

The Toxic Impact of Housing Insecurity on San Francisco's Children

HOUSING INSECURITY, however, remains largely invisible. Thousands of families live in overcrowded and unhealthy situations in San Francisco, because they cannot afford even "below market rate" housing.

HOMELESSNESS is highly visible in San Francisco. It is counted and receives resources.



OVERCROWDING PROMOTES HEALTH PROBLEMS:

- COVID-19, mold, pests, asthma, tuberculosis are just the tip of the iceberg and are currently addressed.
- Often more severe and not visible is **TOXIC STRESS**.

ASTHMA
COVID-19
TUBERCULOSIS

MOLD
PESTS

TOXIC STRESS

CHILDREN BETWEEN 0 AND 5 YEARS OLD ARE:

- Highly affected by the ongoing toxic stress of living in places that were never intended for kids.
- Constantly on the verge of losing their home – and their parents cannot protect them.



TOXIC STRESS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN CAUSES:

- Poor health
- Delayed development
- Increased risk for disease in adulthood



LET'S MAKE HOUSING INSECURITY VISIBLE:

- Screen all City programs servicing families with children 0-5 and pregnant women for housing insecurity.
- Establish an inclusive City-wide task force to acknowledge, count, and provide resources to address housing insecurity in pre-school children and pregnant women.
- Use health data from the Department of Public Health to support the work of the City on housing issues.
- Prevent chronic diseases and serious developmental problems in the future by preventing toxic stress at the source now.

We can do better for our San Francisco children. We can do this, San Francisco.