

NATIONAL
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Sciences
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Reducing Intergenerational Poverty

The Role of Housing



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U.S. Congressional Mandate



A non-partisan, evidence-based report that:

01

Identifies **key drivers** of long-term, intergenerational poverty

02

Identifies **evidence-based policies** and programs that have the potential to significantly reduce the effects of the key drivers of intergenerational poverty

03

Evaluates the **racial and ethnic disparities and structural factors** that help perpetuate intergenerational poverty

04

Identifies key, high-priority **gaps in the data and research** needed to develop effective policies for reducing intergenerational poverty in the U.S.

INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY

A situation in which children who grow up in families with incomes below the poverty line are themselves poor as adults.

34%

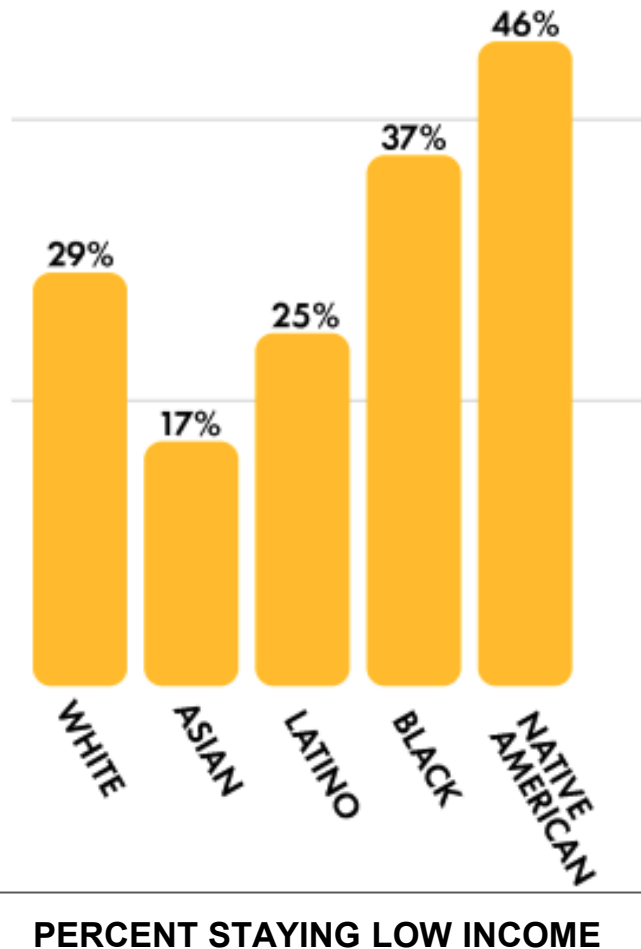
**of U.S. children who
grew up in or near
the poverty line had
low household
incomes in
adulthood.**

2x

**the rate found for
children who did
not grow up poor.**

Intergenerational Persistence of Low-Income Status

By Racial and Ethnic Group



Intergenerational Poverty Drivers

The seven drivers of intergenerational poverty that influence the developmental trajectories of children living in households below the poverty line.

01

Children's **Education** and the Education System

02

Child **Health** and the Health Care System

03

Family **Income** and **Wealth** and Parental **Employment**

04

Family Structure

05

Housing, Residential Mobility, and **Neighborhood** Conditions

06

Neighborhood **Safety** and the **Criminal Justice** System

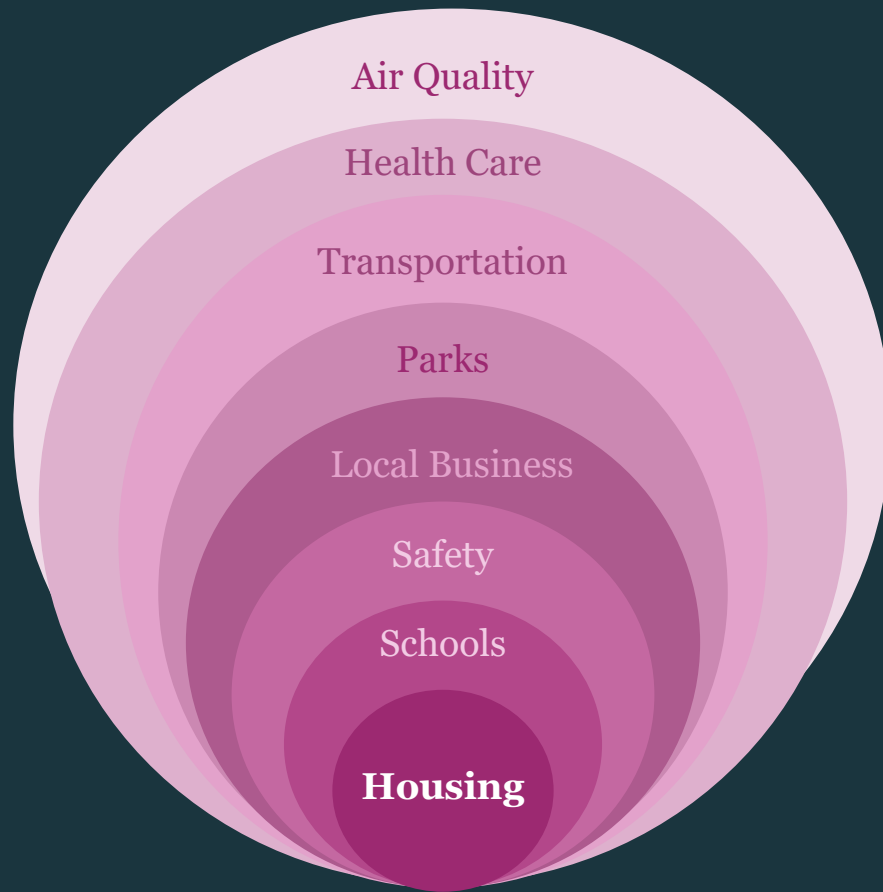
07

Child Maltreatment and the Child **Welfare** System

Intergenerational Poverty Drivers Housing



Housing is foundational





Effects of Housing on Poverty

01

Household Crowding: More people per room interrupts children's study, sleep, and play.

02

Housing Quality: The factor most closely linked with children's cognitive and social development and economic outcomes.

03

Housing Stability: Frequent moves harm children's educational attainment, health, and delinquency.

04

Housing Affordability: Very low-cost and high-cost housing relative to income is associated with poor educational performance.



Effects of Homelessness on Poverty

Studies have found that being unhoused negatively affects children's education and health outcomes, high school graduation, adult employment, and the likelihood of being stably housed as an adult.



Effects of Neighborhoods on Poverty

The neighborhoods of low-income children differ significantly from those of high-income children, and are an important predictor of intergenerational mobility.

01

Lead Exposure: Children living in poor neighborhoods are disproportionately exposed to lead, which is associated with a host of worse outcomes later in life.

02

Public Safety: Concentrated poverty increases young people's exposure to violence, which is negatively correlated with children's educational, labor market, and delinquency outcomes.

Housing Racial & Ethnic Disparities



7X

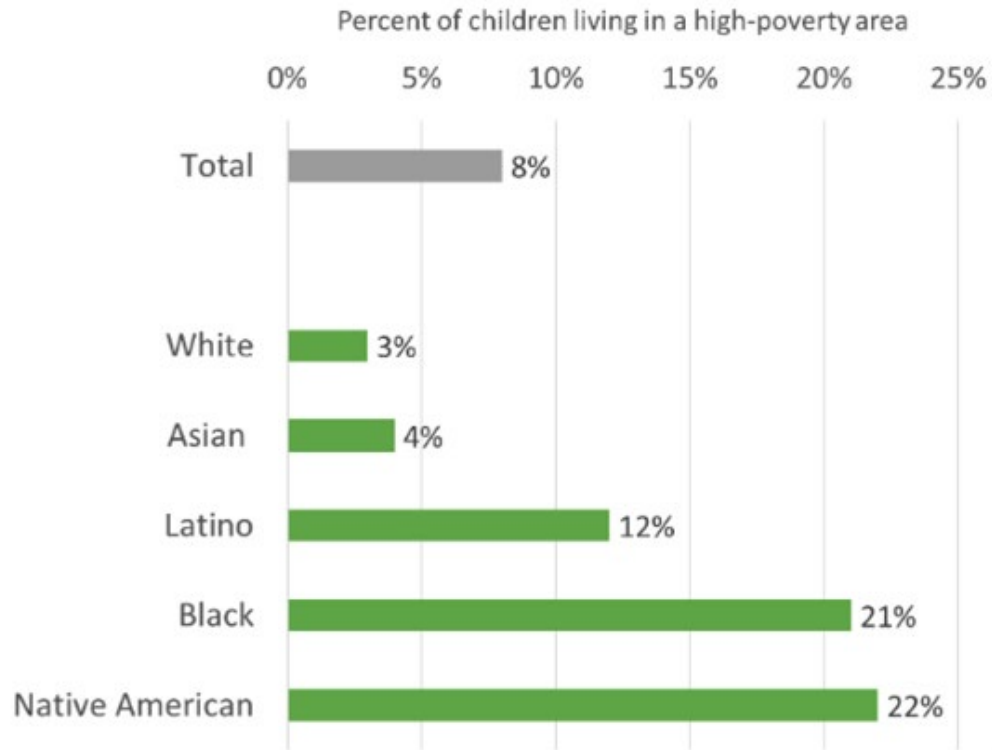
Black and Native American children are more than seven times as likely as White children to live in neighborhoods with poverty rates of 30% or more.

4X

Latino children more than four times as likely as White children to live in neighborhoods with poverty rates of 30% or more.

Concentration of poverty

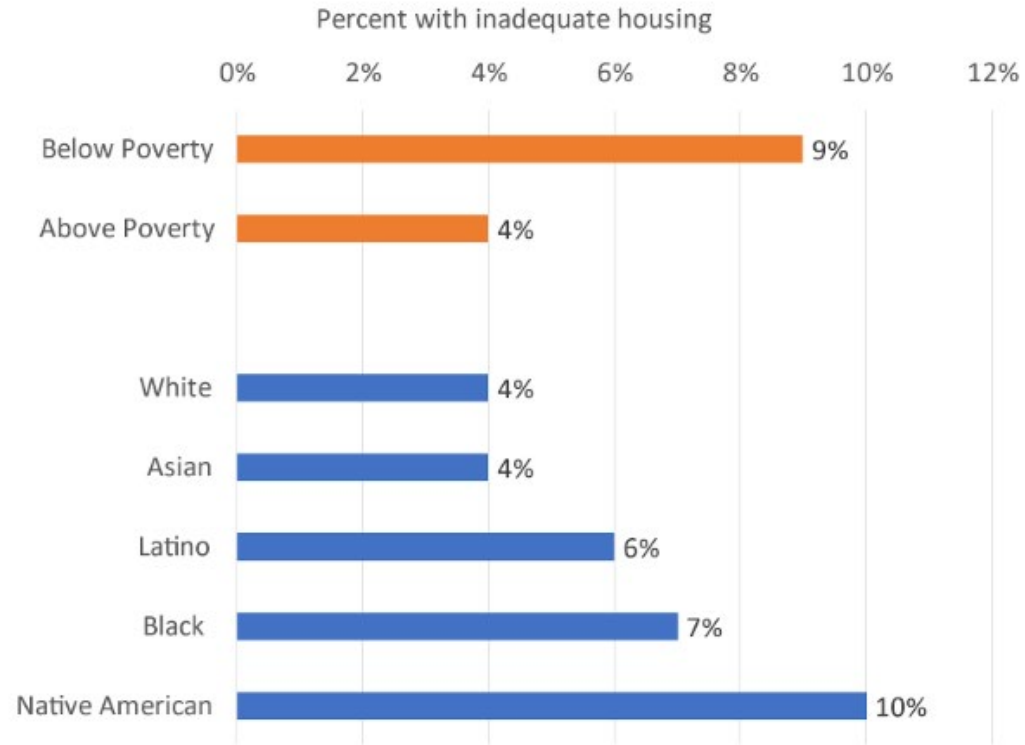
By Racial and
Ethnic Group



SOURCE: Data from Kids Count Data Center (2023)
with the original source using data from
the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 to 2017-2021

Housing quality

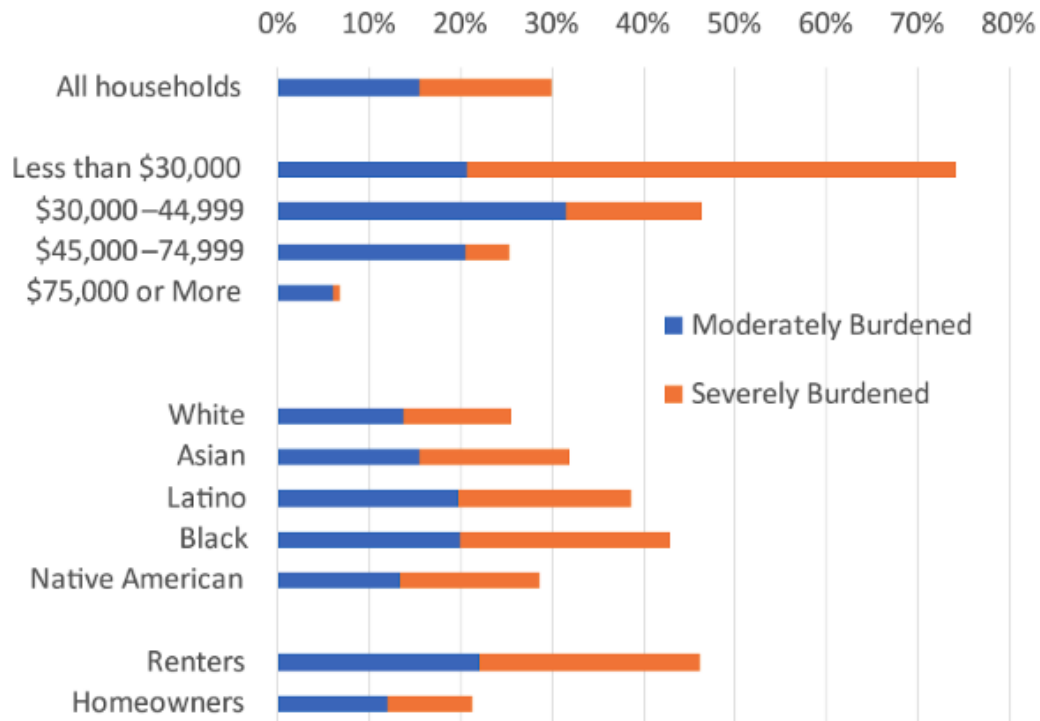
**By Racial and
Ethnic Group**



SOURCE: Data from Kids Count Data Center (2023)
with the original source using data from
the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 to 2017-2021

Housing cost burden

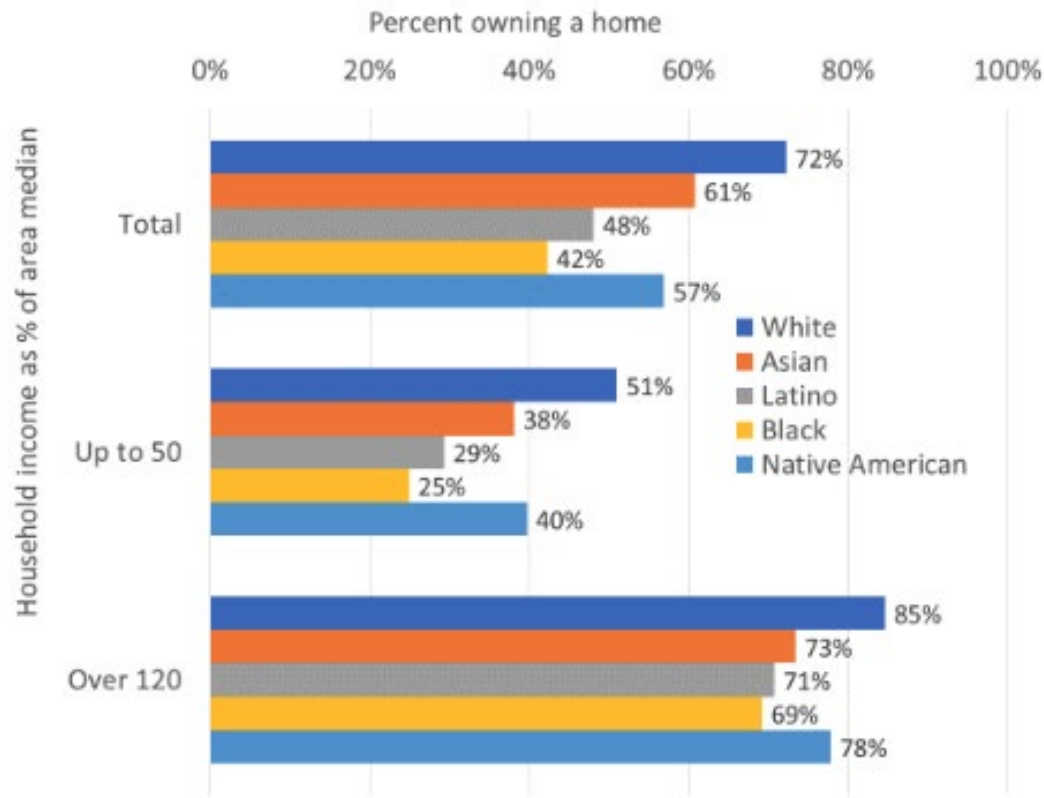
By Racial and
Ethnic Group



SOURCE: Data from Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University (2022) with the original source using data from the US Census Bureau, 2019 & 2020 Experimental American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Home ownership rates

By Racial and Ethnic Group



SOURCE: Data adapted from Figure 18 of Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University (2022) with the original source using data from the US Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

**Evidence-
Backed**

**Housing
Policies**



Policy Recommendations

“Direct Evidence” Standard



“Strong
Evidence”
Standard

Evidence of **long-run outcomes** into adulthood

Causal evidence that a program or policy improves some correlate of adult poverty (e.g., earnings, completed schooling, adult health, less criminality)



Expand Housing Assistance

FACT: The housing choice voucher program allows low-income households to lease an apartment in the private market using subsidy funds allocated by the federal government to the local public housing authority.

01

(Promising Evidence) **Expand the housing choice voucher** program's rental assistance to an additional 500,000 families with young children and **couple it with customized counseling and case management services** to facilitate low-income families' access to higher-opportunity neighborhoods.

02

(Indirect Evidence) **Expand the housing choice voucher program alone** to serve all eligible families with children.



Strengthen Neighborhoods and Reduce Crime

01

Strengthen communities to reduce violent crime and victimization

- Scale up programs that abate vacant lots and abandoned homes
- Increase grants to community-based organizations

02

Policing strategies

- Expand funding for policing in high-crime neighborhoods
- Expand use of effective strategies like community policing



Reduce Pollution

01

CDC should develop **air quality guidelines and recommendations** for schools to follow based on their needs and resources.

02

The EPA could consider **more stringent regulations of air pollution from vehicles**, especially public transportation in dense areas.

03

The EPA could **strengthen its monitoring of Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) sites** and consider regulating them to reduce children's exposure to toxic chemicals.

The Study Sponsors

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Questions?

Thank you.

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Consensus Study Report