

Assessing Housing Instability Among Children and Families in Primary Care Settings

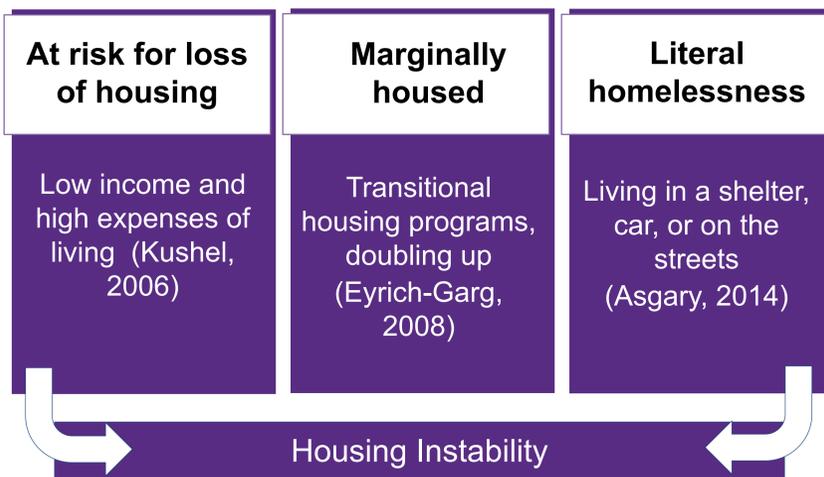
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Background

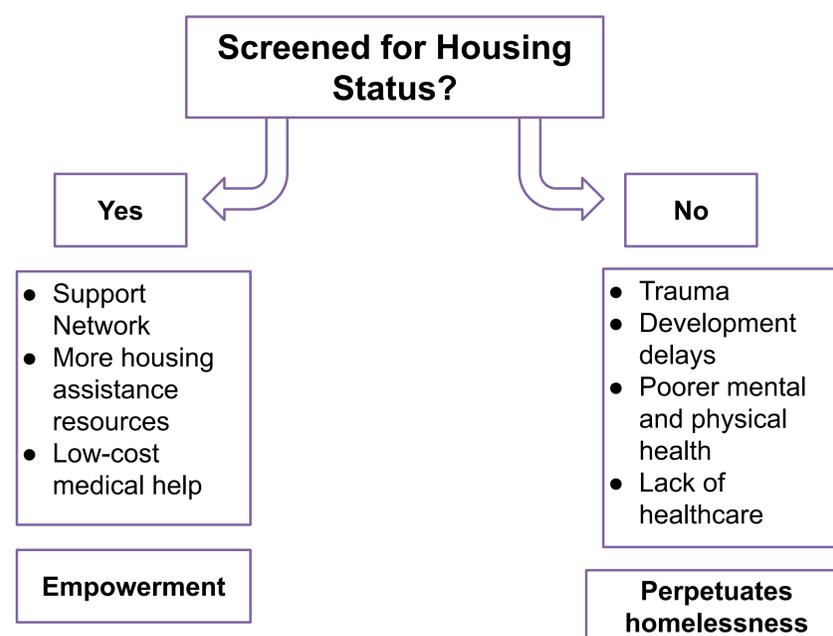
As of 2018, 34% of families in urban settings were experiencing housing instability (Sandel et al., 2018). Housing instability is associated with poor health outcomes. Currently, there lacks a recommended screening protocols for housing status.

The Continuum of Stable Housing



Objective

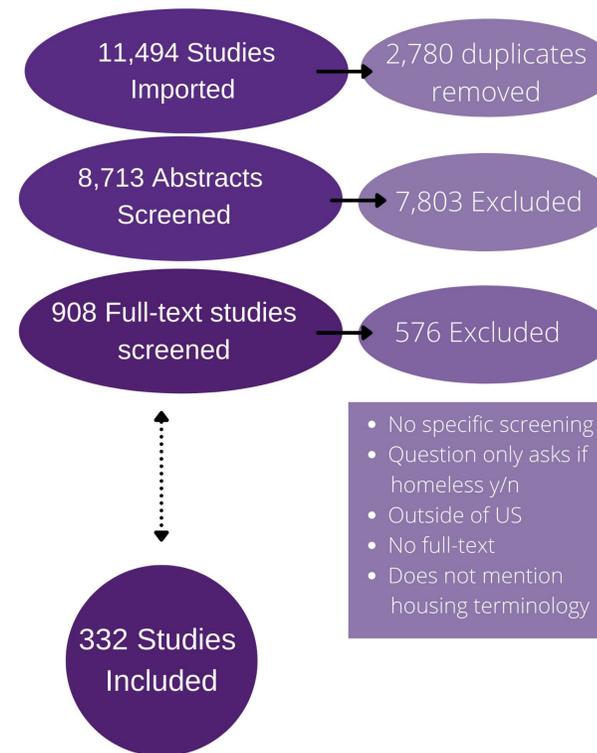
Create a research-based universal screening toolkit to establish a housing instability screening protocol within primary care.



Methods Phase 1: Clinician Input

- 13 participants recruited from 12 clinics
 - Participants provided care for families experiencing homelessness
- Questions Asked Focused on:
 - Patient population and clinic characteristics
 - Screening techniques
 - Model of care
 - Barriers to and recommendations for optimum care provision

Methods Phase 2: Literature Review



Methods Phase 3: Patient Input

- 19 interviews conducted at 4 different clinical sites
 - Participants were over 18, experiencing housing instability, and the primary caregiver of at least one child under age of 18
- Interviews lasted 60 minutes and addressed:



Results

There currently lacks a validated tool to address the unique needs of families experiencing housing instability

- Stigma around housing instability leads people to underreport unstable housing
- 10 clinical sites asked about housing, but six had only one question, and two sites had no housing screening at all
- Patients understand link between stable housing and improved health but do not always view housing support as an essential service from their primary care provider
- Limitations in research due to variability in terms and definitions used

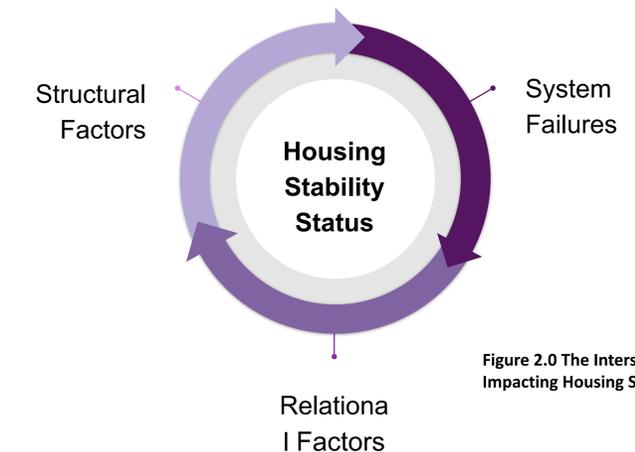


Figure 2.0 The Intersecting Factors Impacting Housing Status

Population	Screening Questions
Veterans (Fargo et al., 2017)	In the past 2 months, have you been living in stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household? Are you worried or concerned that in the next 2 months you may NOT have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household? Veterans who screen positive to either question are then asked where they have lived for most of the previous two months and whether they want to be referred for services.
Adults (Dickson-Gomez et al., 2017)	Which place best describes your current living situation? [1] doubling up with sex partner, friend, or family member defined as temporarily living in someone else's apartment; [2] living in own apartment with no rental subsidy; [3] living in own apartment with a rental subsidy [such as Sect. 8, Housing Plus Vouchers] or living in supportive housing, [housing that is paid for by a rental subsidy and includes supportive services]; or 4) homeless [living in a shelter or on the street]? On a scale from 1 to 5, how likely do you think you would be living in your current location in the next 3 months (1= not at all likely, 5=very likely, almost definitely)?
Family (Baggett et al., 2013)	"Do you or your family currently have your own place to live, such as a house, apartment, or room?" and "Have you or your family ever not had your own place to live, that is, not had your own place that you could stay at for 30 days or longer?"

Figure 1.0 Impacts of Housing Screening on Outcomes

References

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