



Neighborhood Eviction Trajectories and Odds of Moderate and Serious Psychological Distress During Pregnancy among African American Women

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9/25/24

No Disclosures

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WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY 2024



Introduction

- Psychological distress
 - Moderate: sub-diagnostic
 - Serious: significant impairment, diagnosable mental illness
- Structural racism is a root cause of racial inequities in population health
 - Racial and economic residential segregation and concurrent discrimination in the rental housing market
 - Housing instability caused by residential eviction
- African American mothers unjustly burdened by **both** residential evictions and psychological distress
- Few studies on spill-over effects of neighborhood housing conditions on individual mental health

Methods (1)

- Life-course Influences on Fetal Environments Study (LIFE)
- 2009-2011, Metro-Detroit, MI; n=1,410
- African American mothers, postpartum period
- 18-45 years old, singleton birth at suburban hospital, in-person interviews, medical record abstraction
- Exposures: publicly available block group- level court-ordered eviction filing, and judgement rates matched to addresses at 2 time points
 - Addresses 2 years before and at study enrollment (analytic sample n=808)
 - Low/medium/high at each time point
 - 9 trajectories of eviction filing and judgement rates

Methods (2)

- ArcGIS to geocode addresses and link to eviction rates from Eviction Lab
- Outcomes: Kessler psychological distress scale (K6)
 - Past 30 days
 - 6 items, 5-point Likert (none to all the time), alpha: 0.72
 - None (scores: ≤ 4), Moderate (MPD; scores: 5-12), Serious (SPD; scores: ≥ 13)
- Covariates: predictors of residential selection and duration of time in neighborhood and disadvantage
- Multinomial logistic regression

Descriptive Results

- Mean age 27 years, >50% were married/cohabiting, income <\$35K/year, and lived in current neighborhood <2 years
- 70% of sample had >12 years of education
- Prevalence of psychological distress:
 - 30%: No/Low
 - 60% MPD
 - 8% SPD
- Correlations between eviction filing and judgement rates at 2 time points significantly different from 0

Main Findings

- Low/low trajectory highest proportion of participants (15.7%), and low/high had lowest (8%)
- Average change:
 - Medium-high: 20 more eviction filings
 - Medium-high: 7 more eviction judgements
- Higher neighborhood eviction filing and judgement rates (compared to low/low) during preconception and pregnancy associated with 2-to-4 fold higher odds of both MPD and SPD during pregnancy among African American women

Discussion

- SPD risk among African Americans associated with relatives' homelessness
- Observing neighbors being evicted likely increases fear of experiencing same fate
- Geographic, life-stage, and temporal differences in mental health *within* African American communities
- Reproductive justice, and life-course epidemiology to identify sensitive periods of exposure
- Worsening African American maternal health crisis requires urgent action
- Future mechanistic studies warranted

Limitations and Strengths

- No data on length of residence in preconception neighborhood
- No individual level eviction data
- Limited to court ordered eviction
- While large, our estimates are likely underestimates
- Reverse causation cannot be ruled out
- First study to examine trajectories of neighborhood eviction rates on MPD and SPD in African American women
- Novel data linkage
- Within group analysis, contextual, policy relevant, modifiable risk factor for MPD and SPD during pregnancy

Acknowledgements and More Information

- Coauthors: Drs. Benita Jackson, Brittney Francis
- American Journal of Epidemiology
- LIFE Study participants & research team
- SECURE Study research team and participants for their partnership.
- We also honor the ancestors, whose power we leverage in our work. Ashe.
- National Institutes of Health & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- www.securestudy.org



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Response to commentary

