

Affordable Housing Outcomes: What Does Success Look Like?

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Steve Pomeroy

Focus Consulting Inc. &

Carleton University Centre for Urban Research and
Education (CURE), Ottawa



Literature review of non-shelter outcomes)

- Review the linkages between housing and a broad range of non-housing outcomes.
- Identify empirical evidence (qualitative and quantitative) on the linkages between affordable, stable housing and outcomes in six theme areas:
 - health,
 - family stability,
 - education,
 - labour market and employment,
 - crime and safety, and
 - child development.



Great things (we think) affordable housing will do:

Improved employment

Improved income

Family stability
(avoid eviction)

Better Physical Health

Children school performance

Better Mental Health



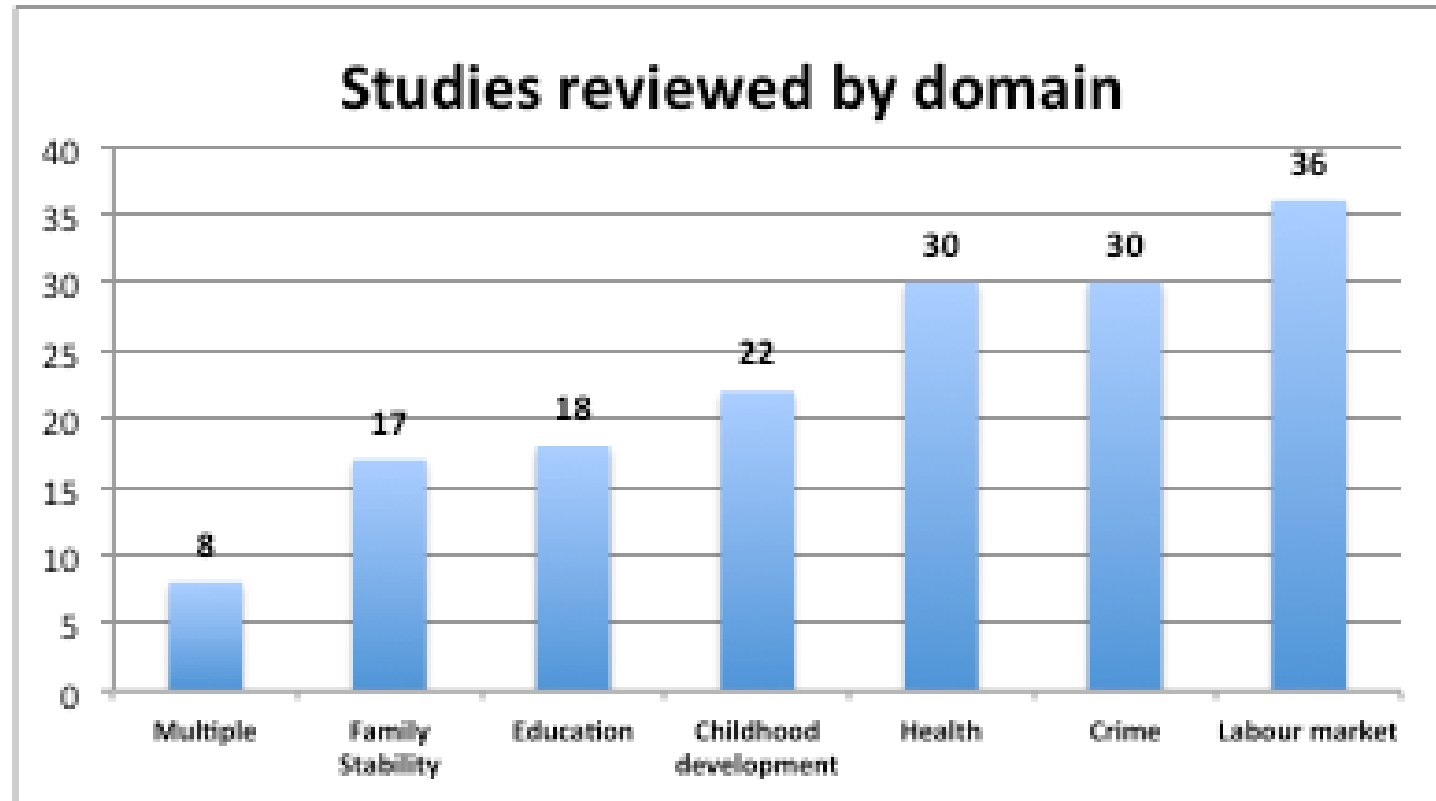
Low RGI Rent

Better Food

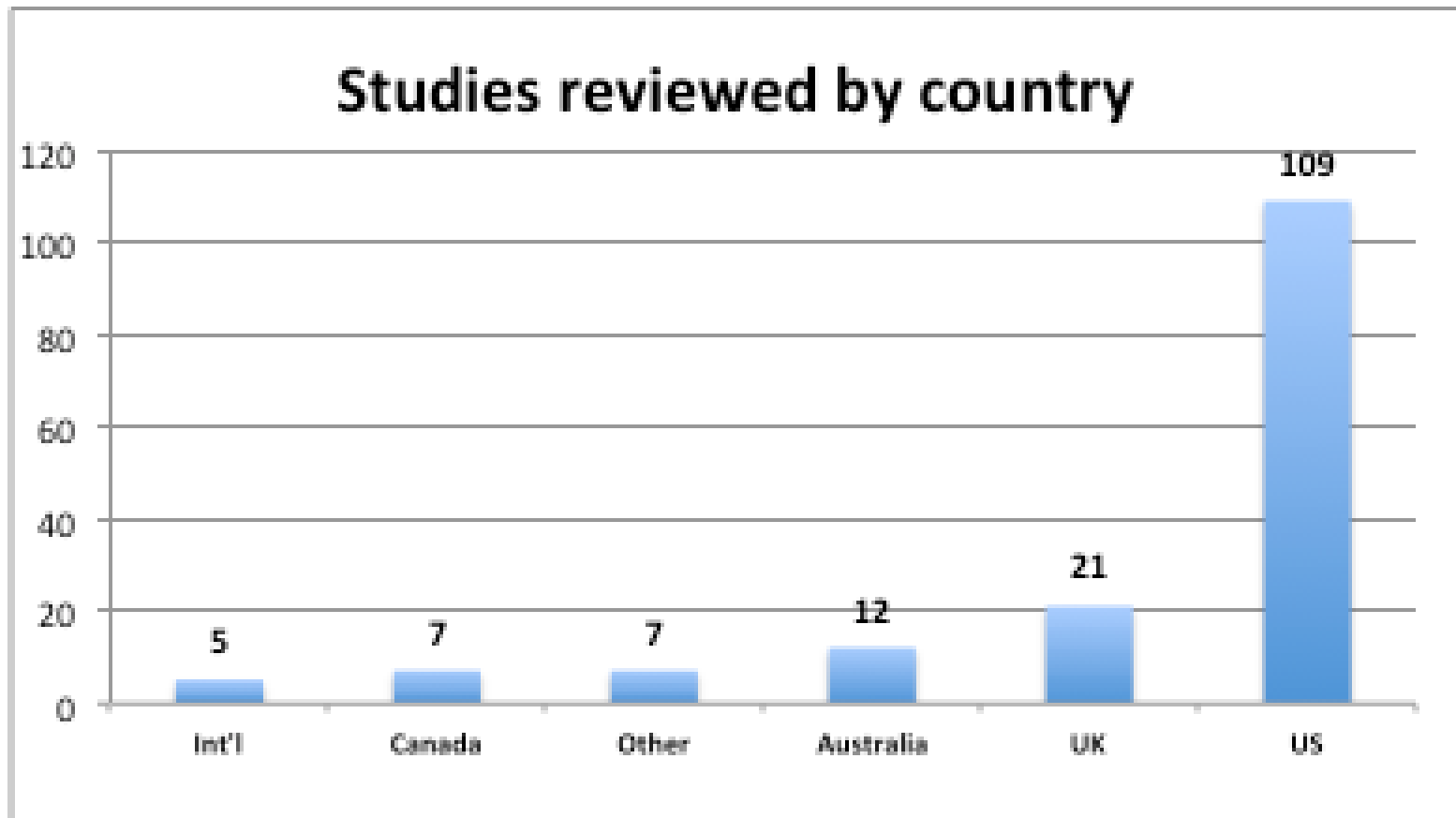
Safer n'hood



Review of empirical literature



Strong US body of literature



Findings

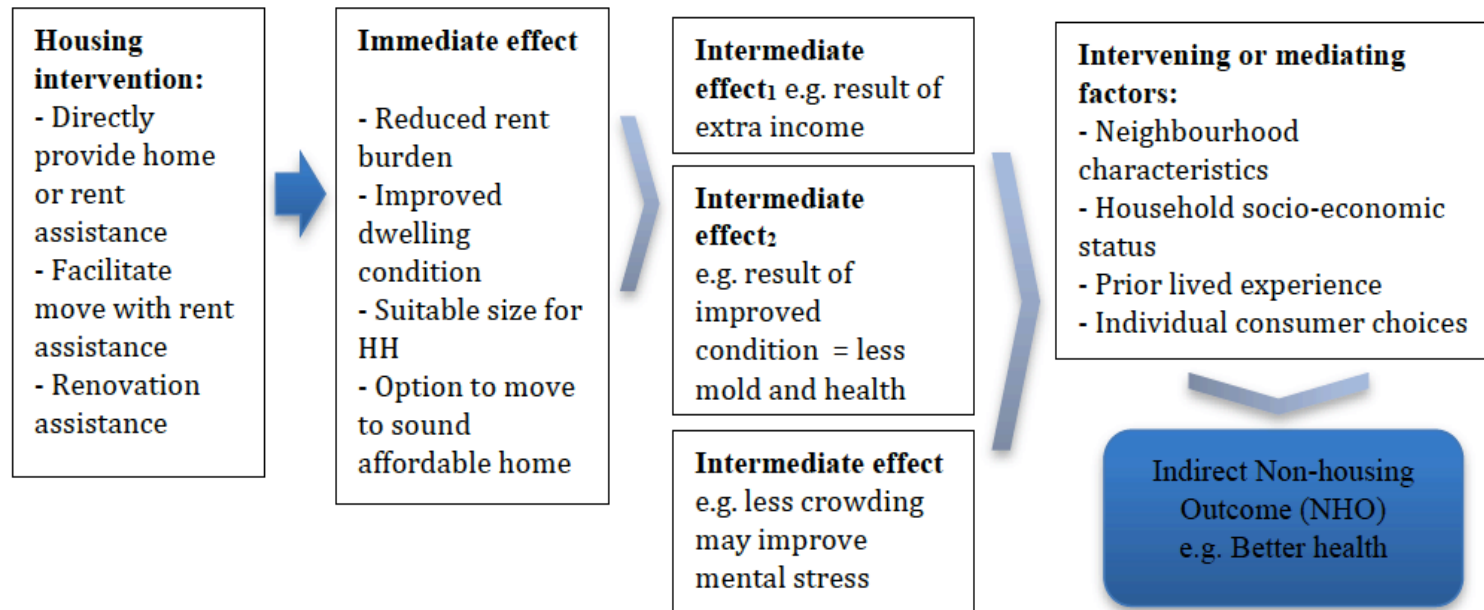
- Widely held belief about about positive benefit of affordable and appropriate housing, but difficult to find empirical evidence
- Limited (except health) sound statistically reliable evidence directly linking a housing characteristic with a positive outcome
- **Most outcomes are indirect and intermediate**
- Linkages and association, but not necessarily causality (evidence is inconclusive)
- And some negative effects (e.g. income and crime)
- Very limited research/evidence in Canada (7/200+)



Most effects are indirect

- Relate to better income
- and specific supports

Figure 1: Causality Chain



Housing one of many influences

- Other concurrent influences both mediate or reinforce housing effects
 - Neighbourhood effects especially important, as well as household characteristics
- In sum, *the impacts of affordable housing are often hard to measure and to isolate from the impacts of other significant factors*
- Also, *the form of housing assistance may contribute to different outcomes*
 - *E.g. large older public housing vs. new small non-profit vs. housing allowance.*



Key insights for providers

- Providing housing in good condition is a good start, but
- It's the other things you do that matter
 - E.g. King County Seattle – school programs
 - San Diego Housing Commission – achievement academy
 - Housing First wrap around supports
- Can we use administrative data linked to other data (health, education, incomes to build a better picture and to help reinforce policy and investment



Thank you!

