

History of eviction linked to child developmental risk

September 19 2022



A history of evictions is associated with increased odds of child fair or

poor health, developmental risk, and hospital admission from the emergency department, according to a study published online Sept. 19 in *Pediatrics*.

Diana B. Cutts, M.D., from Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, and colleagues used cross-sectional surveys from 26,441 caregiver or [young child](#) (younger than 48 months) dyads from 2011 to 2019 in emergency departments and primary care clinics. The relationships of a five-year history of formal and informal evictions with caregiver and child health were examined.

The researchers found that 3.9 percent of the 26,441 caregivers reported five-year eviction history; 57.0 percent were formal (court-involved) evictions. The associations were minimally different between formal versus informal evictions after controlling for covariates and, therefore, were combined. Evictions were associated with increased odds of child fair or [poor health](#), developmental risk, and hospital admission from the [emergency department](#) compared with no evictions (odds ratios, 1.43, 1.55, and 1.24, respectively), and they were also associated with adverse caregiver and hardship outcomes. In sensitivity analyses adjusting separately for [household income](#) and housing-related hardships, the results were not significantly altered, but the odds ratios were attenuated and hospital admission from the emergency department was no longer significant.

"Although eviction's causes and consequences may be complex and varied, findings suggest reduction of eviction incidence, formal and informal, may address health disparities and the needs of young families," the authors write.

More information: Diana B. Cutts et al, Eviction and Household Health and Hardships in Families With Very Young Children, *Pediatrics* (2022). [DOI: 10.1542/peds.2022-056692](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-056692)

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