

POSTER PRESENTATION – WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THE HOUSING CRISIS ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Introduction

Housing is a foundational determinant of health, which means that it is interconnected with other determinants of health, such as education and income and plays a crucial role in making sure that a person is fully functioning, healthy and happy (Mwoka, 2023)

Research aim and Objectives

- Undertake a comprehensive review of literature on the impact of the housing crisis for children and young people in the UK.
- Point out the appropriate methodologies used in the literature.
- Communicate the implications of the findings and provide recommendations.

Justification

131,370 children were living in England under parental guidance residing in temporary accommodation (Crisis, 2023).

In Wales, 3,346 children were also living in temporary accommodation, (The Children's Commissioner in Wales, 2023).

In Northern Ireland there were 4,500 children, Homeless Connect, (2023) and in Scotland, there was 9595 children with no fixed abode (GOV, Scott, 2023)

Methodologies

I undertook a thematic analysis of the literature to ensure a systematic approach to appraising literature. Additionally, using a CASP appraisal tool to decipher the quality and validity of literature used within the review (Long, French & Brooks, 2020).

Gaps in the literature Underrepresented groups were not included in some research.

Children's voices were not heard consistently

Themes

- Poverty and Homelessness
- Physical Health and Mental Health
- School Attrition Rates and Education
- Government Policy and Housing Provision

The themes derived from reoccurring factors within the appraised literature.

Findings

1. Poverty is the main driver of homelessness for young individuals. The literature points towards an insignificant way to measure poverty, however, still indicates that the median line that researchers used needs to be looked at with some skepticism.
2. Physical Health and Mental Health are intrinsically linked and are heavily influenced by homelessness.
3. Food poverty is affecting children's attrition rates and impacting on their education prospects., (GCSE results)
4. Government Policy and Provision - Incomplete data to provide a correct measurement of the level of homelessness.

References

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