

This webinar will last one hour and 15 minutes

Please type questions into the Q&A box

Session is being recorded
We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE: schoolhouseconnection.org

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- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Homelessness Has Serious Consequences for Infants, Toddlers, and All Children

- **Homelessness in infancy** has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.

- **The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness**, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.

- **The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is 68% compared to 85% for all students.** This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.
Evicting Children

Carl Gershenson
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

January 30, 2024

DISCLAIMER: Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. DRB Approval Number(s): CBDRB-FY23-CES004-012.
Rising costs and evictions

Rent prices

- Housing is the primary cost for families.
- In 2021, the median renter household making less than $30,000 a year had just $380 left over each month after paying rent.

Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University (2021). The State of the Nation's Housing, 2021.
Rising costs and evictions

Rent prices
- Housing is the primary cost for families.
- In 2021, the median renter household making less than $30,000 a year had just $380 left over each month after paying rent.

Eviction
- High housing costs put families at risk of displacement.
- Each year, 2.7 million unique renter households receive an eviction filing.

- Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University (2021). The State of the Nation's Housing, 2021.
Consequences of Eviction

• **Material**
  - Loss of home and possessions
  - Job loss
  - Damage to credit score

• **Social**
  - Disruption of community ties
  - Interference with education
  - Increased risk of homelessness

• **Health**
  - Physical and mental health issues
  - Early mortality
Eviction Data

• There is no systematic collection of eviction case records or reporting of eviction filings across states by federal agencies.
Eviction Lab (2018)

Eviction Lab National Database

www.evictionlab.org
The Five Stages of Eviction

**Notice**
Landlord delivers "notice to quit" to tenant

**Filing**
Landlord files eviction case with court

**Hearing**
Judge hears eviction case

**Court Decision**
Judge issues eviction judgment

**Enforcement**
Law enforcement removes tenant and belongings
Eviction Lab (2018)

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Modeled eviction filing rate (2000-2018)

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Filings only contain names and addresses of defendants—no information about age, race, gender, etc.

7.6 million people are threatened with eviction each year.

2.9 million are children.
Young Children Make Up the Largest Group Facing Eviction

Children under 5 make up 9 percent of those living in rentals but 12 percent of those affected by an eviction filing each year.

Black Renters Face Eviction at Significantly Higher Rates

Eleven percent of all children under 5 in rental households face eviction each year. But that rate is 27 percent for Black children under 5 in rentals.

Rate for all renters
Rate for Black renters

Summary

- 7.6 million people are threatened with eviction each year.
- Roughly 40% of those evicted are children.
- There are massive racial disparities in eviction.
- Income helps stabilize families but does not explain racial disparities.

Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University (2021). The State of the Nation's Housing, 2021.
Eviction filings relative to average
Thank you

Carl Gershenson

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American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Funds

- Through a bipartisan amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress appropriated $800 million to address the specific and unique impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and youth experiencing homelessness (American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth fund).

- These funds can be used flexibly to meet educational and housing-related needs.

- Funds must be obligated by September 2024.

- There is still time to use these funds impactfully!

Section 2001(b)(1) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Project Rise Mission

To ensure that Akron Public Schools homeless children and youth have the same educational opportunities as all students

District Size: 20,000

Numbers of students without a stable residence per year: 2,000
ARP-HCY Funded Partnership
Intention
To remove housing barriers with legal remedies

Evictions
Family Law
Expungements
Public Benefits
Immigration
Social Security
Taxes
Bankruptcy
MOU Example Link

- Training for McKinney Vento staff to provide a basic understanding of legal barriers
- Provide attorneys or paralegals to perform legal services
- Screen clients for other programs or funding sources
- Client communication
- Data collection

ARP-HCY Funded Subcontractor: Legal Aid
Subcontractor: Project Rise (McKinney Vento Program)

MOU Example Link

- Be responsible for obligations of the American Rescue Plan Grant
- Provide referrals
- Screen families for legal housing barriers
- Client communication
Case Example

Single mother, chronic homelessness

- Akron Metropolitan Housing denial
- Utilities
- Driver’s license reinstatement
- Disability denial
- Taxes

Other Supports Provided: Kindergarten readiness program, Driver’s Education, Transportation, Basic needs
Case Example

Family in Hotel

- Wage garnishment
- Bankruptcy
- Eviction record sealed

Other Supports: Early Head Start, Transportation
Case Example

Veteran father of 3 young children

- Eviction Representation
- Custody
- Housing eligibility

Other Supports: Basic needs, internet Hotspot, Bus Passes,
Early Head Start
Head Start
Early Learning Program
SPARK
Title XX
Family Advocacy and Integrated Resources (FAIR) Project

FAIR: Weaving the nest of family support
The Role of Family Support Professionals

- Create a safe space for the parents and child to live and play
- Find resources for employment or continuing education
- Improve child health and development
- Help families set and reach life goals
- Improve access to resources and services
- Improve pregnancy outcomes
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Gain confidence in parenting role
- Improve parents' economic self-sufficiency
- Improve Pre-k and K readiness as well as future academic success
- Provide early detection of any developmental delays or health issues
Overview

Philly Families CAN
- Parent Child + Nurse Family Partnership
- Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program
- Maternity Care Coalition
- The MOM Program
- Together We Can Philadelphia
- Health Federation of Philadelphia
- Philadelphia Healthy Start
- ELECT
- The Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health (Philadelphia Dept. of Health)
- Carson Valley Children’s Aid

FAIR Project
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
  - Project Management
- Public Health Management Corporation
  - Family Support Fund
- HELP: MLP
  - Legal Services
- Phila. Division of Maternal Child Family Health
  - Facilitation, Training and Evaluation Support
The FAIR Project

• In 2022, the William Penn Foundation awarded $5.4 million to NNCC and partners.

• Goal: expand the Nursing-Legal Partnership and Family Support Fund to families participating in home visiting programs across Philadelphia.
Health-harming Legal Needs

• Unmet legal needs lead to poor health and can be especially detrimental during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood.

• Examples include:
  – Homelessness
  – Poor housing conditions
  – Domestic/intimate partner violence
  – Pregnancy discrimination
  – Accessing critical public benefits such as food assistance and income support
  – Utility shut off
FAIR Project Goals

1. Expand and sustain an innovative model of care to meet families’ holistic needs.

2. Identify financial, social, and legal needs among Philadelphia families participating in maternal health home visitation programs.

3. Increase the advocacy capacity of home visitors in Philadelphia.

4. Improve families’ stability and health by resolving unmet financial, social, and legal needs.
FAIR Project Advisory Council

Participants
All Member Organizations  People with Lived Experience  Home Visitors
Legal Team  Program Expertise

Function
Raise Flags  Establish Trust  Cultivate Buy-in
Communication/Expectations  Hold to Values
Family Support Fund

• Provides low-barrier, rapid-response financial support to help families meet their personal and family goals.

• Home visitors can identify families’ needs before they become crises due to their long-term and trusting relationships with clients.

• Education, consultation, and direct support from the Legal Team ensure that the funds are used effectively, and outside supports are engaged.

• Managed by an experienced Emergency Fund Fiscal Manager and Home Visitor with advocacy and resource navigation skills.
• A total of 1,125 legal matters were opened through cases and consultations.
  • A total of 517 matters (46%) were related to housing and utilities issues.
  • Many participants received legal assistance for more than one issue.
### Legal Matters Opened
**February 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income and insurance</th>
<th>Housing &amp; utilities</th>
<th>Education &amp; employment</th>
<th>Legal (immigration) status</th>
<th>Personal &amp; family stability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultations</strong></td>
<td>92</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cases</strong></td>
<td>230</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>136</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>322</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEGAL MATTERS OPENED
FEBRUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

- Housing & utilities: 46%
- Income & insurance: 29%
- Personal & family stability: 18%
- Legal status: 2%
- Education & employment: 5%

[Pie chart showing the distribution of legal matters opened]
Family Support Fund Assistance
February 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

- 243 unique participants received financial assistance.
  - Many participants received more than one grant.
- $367,076 in total grant funds were distributed.
  - $283,931 in grant funds (77%) were distributed to support housing and utilities needs.
$283,931 in grant funds were distributed to support housing and utilities needs.

- $238,287 supported rental assistance, eviction prevention, and move-in costs.
- $25,744 supported utilities needs (electricity, gas, water).
- $12,062 supported mortgage assistance/foreclosure prevention.
- $5,303 supported extermination/pest control.
- 69 air conditioners were delivered.
Contact Information

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Eviction Crisis Act: Bipartisan Legislation to Prevent and Respond to Evictions

Sponsored by U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-IN)

- Expands the use of landlord-tenant community courts and increases the presence of social services representatives for tenants
- Creates a permanent program — funded at $3 billion annually — to provide emergency rental assistance and housing stability services to help low-income households avoid evictions
- Improves data and analysis on evictions

Join SHC’s e-news to find out when it is re-introduced and how to get your Members of Congress to support it.
Questions & Discussion
JOIN THE SHC COMMUNITY ON slack

Connect, Share, and Collaborate. Scan the code or visit the link to get started!

bit.ly/SKC-slack
KNOW ANY STUDENTS WHO'VE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS BEGINNING POSTSECONDARY STUDIES IN 2025?

Help them apply to the SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program, which includes a $2,500 Award, 1-on-1 Support & 3 All-Expenses-Paid Trips!

APPLY NOW AT SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP
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