



September 2010

**NORC**  
at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

## Resident Relocation Survey

Funded by a grant from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

*Brief*

### *Key Findings*

55% of households include children

Households with children moved more often

Leaseholders in households with children were younger, better educated, with higher incomes, and lower rates of unemployment

Households with children reported a greater need for services and experienced more economic hardships

About half of leaseholders were more satisfied with the current school the child was attending; a fifth was less satisfied

## HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

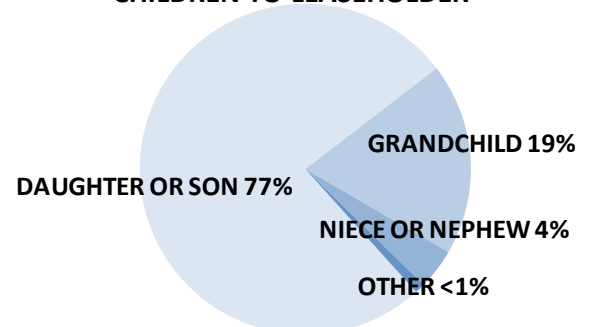
In 2000, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) began the Plan for Transformation, an ambitious plan to rebuild or replace substandard high-rise public housing developments in Chicago. During the Transformation, CHA leaseholders were relocated to other housing either in the private market with the assistance of a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) or in other public housing units, including traditional CHA developments as well as new mixed income developments. With support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, NORC at the University of Chicago conducts the Resident Relocation Survey (RRS). The RRS collects data from current and former CHA leaseholders on their experiences with relocation. The survey included questions about the children in the leaseholder's household. This report on families with children presents findings from our fourth survey with these leaseholders.<sup>i</sup>

**FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS** The survey showed that **55% of households had one or more children under the age of 18 years.**<sup>ii</sup> The number of children ranged from 1 to 8, with an average of 2.71 children for households with children. About three-quarters of children are the son or daughter of the leaseholder and 19% are the grandchild of the leaseholder (Figure 1).

### **DISRUPTION**

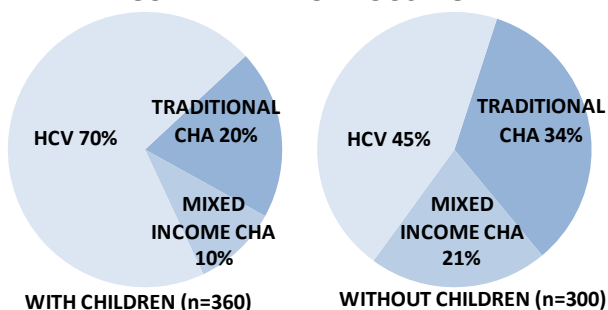
Households with children experienced somewhat more disruption in terms of number of moves than households without children since beginning

**FIGURE 1. RELATIONSHIP OF HOUSEHOLD CHILDREN TO LEASEHOLDER**



the relocation process.<sup>iii</sup> On average, households with children had moved 2.42 times and households without children had moved 1.86 times since relocation began.

**FIGURE 2. TYPE OF HOUSING**



**TYPES OF HOUSING** Figure 2 shows the types of housing for households with and without children.<sup>iv</sup> **The distribution of households with children into different types of housing (traditional, mixed, HCV) differs greatly from that of households without children.** Most households with children were in HCV housing (70%), while the majority of those without children live in CHA units (55%).

## EDUCATION, INCOME, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

**TABLE 1. EDUCATION, INCOME, AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

	WITH CHILDREN (n=360)	WITHOUT CHILDREN (n=300)
AVERAGE AGE	41.82 <sup>a</sup>	57.16 <sup>a</sup>
LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL	36% <sup>b</sup>	46% <sup>b</sup>
UNEMPLOYED	61% <sup>c</sup>	82% <sup>c</sup>
LESS THAN \$8,000 INCOME	53% <sup>d</sup>	63% <sup>d</sup>

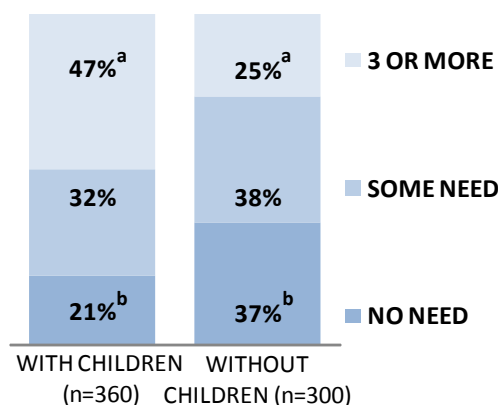
NOTE: Rows sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests, t-tests.

Leaseholders in households with children were, on average, younger, better educated, with higher incomes, and lower rates of unemployment than those with no children living in the household. See Table 1.

**NEED FOR SERVICES** All leaseholders were asked about their need for any of 12 types of social services related to jobs, education, rebuilding credit, paying bills and rent, buying food, and assistance for drug and alcohol or domestic violence issues. **Leaseholders in households with children reported a higher average mean number of needs (2.60) compared to households with no children (1.69).**

Figure 3 shows the distribution of need for social services for the two groups. Many more of those with children needed three or more social services (47%) than those without children (25%). Further, a greater number of households without children compared to those with children required no help with social services (37% compared to 21%).

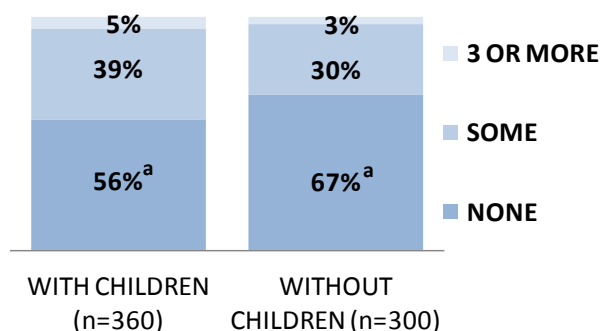
**FIGURE 3. NEED FOR SOCIAL SERVICES**



NOTE: Bars sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests.

**TRANSPORTATION** Leaseholders living in households with children reported a much greater problem with transportation (17% compared to 24%). Both groups had problems getting to shopping areas. Families with children also reported trouble getting to work, school, and child care.

**FIGURE 4. ECONOMIC HARDSHIP**



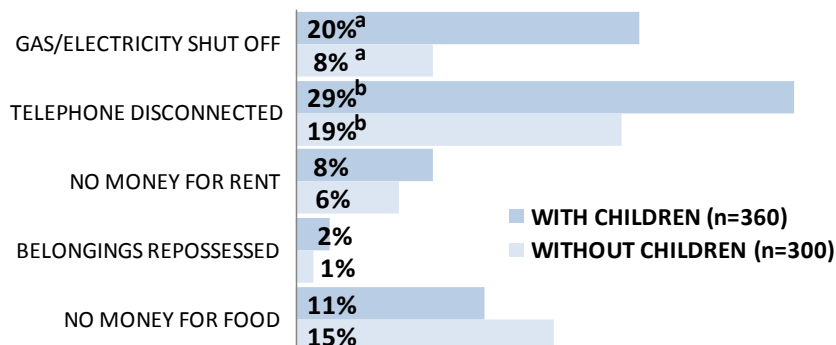
NOTE: Bars sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the  $p < .05$  level, chi-square tests.

**ECONOMIC HARDSHIP** Households with children reported a much greater average (0.67) number of economic hardships than those without children in the household (0.47). Figure 4 shows the distribution of hardship for the two groups. Households with children had fewer leaseholders experiencing no problems (56%) than those without children (67%). Figure 5 reports the types of problems experienced by the two groups. Overall, leaseholders in households with children reported many more problems with their gas or electricity being shut off or their telephone disconnected than those without children.

### SATISFACTION WITH RELOCATION

When asked about the effect of relocation on opportunities to improve their lives, most leaseholders, regardless of whether they had children in the household agreed that relocation had provided them the same or better opportunities (about 95% for both groups). With regard to the benefits of relocation for themselves and their families, slightly **more leaseholders living in households with children (74%) considered the move beneficial, compare to 67% for those without children.**

**FIGURE 5. TYPES OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP**

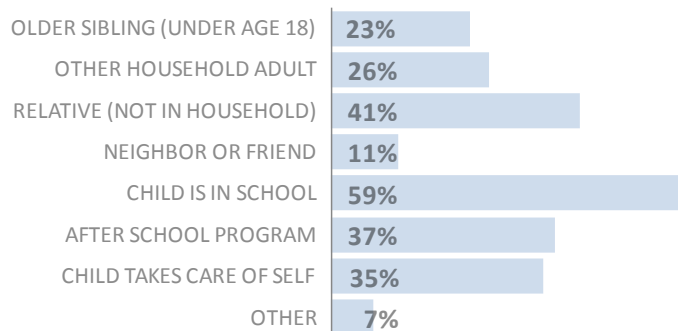


NOTE: Bars sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) indicate the groups are significantly different at the  $p < .05$  level, chi-square tests.

**SCHOOLING AND ACTIVITIES<sup>v</sup>** Over one-third of children who were in school and who had moved from the CHA development they lived in before relocation transferred schools as a result of relocation. **About half of leaseholders were more satisfied with the current school than the previous school the child attended; a fifth was less satisfied.** Of the children who were old enough to go to school, about two-thirds were involved in activities. The most frequently reported activities that children participated in were sports, afterschool programs, arts programs and tutoring.

**SAFETY** Most leaseholders (75%) reported that there are safe places nearby where children could play outdoors. Among those with safe places to play outdoors, the children played outside an average of 4.66 days per week. **Thirty-one percent of leaseholders reported that their children played outdoors more often than before relocation, compared to 20% who indicated that the children played outdoors less often.** Leaseholders were also asked whether they thought their child felt that the current neighborhood was *more safe*, *less safe*, or *about as safe* as where they lived before relocation. **Most leaseholders thought their child felt more safe (44%) or as safe (47%) in their current neighborhood and relatively few thought their child felt less safe (9%) than before the move.**

**FIGURE 6. CHILDCARE**



NOTE: Leaseholders could code multiple responses.

**CHILDCARE** The survey asked leaseholders who cared for the focal child when the primary caregiver was not at home. The most frequently cited responses included that, when the primary caregiver was not available, the child was at school (59%) or being cared for by a relative not living in the household (41%). Very few leaseholders reported that the child had a paid babysitter (2%) or attended a child care center (3%, included in the OTHER category in Figure 6).

<sup>i</sup> Only leaseholders who reported that their preferred choice was subsidized housing were included in the analysis (n=661). Number of cases reported is unweighted and percentages are weighted.

<sup>ii</sup> Unweighted number of cases with children (n=360) and without children (n=300). One case did not have data on the presence of children in the household.

<sup>iii</sup> The leaseholders began relocation in 2002 or 2003, depending on whether they part of the Phase II or Phase III group of movers.

<sup>iv</sup> There are cases where the leaseholder is living in an unsubsidized housing unit or the data are missing. For households with children there are 23 missing/unsubsidized cases and for households without children there are 28 cases excluded from this table.

<sup>v</sup> The results that follow are based on a focal child selected randomly from all the household children, as detailed in RRS Wave 4 report (weighted n=363, unweighted n=360).