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Reducing Intergenerational Poverty

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Poverty

Consensus Study Report

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The U.S. Congress asked the National Academies to provide a non-partisan, evidence-based report that:

Identifies **key drivers** of long-term, intergenerational poverty

Identifies **evidence-based policies** and programs that have the potential to significantly reduce the effects of the key drivers of intergenerational poverty
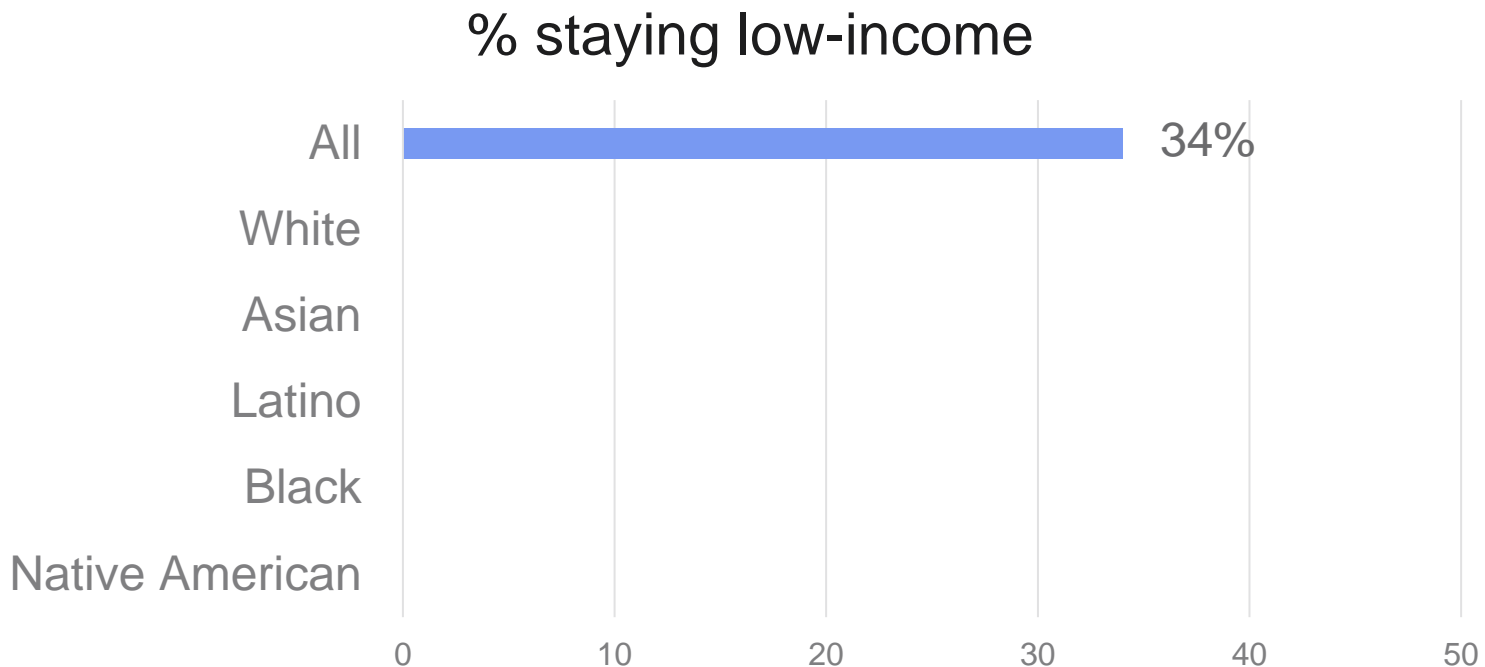
Evaluates the **racial and ethnic disparities and structural factors** that help perpetuate intergenerational poverty

Identifies key, high-priority **gaps in the data and research** needed to develop effective policies for reducing intergenerational poverty in the U.S.

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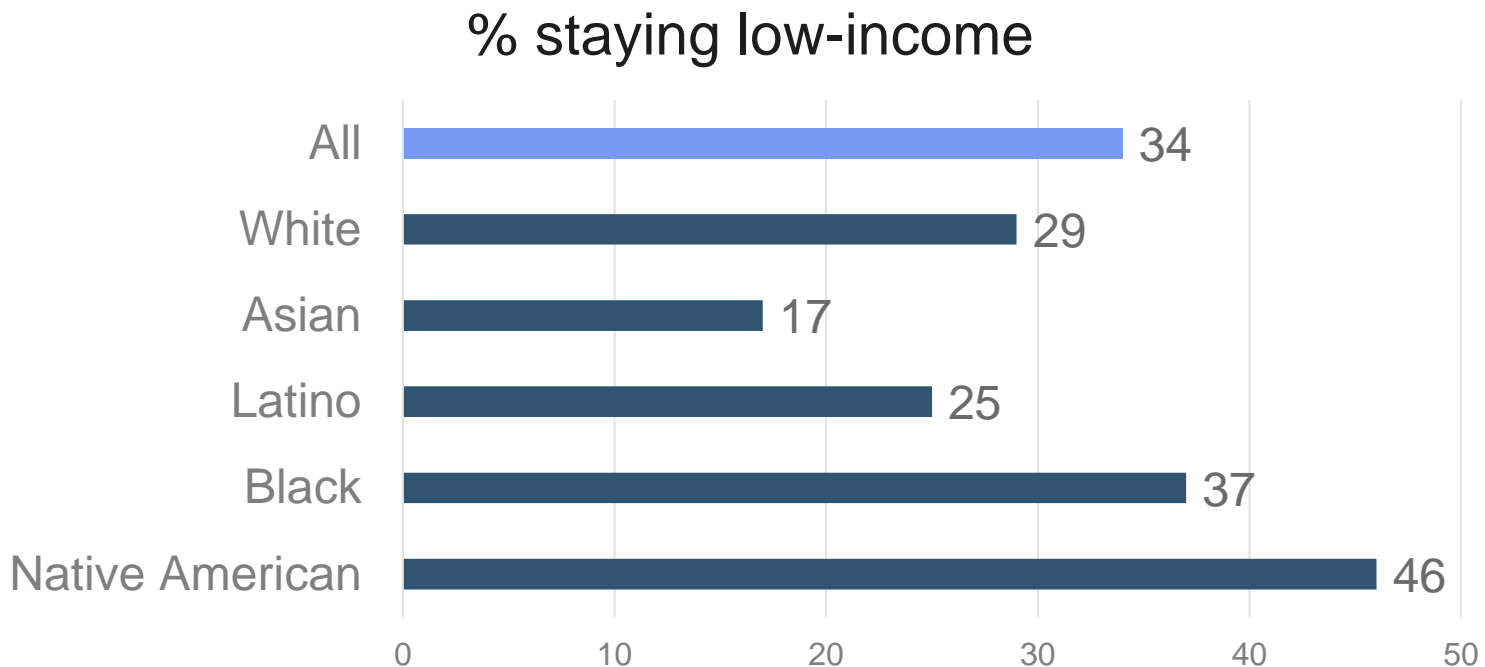
Intergenerational poverty

A situation in which children who grow up in families with incomes below the poverty line are themselves poor as adults

Intergenerational Persistence of Low-Income Status Differs Sharply by Race

% staying low-income

All	████████████████ 34%
White	
Asian	
Latino	
Black	
Native American	

0   10   20   30   40   50

Chetty et al. (2020)

Intergenerational Persistence of Low-Income Status Differs Sharply by Race

% staying low-income

Race	% staying low-income
All	34
White	29
Asian	17
Latino	25
Black	37
Native American	46

Chetty et al. (2020)

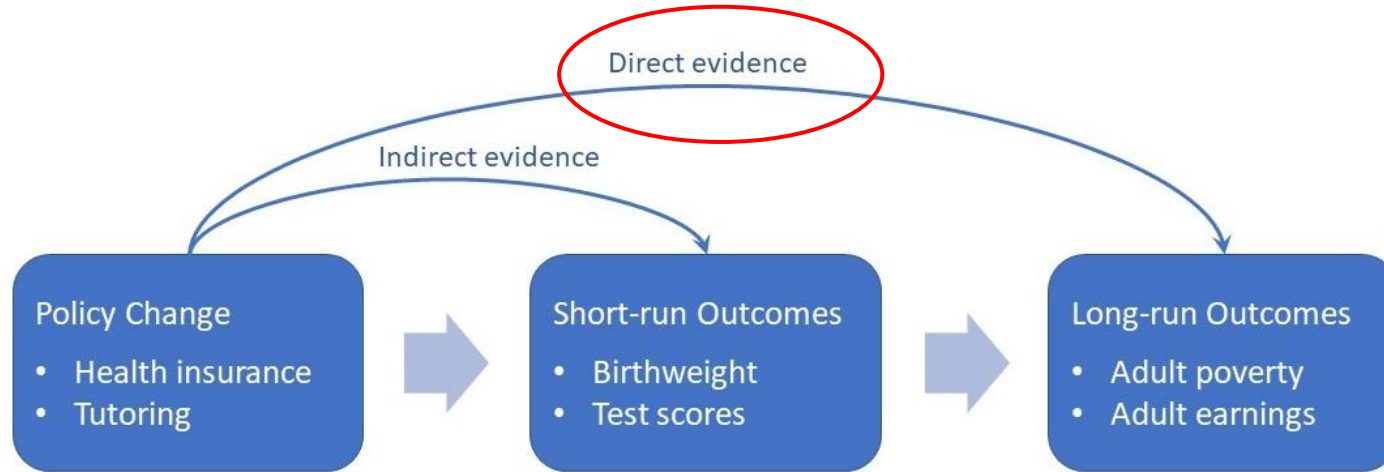NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

Key Drivers of Intergenerational Poverty…
and Programs and Policies to Address Them

From the Committee's Statement of Task

- The committee will identify **key drivers** of long-term, intergenerational poverty

- The committee will **identify policies and programs** … for which there is *strong evidence* that they will reduce multi-generational poverty

Direct vs. Indirect Evidence

Key Limitation of our Strict Standards of Evidence

- Many worthy policies and programs may not make our list because they lack strong, long-run evidence

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Seven Potential Drivers of Intergenerational Poverty

Children's **Education** and the Education System

Child **Health** and the Health Care System

Family **Income and Wealth** and Parental **Employment**

Family Structure

Housing, Residential Mobility, and Neighborhood Conditions

Neighborhood Safety and the Criminal Justice System

Child Maltreatment and the Child Welfare System

We Will Highlight Evidence in Five Areas

- Education

- Employment

- Health

- Crime

- Housing

Education

Education policies and programs

K-12

- Increase K-12 school spending in the poorest districts
- Increase teacher workforce diversity
- Reduce exclusionary school discipline

Post secondary

- Expand effective financial aid programs for low-income college students
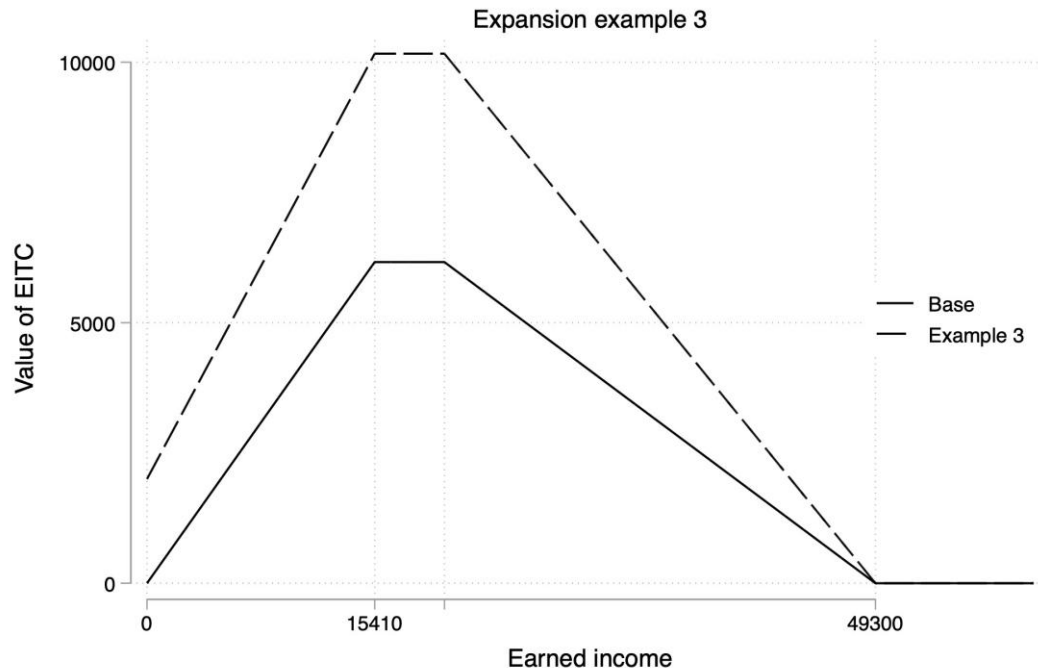- Increase campus supports such as tutoring and case management

Occupational training

- Expand high-quality career and technical education programs in high school
- Expand occupational training programs for adults and youth

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Income and Employment

Family Income, Employment, and Wealth

Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by increasing payments along some or all portions of the schedule and possibly by providing a credit to families with no earnings

Expansion example 3

Health

Child and Maternal Health Programs and Policies

Family Planning

- Increase funding for Title X family planning programs

- Ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to family planning services

Health Insurance

- Expand access to Medicaid with continuous 12-month eligibility and 12-month post-partum coverage

- Expand access to Indian Health Services for all eligible mothers and children

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Child and Maternal Health Programs and Policies (con't)

Nutrition

- Expand child access to SNAP program benefits for legal permanent residents and undocumented parents

Air quality

- Support the EPA in working with local partners to adopt and expand efficient methods of monitoring outdoor and—especially in schools—indoor air quality

Crime

Crime and the Justice System Programs and Policies

Juvenile confinement

- Use juvenile confinement only for youth who pose a serious and immediate threat to public safety

Reducing victimization and crime

- Scale up programs that abate vacant lots and abandoned homes
- Increase grants to community-based organizations
- Expand funding for policing in high-crime neighborhoods
- Expand use of effective strategies like community policing

Crime and the Justice System Programs and Policies (con't)

Reducing gun violence

- Improve gun safety in ways that pass constitutional review

- Promote child access prevention laws and restrictions on right-to-carry laws, limit access to guns by domestic abusers

- Promote sentencing add-ons for violence involving firearms

Reducing Offending via Investments in Children

- Scale-up evidence-based therapeutic interventions such as the Becoming a Man program

- Increase K-12 school spending in the poorest districts

Housing

Housing and Neighborhood Programs and Policies

Promote residential mobility

- Expand coverage of the Housing Choice Voucher program and couple it with customized counseling and case management services to facilitate moves to low-poverty neighborhoods

Applying a Racial/Ethnic Disparities Lens

From the Committee's Statement of Task

The committee will apply a racial/ethnic disparities lens in analyzing the literature on key determinants of entrenched poverty and the evidence on the effectiveness of programs designed to address those determinants.

Policies and Programs That Address Disparities

The committee identified 12 policy and program ideas supported by direct evidence on reducing intergenerational poverty for Black children.

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Education

✓ Increase K-12 school spending in the poorest districts.

✓ Recruit Black teachers.

✓ Reduce exclusionary school discipline.

✓ Expand effective financial aid and tutoring programs for low-income students.

✓ Expand high-quality career and technical education programs in high school and sectoral training programs for adults and youth.

• Expand occupational training programs for adults and youth

Child and Maternal Health

✓ Expand access to Medicaid with continuous 12-month eligibility and 12-month post-partum coverage.

✓ Support U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with local partners to adopt and expand efficient methods of monitoring outdoor and indoor air quality, especially in and near schools.

• Increase funding for Title X family planning programs

• Ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to family planning services

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28

Family Income, Employment, and Wealth

✓ Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by increasing payments along some or all portions of the schedule.

Neighborhood Crime and the Criminal Justice System

✓ Eliminate most or all juvenile detention and incarceration for non-felony offenses and most non-violent felony offenses.

✓ Scale-up evidence-based therapeutic interventions such as the Becoming a Man program.

✓ Scale up programs that abate vacant lots and abandoned homes; increase grants to community-based organizations.

✓ Expand funding for policing in high- crime neighborhoods and use of effective strategies like community policing.

• Increase grants to community-based organizations

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The Study
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Thank You!

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