



Politics and Pragmatics of a Child-Centered Housing Policy

After Thompson: Getting Kids
Out of Harm's Way
Convening

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Too Many Assisted Families with Children Live in Extremely Poor Areas

Where Assisted Families with Children Live, by Poverty Concentration

Percent of Population Below Poverty in Tracts	Housing Choice Vouchers		Public Housing		Project-based Rental Assistance		Total	
	Number of Families with Children	Share of HCV Families with Children	Number of Families with Children	Share of PH Families with Children	Number of Families with Children	Share of PBRA Families with Children	Number of Families with Children	Share of Assisted Families
<10%	210,154	20.2%	20,994	5.6%	32,407	9.3%	263,555	14.9%
10 - <20%	333,613	32.1%	62,874	16.7%	87,884	25.1%	484,371	27.5%
20 - <30%	249,425	24.0%	83,613	22.2%	89,711	25.6%	422,749	24.0%
30 - <40%	142,775	13.8%	76,502	20.3%	62,890	18.0%	282,167	16.0%
40% or more	101,885	9.8%	132,018	35.1%	77,143	22.0%	311,046	17.6%
Total	1,037,852	100.0%	376,001	100.0%	350,035	100.0%	1,763,888	100.0%

Source: CBPP analysis of HUD administrative data, 2010 and 2011, and 2005-2009 American Community Survey data based on 2000 Census tract boundaries.



And Too Many Households Live in High Crime Areas

Percent in High-Crime Neighborhoods by Type of Housing in 2000		
By Type of Housing	Percent in High-Crime Neighborhoods*	Percent in High-Violent Crime Neighborhoods
Voucher households	4.4%	11.0%
LHHC tenants	11.3%	16.4%
Public housing tenants	10.8%	23.9%
Generally		
Poor renters	6.0%	11.4%
All households	3.1%	5.1%
Source: Michael C. Lens, Ingrid Gould Ellen and Katherine O'Regan, "Do Vouchers Help Low-Income Households Live in Safer Neighborhoods?" Cityscape 13:3, 2011, Exhibit 3. The analysis uses a sample of 91 large cities. All of the results were statistically significant to the one percent level in comparison with voucher households.		
* A "high-crime" neighborhood is a census tract with an overall or violent crime rate more than one standard deviation above the mean.		

Existing Policy Tools

- Advice to HCV participants “in harm’s way” about moving options, combined with housing search assistance, which may need other funding
- Targeted admissions policies, combined with –
 - Flexibility on extending housing search period (“voucher term”)
 - Landlord list that includes listings in high-opportunity areas
 - Exception payment standards

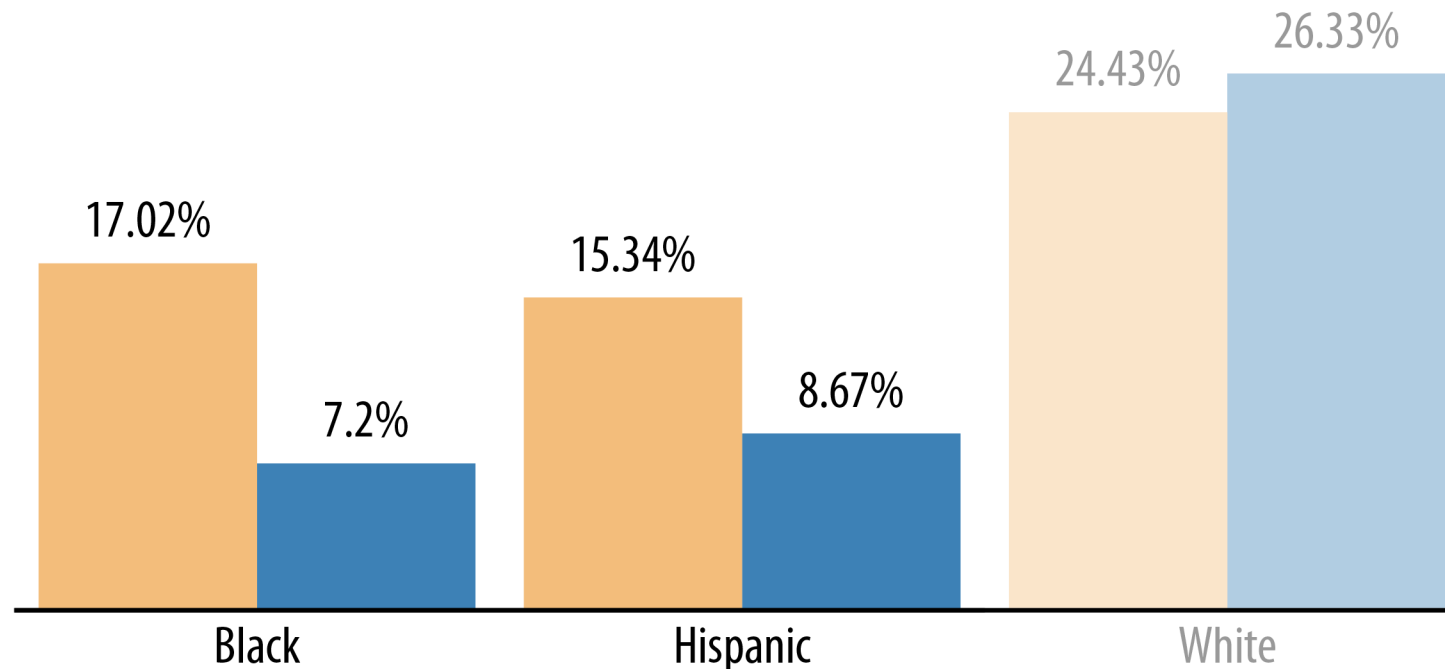
FH Rule Will Help

- HUD will make public maps with data on location of assisted households and Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Extreme Poverty
- Will require larger cities/counties and all public housing agencies (PHAs) to do an Assessment of Fair Housing, identifying barriers and strategies to overcome them
- Community engagement is a key part of the new rule; a child health frame will expand



Housing Vouchers Increase Ability of Poor Black and Hispanic Families to Raise Children in Low-Poverty Neighborhoods

Share of children in low-poverty tracts



Note: A "low-poverty" tract is one where fewer than 10 percent of residents are poor

Source: CBPP analysis of HUD administrative data, 2010 and 2011, and 2005-2009 American Community Survey data based on 2000 Census tract boundaries.



Other Key HUD Policy Changes to Promote Mobility

- Incentivize and reward agency performance on HCV location
- Modify policies that induce families to live in high-poverty areas (E.g., adopt small area rent standards, not metro-wide)
- Reduce administrative barriers to moving to a different “jurisdiction”
- Make the “choice-mobility” option real for families living in public or other assisted properties in the Rental Assistance Demonstration
- Clarify meaning of obligation not to discriminate



PHAs Need Help to Expand Housing Choice

- Encourage landlords in low-poverty areas to accept housing vouchers
 - E.g., “carrot” of property tax reduction
 - And/or “stick” of strongly enforced source of income discrimination law
- Fund housing search assistance programs (a/k/a “mobility counseling”)