

# Home and Community Factors That Impact Health and Learning Per 100 U.S. Students



**KEY:**



Hunger



English not  
spoken at  
Home



Single  
Parent  
Home



Parent without  
HS Diploma



Cannot  
Afford  
Healthcare



No Vehicle



No Home



# Home and Community Factors That Impact Health and Learning Per 100 U.S. Students

## **HUNGER (21%)**

16 million children in the U.S. struggle with hunger.<sup>1</sup> Undernourishment affects a child's physical, emotional and cognitive development. A child can be overweight and undernourished. Children who suffer from hunger get sick more often and face challenges concentrating or performing well in school.<sup>1</sup>

## **ENGLISH NOT SPOKEN AT HOME (21%)**

Speaking a language other than English can impact a family's ability to navigate social, healthcare and educational systems. This barrier may also affect a parent's ability to participate in school and other community events.

## **PARENT WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION (13%)**

Educational attainment contributes to future earnings and employment.<sup>2</sup> Parents without a high school education experience challenges to adequately providing for a child's educational, child care, and healthcare costs.<sup>2</sup> Research has also shown links between parental education and child academic and behavioral outcomes.<sup>3</sup>

## **SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS (28% OF U.S. CHILDREN AGES 0-17 YEARS)**

Children from single-parent households have an increased risk for dropping out of school, becoming teen parents, and face barriers to success in the workforce.<sup>4</sup> Although many children from single parent homes fare well, others face challenges in their educational, occupational, and social well-being.

## **CANNOT AFFORD TO SEE A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (8%)**

Individuals who lack access to health care are at increased risk for delaying to seek appropriate care and are less likely to receive preventive care services. As a result, individuals who cannot afford seeing a healthcare provider when sick (lack insurance) have inferior health status and outcomes. Data shows that uninsured children achieve lower educational outcomes than those with insurance. Children who cannot afford to see a medical provider without miss more days of school, experience increased severity of illness, and suffer from disparities in health.<sup>5</sup>

## **NO VEHICLE AT HOME (6%)**

Lack of transportation can be a major barrier for some families, especially for those living in urban or rural areas where public transportation is limited. Lack of transportation can limit a family's access to employment, medical care, and quality foods. In addition, it also prevents a parent from engaging in a child's school or other community services/programs.<sup>6</sup>

## **NO HOME (2%)**

More than 1.6 million children experience homelessness each year in the United States. Homeless children develop increased rates of acute and chronic health conditions, and the stress of their living situation can negatively affect their development and ability to learn.<sup>7</sup>

The chart on the reverse side depicts the prevalence of some of the social, cultural, and economic conditions, which may influence a school-age child's health and learning outcomes. This chart is *not* meant to imply that every student is affected or negatively impacted by one or more of these issues. Instead, it illustrates the prevalence, in percentages, among the total U.S. child population. It is important to consider these variables when engaging with students and families in an effort to ensure effective communication and enhance the quality of care provided. The social determinants of health are "conditions in the environments in which individuals are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks."<sup>8</sup> School nurses, educators, and health and education policy makers must take into account the social determinants which may impact a child's health and learning potential.

### **References:**

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