The Adaptative Behavior of Homeless Children in Paris Region, France, in 2013 : Results of the Enfams Survey

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Introduction. Previous studies have revealed developmental problems in children of homeless families. The number of homeless families has increased by 5 in 10 years.

Objectives. To estimate the adaptative behavior of homeless children aged 0-5 years old in Paris region and to analyze the impact of homelessness on children's development.

Methods. In 2013, a random survey was conducted among homeless families housed in emergency centres for asylum-seekers, emergency housing centres, social reinsertion centres and social hotels in the Paris region. A bilingual interviewer and a psychologist conducted the survey in 17 languages. A nurse took the anthropometric measures and collected health data from child health and immunization cards. For children aged 0-5 years old, mothers (or fathers when mothers were absent) were asked about the children's adaptative behavior using the Vineland Adaptative Behavior Scales, Second Edition (Vineland-II).

Results. The built random sample consisted in 801 families including 557 in which the selected child was 0-5 years old, which represents 11448 children (95% CI = 10354 - 12541). The estimated mean of the composite score of Vineland-II is 76.98 (95% CI = 74.07 - 76.70) (SD = 12.03) which mean that 9259 children aged 0-5 years old (95% CI = 7684 - 10833) have a developmental delay. The most associated factor with the decrease of the Vineland-II score is the age ($p < 10^{-16}$) in the linear multivariate model.

Conclusion. ENFAMS survey reveals large developmental problems among homeless children in Paris region. More children are exposed to homelessness more the disorders are important.