

Child Poverty

A practical tool for primary care

Poverty Interventions for Child Health



What can we do as physicians to address this potentially modifiable risk factor and reduce disparities?

Poverty requires intervention like other major health risks. The evidence shows that socioeconomic status and child health are strongly linked.

Children living in poverty are more likely to experience low birth weight, learning difficulties, mental health problems, iron deficiency anemia, asthma, burns and

injuries, obesity and hospitalization than their more affluent peers. Infant mortality is 60% higher in lowest income quintile neighbourhoods.

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There is strong and growing evidence that higher social and economic status is associated with better health. In fact, these two factors seem to be the most important determinants of health.

- Public Health Agency of Canada

ASK

- 1 Do you have trouble making ends meet?
- 2 Do you have trouble feeding your family?
- 3 Do you have trouble paying for medications?
- 4 Do you receive the child tax benefit?
- 5 Do you have legal or immigration challenges?
- 6 Do you have a safe and clean place to live?

See back for resources →

RESOURCES TO ADDRESS CHILD POVERTY

Consider photocopying for your patients

1 Do you find yourself running out of money to pay for food or shelter?

Benefits and Supports

www.canadabenefits.gc.ca

www.ontario.ca/BenefitsDirectory

Community Income Tax Clinics

1-800-959-8281

www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vlntr/clncs/on-eng.html

Social Support Programs

www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/odsp/

www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/ow/

2 Do you have trouble feeding your family?

Daily Bread Food Bank

416-203-0050

www.dailybread.ca

School aged children

www.breakfastclub.ca

3 Do you have trouble paying for medications?

Ontario Drug Benefit Program

416-314-5518 • 1-800-268-1154

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/drugs/

Trillium

www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/drugs/trillium.html

4 Do you receive the child tax benefit?

Service Canada

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cctb.shtml
1-800-622-6232

Canada Revenue Agency

www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/menu-eng.html
(includes links on universal child care benefit and children's special allowances)
1-800-387-1193

5 Do you have legal or immigration challenges?

OCASI-Settlement

416-322-4950

www.settlement.org

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

www.cleo.on.ca • 416-408-4420

Legal Aid Ontario

416-979-1446 • 1-800-668-8258

www.legalaid.on.ca

Access Alliance

416-324-8677

www.accessalliance.ca

6 Do you have a safe and clean place to live?

Assaulted Women's helpline

416-863-0511

Domestic violence women

416-323-9149

www.schliferclinic.com

Emergency Shelters

1-877-338-3398

Toronto Homeless Services

www.toronto.ca/housing

The Information and Referral Specialist at the Community Health Help Line 211, finds answers quickly, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and in more than 150 languages, anonymous & unrecorded.

When you don't know where to turn, call 211 (www.211ontario.ca) or visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca/