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Moving Poor Families Out of Poor Neighborhoods: Has the Idea Worked?
Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City Have Tried It
What Happens to the Children Moved from Poor to Non-poor Neighborhoods?

Poverty can limit a family's housing choices, and poor families quite obviously end up living in areas with high concentrations of poverty. It is not surprising, and the evidence also shows, that children growing up in poor neighborhoods are more likely to have developmental problems than children living in advantaged neighborhoods.

One policy mechanism used to minimize neighborhood poverty concentration that has gained popularity in recent years is neighborhood mobility programs. These programs offer low-cost housing dispersed throughout non-poor neighborhoods in lieu of public housing concentrated in poor neighborhoods. The programs offer vouchers for rent in a non-poor neighborhood or assistance in constructing low-rent housing in non-poor neighborhoods.

These mobility programs are based in part on the premise that reducing concentrations of poverty through expanded housing choice may lead to improvements in families' economic well-being that in turn will enhance children's development. Several researchers have evaluated the leading residential mobility programs, and they will present their findings during the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development, Boston, March 28-31, 2007.

- More than 7,000 African-American families moved as part of the *Gautreaux* program in Chicago; how did these families do, especially the mothers, girls and boys?
- Public housing residents in five U.S. cities were also moved to very low poverty neighborhoods. What do we know about these families 7 years after they were moved?
- Are there differences in African-American and Latino families that were moved through these programs?

Researchers: Tama Leventhal & Stefanie DeLuca, Johns Hopkins University; Susan Clampet-Lundquist, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia; Rebecca C Fauth, Columbia University.