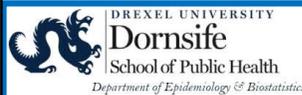


Children's HealthWatch: *Housing Instability among Young Children with Special Health Care Needs*

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY CENTER

SEPTEMBER 16TH 2022



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Household hardships in early life

Journal of Perinatology

www.nature.com/jp

ARTICLE

Check for updates

Household unmet basic needs in the first 1000 days and preterm birth status

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OBJECTIVE: To examine the relationship of individual and composite number of unmet basic needs (housing, energy, food, and healthcare hardships) in the past year with preterm birth status among children aged 0–24 months.

STUDY DESIGN: We examined cross-sectional 2011–18 data of 17,926 families with children aged 0–24 months. We examined children born <31 weeks', 31–33 weeks', and 34–36 weeks' gestation versus term (≥37 weeks) using multivariable multinomial logistic regression.

RESULTS: At least 1 unmet basic need occurred among ≥60% of families with preterm children, compared to 56% of families with term children ($p = 0.007$). Compared to term, children born ≤30 weeks' had increased odds of healthcare hardships (aOR 1.28 [1.04, 1.56]) and children born 34–36 weeks' had increased odds of 1 (aOR 1.19 [1.05, 1.35]) and ≥2 unmet needs (aOR 1.15 [1.01, 1.31]).

CONCLUSION: Unmet basic needs were more common among families with preterm, compared to term children.

Journal of Perinatology (2022) 42:389–396; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-022-01325-5>



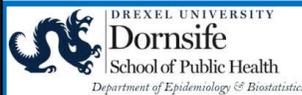
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Children's HealthWatch

- Multi-site study founded 1998
 - Philadelphia, Boston, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Little Rock
- Surveys of caregivers of infants/toddlers < 4 years
 - Waiting areas of urban hospitals
 - Continuous data collection – “sentinel study”
 - English or Spanish (or Somali in MN)
- Findings shared with academics, legislators, and the public



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Housing instability and special health care needs

Housing Instability Among Families With Young Children With Special Health Care Needs

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Children's HealthWatch Philadelphia

- Philadelphia site since 2005
- St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
- Emergency Department
- **~15,000 total** surveys conducted
- 5,848 answered questions about special health care need
Jan 2013-March 2020

Characteristic	N = 5848
Child age, months	18 (8, 31) ¹
Child gender, male	3,191 (55%)
Mother US-born	4,918 (85%)
Mother Latina	3,140 (55%)
Mother Non-Latina White	510 (9%)
Mother Non-Latina Black	1,895 (33%)
¹ Median (IQR); n (%)	



Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

1. Prescription needed

- ✓ Does your child currently need or use medicine prescribed by a doctor, nurse or other health provider, other than vitamins?
- ✓ Is [his/her] need for prescription medicine because of ANY medical, behavioral, or health condition?
- ✓ Is this a condition that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer?

2. Medical care

- ✓ Does your child need or use more medical care, mental health or educational services than is usual for most children of the same age?
- ✓ Is [his/her] need for medical care, mental health, or educational services because of ANY medical, behavioral, or other health condition?
- ✓ Is this a condition that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer?

3. Functional limitations

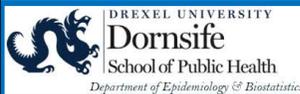
- ✓ Is your child limited or prevented in any way in [his/her] ability to do most things children of the same age can do?
- ✓ Is his/her limitation because of ANY medical, behavioral or other health condition?
- ✓ Is this a condition that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer?

4. Special Therapy

- ✓ Does your child need or get special therapy such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy, including Early Intervention?
- ✓ Is [his/her] need for special therapy because of ANY medical, behavioral, or other health condition?
- ✓ Is this a condition that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer?

5. Requires treatment or counseling

- ✓ Does your child have any kind of emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems for which [he/she] needs treatment or counseling?
- ✓ Has [his/her] emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months?



Children with Special Healthcare Needs (CSHCN)

Caregiver reports at least 1 of 5 health circumstances has lasted or is expected to last >12 months

1. Condition requiring a prescription medication
2. More than usual medical care usage
3. Functional limitations
4. Needs or receives special therapy
5. Requires treatment or counseling

CSHCN 21%
(1236/5848)

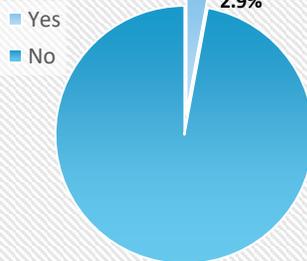
Characteristic	N = 1,236
Child age, months	27 (17, 38) ¹
Child gender, male	741 (60%)
Mother US-born	1,107 (91%)
Mother Latina	644(54%)
Mother Non-Latina White	93 (8%)
Mother Non-Latina Black	437 (36%)

¹ Median (IQR); n (%)

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Homelessness

“Since this child was born, has [s/he] ever been homeless or lived in a shelter?”



Characteristic	N=5,848
Ever homeless	170 (2.9%)
missing	50

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Housing Instability

- At least one of the following:
 - During the last 12 months, was there a time when you were not able to pay the mortgage or rent on time? → YES
 - Since [CHILD NAME] was born, has [s/he] ever been homeless or lived in a shelter? → YES
 - How many places has the child lived since [CURRENT MONTH] of last year? → >2

Housing instability 25%



Caregiver unable to pay rent or mortgage



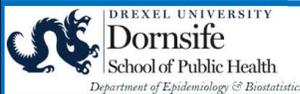
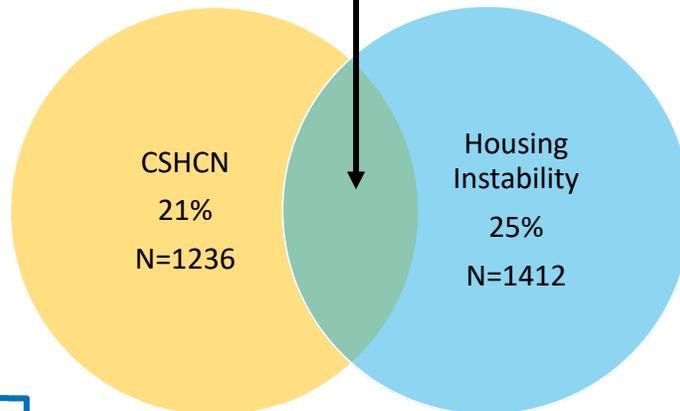
Child experienced homelessness

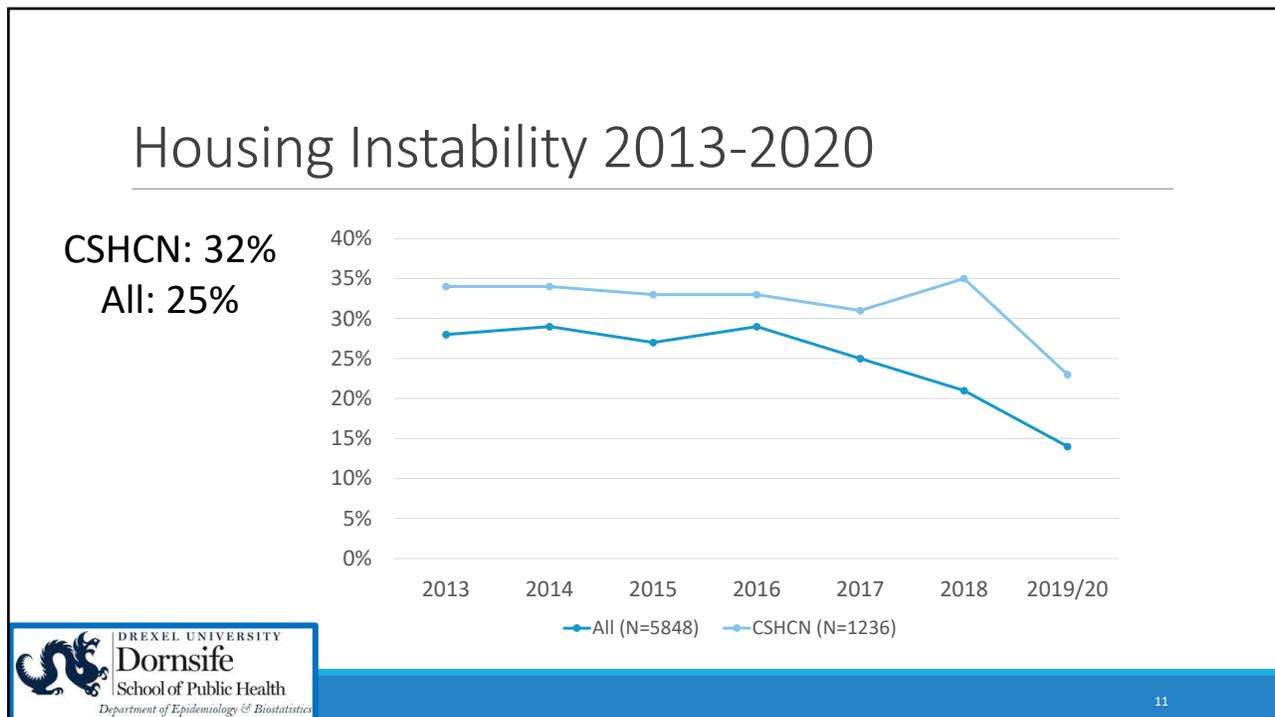


Child frequently moves

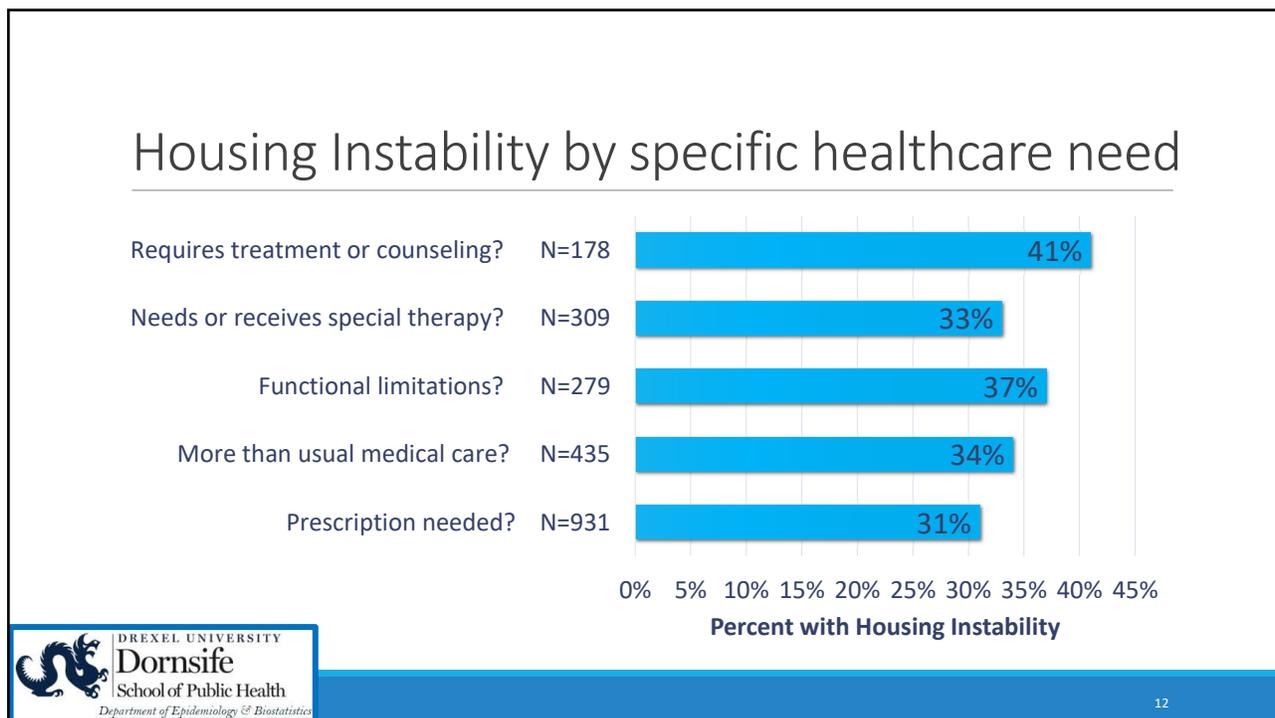


7% (n=393) had BOTH SHCN and Housing Instability



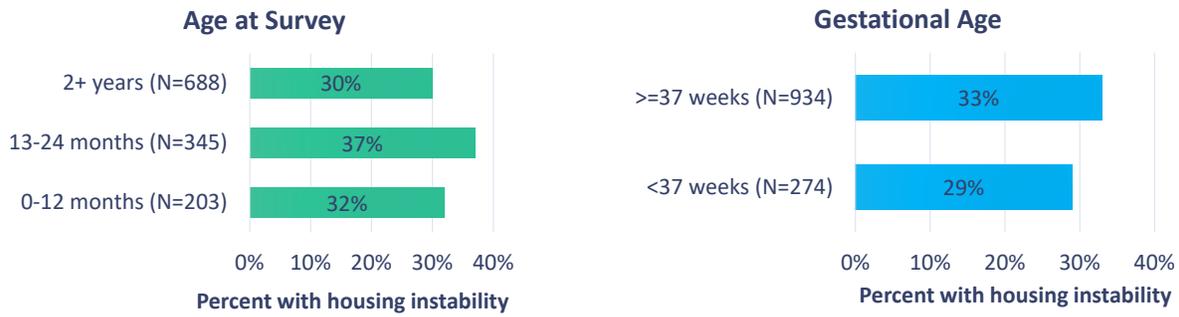


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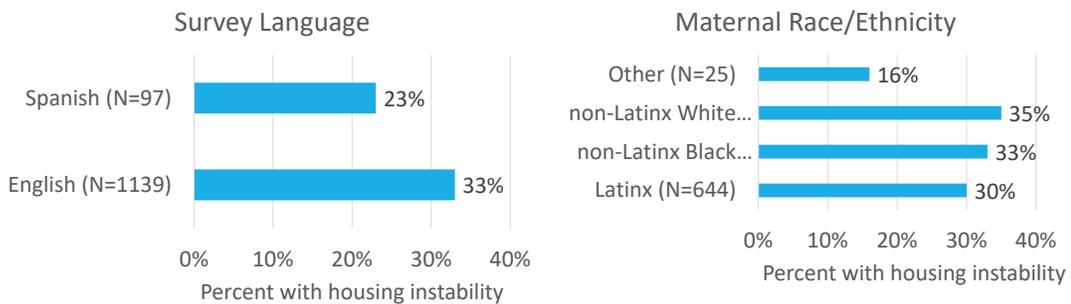
CSHCN: Housing instability and age



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CSHCN: Housing instability and demographics



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Conclusions

In this sample of families with children aged < 4 who participated in the survey in the St Chris ED,

- Many of the children had special health care needs
- Many of the children experienced housing instability, although this decreased over time
- Housing instability was even more common among children with special health care needs
- Need for screening and referrals in pediatric inpatient settings
- Need to ensure housing for very vulnerable population

Thank you!

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childrenshealthwatch.org