Foreclosure can make you sick

By Daniel Weintraub

Going through a home foreclosure and its aftermath can be hazardous to your health, a California advocacy group for low-income residents said Thursday.

Causa Justa/Just Cause, an Oakland-based nonprofit, and the Alameda County Public Health Department surveyed nearly 400 Oakland residents last summer and found that people experiencing
foreclosure reported higher incidence of physical and mental health problems than residents living in stable situations.

The issues triggered by foreclosure also impact tenants who live in buildings they do not own, as owners neglect the property and unhealthy conditions develop and persist.

Among the findings:

• 43 percent of tenants living in current or recently foreclosed buildings are worried about being evicted or forced to move out, in spite of the JustCause for Eviction ordinance in Oakland.

• 31 percent of tenants in foreclosed buildings report they are now living in unhealthy places where there are substandard conditions like mold, rodents, and cockroaches.

• Those recently experiencing foreclosure are at 2 times greater risk of living in more crowded living situations with five or more people. Residents experiencing foreclosure and related problems of housing instability are significantly more likely to report that their physical health has become worse over the past 2 years.

Other findings from the survey:

• More than 1 in 5 residents is unemployed, and problems of underemployment are widely evident. More than 1 in 4 full-time workers and 2 in 3 part-time workers are looking for more or better work.

• The rate of foreclosure is over 2 times higher among the unemployed compared to those working full-time or part-time.

• Of those who are working, the rate of foreclosure is nearly 3 times higher among the underemployed (as measured by those who are working and yet seeking additional work).

To see the full report, go here.

NOTE: The survey was funded by the California Endowment, which was also the initial funder of healthycal.org

Share:

Related Posts

New foreclosure rules blessed by Senate banking panel, Santa Ana foreclosure fix moving slowly, Report shows health disparities between white and minority boys and young men, Obesity rates keep climbing in US, Basic costs in California: $75,000 for a family of four

This entry was posted on Thursday, September 2nd, 2010 at 12:00 pm and is filed under California Health Report. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.
• Join Our Community

Conversation, Newsletter, Briefings

Where the policy world meets the real world on health, environment, land-use, transportation and more.

Email Address  Sign Up

• Follow Us:

• Tags

AB 32  Ashby Wolfe  breast cancer  budget  children  diesel  disparities  doctors  Every Woman Counts  federal government  foreclosures  global warming  greenhouse gas  health  insurance  health reform  healthy families  Healthy San Francisco  Housing  in-home care  jobs  managed care  Medi-Cal  nutrition  Oakland  obesity  pollution  prevention  public health  regulation  Richmond  San Diego  San Francisco  SB 375  Schwarzenegger  single-payer  smoking  soda  soda tax  taxes  tobacco  transit  unemployment  violence  whooping cough  youth

Leave a Reply

You must be logged in to post a comment.