

Homelessness in the early years has serious negative effects on health and development.



BEFORE BIRTH: Homelessness during pregnancy exacerbates barriers and inequities to access to prenatal care.



INFANTS: Homelessness during infancy interferes with safe sleep environments.



TODDLERS: Homelessness during toddlerhood can limit opportunities for movement and makes it difficult to monitor for developmental delays.



PRESCHOOLERS: Homelessness during the preschool years makes it difficult to keep books, crayons, and other learning items handy.

At any age, homelessness can result in:

- persistent hunger, lack of access to age-appropriate food
- barriers to health care access and follow-through
- safety being a low priority

Protective factors like timely assistance in obtaining basic needs can overcome the negative effects of extreme poverty and homelessness.

For more information on serving young children experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania, contact Tracy Duarte at tradua@pakeys.org.