

The Correlation Between Child Development and Homelessness

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INTRO

- The United States has a concern of homelessness today and the most prevalent group are families with children. A person develops the most in their childhood years in each domain of development. Therefore, it is important to understand the correlation between child development and homelessness to identify any long-term consequences and create potential effective interventions.

COVERAGE AND METHODS

1. Articles found in different databases using key words such as “child development” and “homelessness” had to be research based and peer reviewed.
 - Could not be a literature review
2. Literature synthesis was created from the research articles
 - combining the articles to fit into my own research

RESULTS

- Need more longitudinal research for long-term effects
- They experience more adverse child experiences if they are homeless which could be what causes developmental lapses.
- More likely to have a physical disability, lack social skills, and be behind academically
- Interventions are effective
- Children are very resilient!

DEMOGRAPHICS

- The most prevalent demographic of children who are homeless include:
 - African American and Hispanic children
 - Single moms
 - Substance abusers

Future research question: Do the demographics of a child who is homeless have a bigger effect on their development than just being homelessness?

SIGNIFICANCE

- The coronavirus pandemic has left many people without sources of income making homelessness a likely scenario for many families. Learning the repercussions that go along with it can lead us as a society to understand and offer help to those children who may need it.

Homelessness can be correlated to child development, but one must consider the resiliency of children.

2.5 million children are homeless each year in America (AIR, 2018, para. 1)

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DISCUSSION

- Children who are homeless are more likely than their peers who are not homeless to have a physical disability, test academically lower, and have a lack of social skills.
- More research needs to be conducted to determine if it is because of the fact, they are homeless or if it is variable by other things that are happening to the child or their demographic.
- Many research articles do not pay enough attention to the resiliency of children which can mean the previously believed long-term effects will not actually be long term.
- Understanding this can lead to effective intervention to help children and families through hardships.
- Longitudinal research still needs to be done in order to expand the knowledge about this occurrence happening today.

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