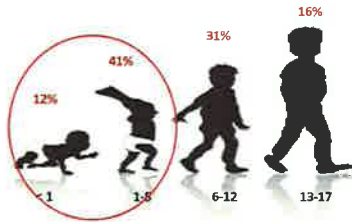


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## Introduction

### Ages of Children Experiencing Homelessness



### Pre-/Perinatal Homelessness



- ↑ Preterm birth
- ↑ Low birth weight
- ↑ NICU Stays
- ↓ Prenatal Care

### Homelessness in the First Years



- ↑ Mortality
- ↑ Developmental Delays
- ↓ Breastfeeding

### Starting School...



- ↑ Poor Health
- ↑ Poor Mental Health
- ↑ School Problems
- ↓ Academic Achievement
- ↓ Social Skills

## Infant Mental Health

Draws from systems theory, attachment theory, and cognitive theory to:

- Emphasize parent-child relationships as cornerstone of intervention
- Account for environmental influences – risk & protective factors
- Build on strengths
- Promote early social-emotional development through positive parent-child relationships

## Purpose

Little is known about pre- and perinatal experiences of young children born into homelessness. The proposed study used data from the Pennsylvania Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System to take a closer look at the prenatal and perinatal experiences of infants born into homelessness.

## Research Questions

1. What is the trend in prenatal homelessness in Pennsylvania?
2. What is the prevalence of risk factors among mothers experiencing homelessness compared to stably housed mothers?
3. What is the prevalence of adverse perinatal outcomes among mothers who reported having been homeless?

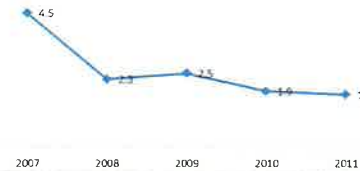
## Methods

Data are from the 2009-2011 Pennsylvania Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). The PRAMS was developed by the CDC in the late 1980's to promote positive perinatal outcomes and reduce infant mortality.

- States administer the PRAMS annually via paper survey.
- Survey responses are then merged with birth record data.
- Survey was administered to 3,166 women.
- Given that the response rate exceeded 60%, these data are weighted to be representative of the more than 411,000 women who gave birth in 2009-2011.

## Trends in Prenatal Homelessness

### Rate of Homelessness During Pregnancy



## Risk Factors

RISKS (PERCENTS)	NON-HOMELESS	HOMELESS
LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION	14.9	38.1
MOTHER < 20 YEARS OF AGE	8.11	11.4
WIC DURING PREGNANCY	40.7	61.0
STRESS ABOUT PAYING BILLS	18.7	65.1
IN A PHYSICAL FIGHT DURING PREGNANCY	3.5	33.1
PHYSICAL ABUSE IN THE YEAR PRIOR TO PREGNANCY	3.2	22.6
PHYSICAL ABUSE DURING PREGNANCY	2.4	16.7
STARTED PRENATAL CARE IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER	83.3	65.3

## Adverse Perinatal Outcomes

ADVERSE PERINATAL OUTCOMES (PERCENTS)	NON-HOMELESS	HOMELESS
BORN AT LESS THAN 36 WEEKS GESTATION	8.0	14.3
STAY IN NICU	21.0	47.4
NO WELL BABY VISIT	3.21	11.11
NEVER BREASTFED	21.3	27.8
IN SUBSTITUTE CARE	.48	3.39

## Summary of Results

- The overall rate of prenatal homelessness declined across time
- Experiences of prenatal homelessness were associated with disproportionately higher rates of other risk factors. These findings are consistent with prior studies or prenatal homelessness
- Experiences of prenatal homelessness were associated with disproportionately higher rates of poor perinatal outcomes.

## Implications

- Findings support the importance of ensuring that pregnant women experiencing homelessness have access to early and consistent prenatal care.
- The increased prevalence of adverse poor perinatal outcomes underscores the need for high quality, evidence-based parenting supports for women experiencing homelessness.
- Findings also suggest that home visiting programs and early head start may be of particular benefit for infants/toddlers experiencing homelessness.
- The increased prevalence of adverse perinatal outcomes also supports the importance of conducting developmental screenings and assessments of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness - and ensuring that children identified with developmental delays have access to early intervention services.

## Next Steps

- Exploration of the unique relation between prenatal homelessness and early risk and protective factors.
- Exploration of the relation between maternal and social service factors and the prevalence of positive perinatal outcomes among women experiencing homelessness during pregnancy.
- Implementation and evaluation of strategies targeting positive maternal/child outcomes - such as early intervention, parenting support, etc.

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