Rigorous research and practical information on how a quality, stable, affordable home in a vibrant community contributes to individual and community success

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Housing Affects Health through Multiple Pathways

- Location Options
- Stability
- Crowding
- Housing Quality
- Stress
- Food Security
- Medication Compliance
- Parental Availability

Housing Affordability
When Evidence Improves Policy: Ending Homelessness

Documenting the Cost Savings of Housing the Homeless

• 2002 – Culhane, Metraux, and Hadley. “Public Service Reductions Associated with Placement of Homeless Persons with Severe Mental Illness in Supportive Housing.”
• Numerous local cost analyses of Housing First (Denver, Seattle, etc.)

Popularizing the Research

• 2006 – Malcolm Gladwell’s “Million Dollar Murray” article

Changing Policy & Outcomes

• Adoption of federal and local efforts to end homelessness
• The number of chronically homeless in the U.S. dropped 21% between 2010 and 2014 – from 107,183 to 84,291.
• The number of chronically homeless veterans in the U.S. dropped 33% between 2010 and 2014.
When Evidence Affects the Dialogue: Moving to Opportunity

Your ZIP Code Is More Important than Your Genetic Code

• Extensive body of research connecting high-poverty neighborhoods with health problems, including preterm births, heart disease, obesity, mental illness, etc.

Settlement & Demonstration Programs

• Chicago Gautreaux lawsuit & federal Moving to Opportunity (MTO) demonstration help families leave racially-isolated or high-poverty neighborhoods

Health Outcomes & Expansion Challenges

• After 10-15 years, MTO’s effect on diabetes was comparable to programs designed to treat diabetes – an estimated 34% reduction in new cases.
• Movers were also less likely to have severe obesity, physical limitations, or psychological distress.
• The benefits of leaving concentrated poverty continue to influence policy, yet NIMBYism often hampers implementation.
When Analysis Misses the Boat: HIA of the Rental Assistance Demonstration

Proposal to Change Federal Housing Policy

- Policy question: Public housing has a $25.6 million backlog of repairs needed. How can the deteriorating stock fund its maintenance and repairs?
- Proposal: Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), a pilot program to convert public housing to privately-owned affordable housing

Health Impact Assessment

- 2012 analysis assessed RAD as a housing relocation program rather than a rehabilitation program
- Mistaken policy objectives led to a finding of a large, mostly negative, health impact
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