

Low-Income Neighborhoods and Health: Assessing the Relationship between Aspects of Neighborhood Distress and Child Health

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Acknowledgements



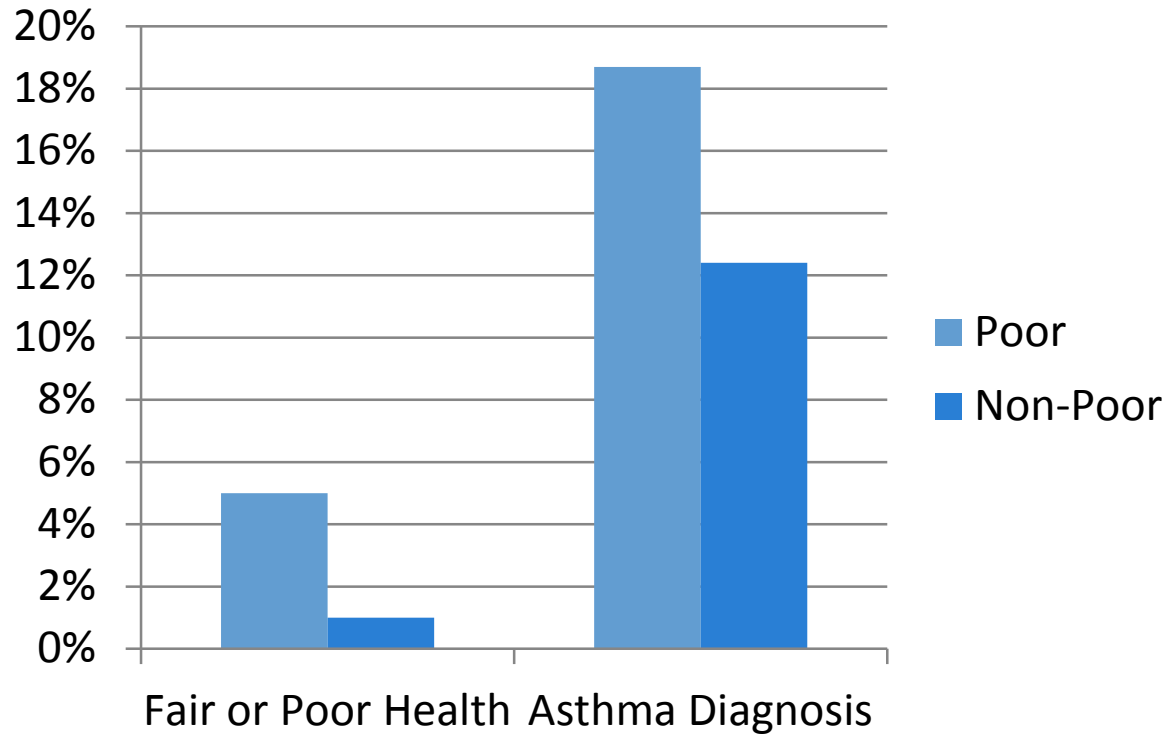
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Background

Children's Health Statistics by Poverty Status



Background

- Several studies show that children growing up in low-income neighborhoods are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes, including asthma (Diez-Roux & Mair, 2010; Ellen, Mijanovich, & Dillman, 2001; Mather & Rivers, 2006; Williams, Sternthal, & Wright, 2009).
 - Existing research focuses on census variables, not capturing nuances of neighborhood distress
- Few studies examine aspects of neighborhood social distress with respect to children's health and focus on variation in children's health across low income neighborhoods

Hypothesis

Neighborhood Conditions

- Lower levels of safety
- Less collective efficacy
- Higher levels of disorder
- Higher levels of poverty



Poorer child
health outcomes,
including asthma

Data



- Making Connections Survey –
Wave 2
- US Census Data (2000) –
Block group

Sample – Making Connections Children in Wave 2

	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<u>Child & Parent Covariates</u>				
Child Age	6.86	4.19	0	15
Child Gender - Male	0.514	0.500	0	1
Parent's Race				
White (Reference)	0.339	.473	0	1
Black	0.320	.467	0	1
Asian	0.048	.007	0	1
Native American	0.034	.003	0	1
Hawaiian	0.007	.083	0	1
Race is something else	0.291	.454	0	1
Parent's Ethnicity Hispanic	0.434	.496	0	1
Total Household Income (\$)	28,008.57	22,343.99	0	150,000
Parent's Highest Education	3.875	2	1	8
Used TANF	0.447	.497	0	1

Measures: Dependent Variables

- Child is in fair or poor health (0 or 1)
 - Mean: 0.047 (SD:0.213)
- Child has had an asthma diagnosis (0 or 1)
 - Mean: 0.171 (SD:0.376)

Measures: Independent Variables

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- **Neighborhood disorder** (7 items; Range: 0 to 6)
 - Mean: 2.629 (SD: 0.557); $\alpha = .838$

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- **Neighborhood disorder** (7 items; Range: 0 to 6)
 - Mean: 2.629 (SD: 0.557); $\alpha = .838$
- **Neighborhood poverty**
 - Mean: 0.333 (SD: 0.003)

Odds a Child has Fair or Poor Health

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<u>Neighborhood</u> <u>(Block Grp) Variables</u>	(N=2932)	(N=2934)	(N=2934)	(N=2934)	(N=2927)	(N=2927)
Child & Parent Covariates						

+p<.10; *p<.05; **p<.01; ***p<.001

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<u>Neighborhood (Block Grp) Variables</u>	(N=2932)	(N=2934)	(N=2934)	(N=2934)	(N=2927)	(N=2927)
Safety Perceptions	1.564* (.280)					
Child & Parent Covariates	X					

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Safety Perceptions	1.564* (.280)					
Social Cohesion		1.29 (.586)				
Child & Parent Covariates	X	X				

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Safety Perceptions	1.564* (.280)					
Social Cohesion		1.29 (.586)				
Informal Social Control			1.740* (.464)			
Child & Parent Covariates	X	X	X			

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Safety Perceptions	1.564* (.280)					
Social Cohesion		1.29 (.586)				
Informal Social Control			1.740* (.464)			
Collective Efficacy				1.959+ (.743)		
Child & Parent Covariates	X	X	X	X		

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Safety Perceptions	1.564* (.280)					
Social Cohesion		1.29 (.586)				
Informal Social Control			1.740* (.464)			
Collective Efficacy				1.959+ (.743)		
Disorder					0.712* (.094)	
Child & Parent Covariates	X	X	X	X	X	

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Safety Perceptions	1.564* (.280)					
Social Cohesion		1.29 (.586)				
Informal Social Control			1.740* (.464)			
Collective Efficacy				1.959+ (.743)		
Disorder					0.712* (.094)	
Block poverty (%)						1.380 (.721)
Child & Parent Covariates	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Odds Child has an Asthma Diagnosis

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
<u>Neighborhood (Block Grp) Variables</u>	(N=2929)	(N=2931)	(N=2931)	(N=2931)	(N=2931)	(N=2924)
Safety Perceptions	0.964 (.107)					
Social Cohesion		0.794 (.190)				
Informal Social Control			1.372+ (.225)			
Collective Efficacy				1.227 (.265)		
Disorder					0.968 (.101)	
Block poverty (%)						0.847 (.362)
Child & Parent Covariates	X	X	X	X	X	X

+p<.10; *p<.05; **p<.01; ***p<.001

Discussion

- Higher odds of fair and poor health associated with living in a neighborhood with more distress.
 - Parents who have kids with poorer health may be likely to be moving to protective neighborhoods.
- Less strong relationships for an asthma diagnosis
 - Asthma does not equal fair or poor health
 - More objective measure of health

Implications

- Transforming low-income neighborhoods in an effort to improve children's health (e.g. MTO; CHOICE neighborhoods; other place-based initiatives)
 - Parents' perceptions of child health may be an important motivating factor to stay in (or move to) safer neighborhoods.
 - Neighborhood social organization is especially important for parents who perceive their child in poorer health.
 - Greater collective efficacy, especially informal social control
 - Less Disorder

Next Steps

- Explore the supplemental analyses – shows that children who move between Wave 2 and Wave 3 are driving these results (better neighborhood = more fair / poor health outcomes)
 - Does perceived child health motivate moving behavior?
- Explore changes in individual perceptions of neighborhood characteristics and child health outcomes over Waves.