

AAP Resources for Poverty and Child Health

AAP South Carolina Chapter
Annual Meeting
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American Academy of Pediatrics
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Poverty & Child Health

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Poverty & Child Health

1 in 5 US children lives in poverty, and poverty is an important determinant of child health. The AAP provides resources to help pediatricians with caring for children in poverty, including practice tips, communications materials, and advocacy resources.

Tips and Messages Help Pediatricians Talk about Poverty and Child Health



Learn more about this



Why Focus on Poverty?

1 in 5 U.S. children lives in poverty. Research shows that living in poverty can have detrimental health consequences that are severe and lifelong.



AAP Strategic Priority

In response to the growing number of children living in poor households in the United States, the AAP is addressing "Poverty and Child Health" as a strategic priority.



Practice Tips

Pediatricians can work with their practice team

★ AAP Policies

Poverty and Child Health in the US

Published March 9, 2016 [More >](#)

Mediators & Effects of Child Poverty

Published March 9, 2016 [More >](#)

Promoting Food Security for All Children

Published October 2015 [More >](#)

★ What's New

Special Supplement on Child Poverty

View the Academic Pediatrics Special Supplement on Child Poverty in the United States, April 2016 [More >](#)

👤 Social Media Toolkits

For Pediatricians

We invite you to share these social media messages and graphics to raise awareness about poverty and child health. [More >](#)

For Partners

Help us raise awareness about how poverty impacts child health and together we can #FACEpoverty [More >](#)

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MESSAGING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Messaging Guide for Pediatricians
- Key messages for reaching pediatricians and policymakers
- Communication tips

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LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD:
TALKING ABOUT POVERTY AND CHILD HEALTH
A Messaging Guide for Pediatricians
March 2016

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POVERTY POLICY STATEMENT

- Recommendations for pediatricians to screen for basic needs and make referrals
- Supports advocacy for anti-poverty programs, income supports, and tax credits

POLICY STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children

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Poverty and Child Health
in the United States

COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS

Almost half of young children in the United States live in poverty or near poverty. The American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to reducing [abstract](#)

POVERTY TECHNICAL REPORT

- Details impacts on child health and development
- Describes poverty demographics in the U.S.
- Addresses child poverty as a source of toxic stress

TECHNICAL REPORT

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Mediators and Adverse Effects of
Child Poverty in the United States

John M. Pascoe, MD, MPH, FAAP, David L. Wood, MD, MPH, FAAP, James H. Duffee, MD, MPH, FAAP, Alice Kuo, MD, PhD,
MED, FAAP, COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH, COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS

The link between poverty and children's health is well recognized. Even temporary poverty may have an adverse effect on children's health, and [abstract](#)



PRACTICE RESOURCES

- Suggests screening tools to identify basic needs
- Provides template for practices to identify community resources
- Recommends practice tips for implementation

/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/poverty/Pages/practice-tips.aspx

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Practice Tips

Screening for Basic and Social Needs and Connecting Families to Community Resources

Pediatric practices can use simple screening tools that ask families about basic needs. These screening tools will help identify families with unmet needs, and in response, practices can make referrals to appropriate community resources and services.

To get started with screening:

- If your practice is not currently screening for basic needs, consider starting with one issue, such as food insecurity.
- Screen families universally, rather than targeting specific families. Explain to families that the screening is universal.
- Work with your practice team to determine how to screen families in the most effective and sensitive manner.
- Show empathy when talking with families about basic needs. Be willing to say "I don't know but I will try to help you find out."
- Recognize that you won't be able to address every concern, and that you don't have to "fix" everything on your own.
- Work with your practice team and community partners to identify resources and services that are available for families who have positive screens.

Suggested Screening Tools

The following chart includes widely available free screening tools. The AAP does not endorse any specific tool, but encourages pediatricians to use the tools that best suit the needs of their practice.

Screening Tool	Description	References
The Hunger Vital Sign	2-question validated screening tool based on the US Household Food Security Scale to identify young children in households at risk of food insecurity.	Hager ER, Quigg AM, Black MM, et al. Development and validity of a 2-item screen to identify families at risk for food insecurity. <i>Pediatrics</i> . 2010;126(1).
Income, Housing, Education, Legal Status, Literacy, and Personal Safety (IHLELLP)	Suggested screening questions related to income, housing, education, legal status, literacy, and personal safety.	Kenyon C, et al. Revisiting the social history for child health. <i>Pediatrics</i> 120(3):e734–e738.
Well Child Care, Evaluation, Community Resources, Advocacy, Referral, Education Survey Instrument (WE CARE)	Survey instrument to screen for family psychosocial problems including education, employment, childcare, housing, food	Garg A, Toy S, Tripodis Y, et al. Addressing Social Determinants of Health at Well Child Care Visits: A Cluster RCT. <i>Pediatrics</i> Feb



STATE ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- Child Poverty Partners
- State Child Poverty Commissions
- Information on State Income Supports and Tax Credits, Paid Leave
- Anti-poverty Programs

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