

The following are comments directly from my caseworkers working with homeless and unstably housed families:

Thoughts on Housing Stability and Children's Education

RESPONSES DATE 1 Housing instability can literally do nothing but hurt children's education. Most children are being taught partially or fully at home- if these individuals have a 'home' in the first place. Even if the child is not being taught at home, housing instability still drastically affects a child's emotional and mental state, which ends up as more stress for the parent. This, in turn, causes more stress for the parent(s), and so it continues in a stress-magnifying negative loop. It is logically obvious to connect housing instability with a drop in education sufficiency; housing must be stable in order to best educate children. Period. 3/11/2021 11:17 AM

2 Housing instability creates stress for parents and as with other stressors, this can impact the parent's ability to navigate the situation of shelter or housing insecurity. There is a focus on housing and basic needs which is tiring and takes a lot of energy. Education with and for their children is not as much a priority when there is the threat of homelessness or getting basic needs met. In my opinion, this stress and uncertainty trickles down to the children as well and may show up as behavior issues, difficulty sleeping, acting out, needing reassurance etc. Housing is a basic need, the threat of not having this need met could be similar to the impact hunger has on children and their ability to focus in school.

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3 Some of my clients are dealing with many financial hardship and mental health issues which unfortunately they are unable to help or understand some of the work that their kids have to submit on line. Another thing some of the clients are not use to technology. The majority of my clients have a housing subsidy which they do not worry how the rent would be paid but they do worry about the other utilities since they claim that now that their kids are home all day the run out of their SNAP and cant afford the whole utility bill since they need to put food on the table. Then they worry that if services get shut off they can be at risk of losing there housing subsidy.

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4 Housing instability has a huge impact on children's education. A parent cannot successfully concentrate on their child's educational needs if they are too worried about where their family is going to sleep and the safety of their family.

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5 Housing instability 100% affects the child's ability to learn in person or remotely. They are not sure where they are going to be staying so their anxiety and focus becomes on those issues as opposed to school. If mom is in a shelter the kids are moving from place to place without the ability to attend school consistently. Stable housing has nothing but a positive impact on children's education as we have seen by the several children in SHP that have gone on to gain employment as well as attend college!

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6 Everyone has the right to a sound mind. Homelessness and poverty robs one of such. Children experiencing homelessness and poverty often lack the ability to eat a healthy nutritious meal, ability to control emotions, ability to focus and the ability to be happy in general. These are all elements a child needs to receive a good solid education.

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7 Children are not able to do the work if they're homeless or if their parent is at risk of eviction. We can't continue to put that pressure on the families for a good education if it's not maintainable in all aspects.

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8 Housing instability affects all aspects of children's learning and education. Lack of resources (internet, computers ect). Emotionally, they are impacted by seeing and hearing the struggles their parent/parents are working around, possibly hearing that they are being evicted and/or can't pay rent. Having to pay rent instead of groceries and lack of basic needs and clothing. Fear of the thought of being separated from a parent. It is all encompassing.

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9 I think housing instability has a detrimental effect on a child's level of school readiness. Housing instability may cause a family to have to change schools frequently, which would cause the child to have to become acclimated to learning in a different environment over and over again. It can also create social problems as students will be forced to cut off friendships and reintegrate into a new school. A study done by Zioli-Guest and McKenna (2013) showed that low-income children who moved frequently showed increased problems with attention and focus, as well as internalizing and externalizing behavior. Reference Zioli-Guest, K. M. & McKenna, C. C. (2013) Early Childhood Housing Instability and School Readiness. Child Development 85. (1). Retrieved from <https://srcl.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/cdev.12105>

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10 I believe it impacts the child's ability to retain information, because they are not settled 3/10/2021 3:43 PM



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