

Socioeconomic deprivation ups missed clinic visits for children

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Children with medical complexity (CMC) living in areas of greater

socioeconomic deprivation have an increased risk for missing patient-centered medical home (PCMH) visits, according to a study published online March 7 in *Pediatrics*.

Joanna Thomson, M.D., M.P.H., from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study involving 512 children aged younger than 18 years receiving care in a PCMH for CMC in 2016 to 2017. The association between area-level [socioeconomic deprivation](#) and health care utilization outcomes was examined.

The researchers found that the CMC lived in neighborhoods with varying degrees of socioeconomic [deprivation](#) (median, 0.32; full range, 0.12 to 0.82). No association was seen between area-level deprivation and emergency department visits, hospitalizations, or inpatient bed-days. However, for every 0.1 unit increase in the Deprivation Index, there was a 13% relative increase in the missed clinic visit rate.

"Our findings suggest that the social complexity in which CMC live influences other aspects of their health care, including visits to a specialized [medical home](#)," the authors write. "To ensure equitable care and outcomes for all CMC, [health systems](#) and providers should seek to understand and address any barriers to care arising from the socioeconomic context in which CMC live."

More information: Joanna Thomson et al, Neighborhood Socioeconomic Deprivation and Health Care Utilization of Medically Complex Children, *Pediatrics* (2022). [DOI: 10.1542/peds.2021-052592](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052592)

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