



Housing Problems for Disabled People

Brandeis | THE HELLER SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL POLICY
AND MANAGEMENT

Lurie Institute for Disability Policy
Institute for Economic and Racial Equity

To Start



Both people with and without disabilities should have good housing.

Here's what makes housing good:



✓ You should have housing that you can pay for easily.



✓ Your house or apartment should be well taken care of.



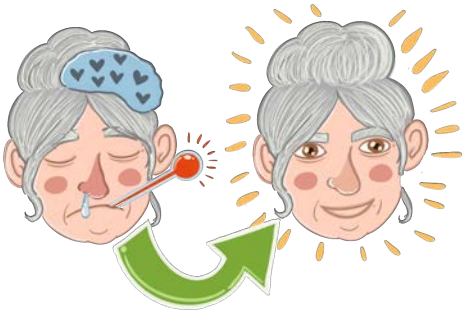
✓ Your neighborhood should be safe.



When you have good housing, you can spend time with your friends and family.



It's easier to stay healthy when you have good housing.



If you have good housing, it's also easier to get better when you are sick.



But when you don't have good housing, there's a lot that you have to worry about. You may worry a lot about paying your rent or mortgage.



You may get sick—or even sicker if you're already sick.



Having good housing is very important if you want to be happy and healthy.



But many disabled people don't have good housing, especially people who need a lot of help at home.

Money and Housing



Many disabled people spend a lot of their money on housing.



Some disabled people **spend more than half their money** on housing.



When disabled people spend most of their money on housing, they have less money for other things.



They have less money for food.



They have less money for healthcare.



Sometimes people with disabilities don't have enough money to pay for their housing. They may be late paying their rent or mortgage.



If they can't pay for their housing, they may lose it!

Bad-Quality Housing



Disabled people are more likely to live in bad-quality housing than people without disabilities. Bad-quality housing may have leaky roofs, broken fridges, cracked walls, or broken pipes.



People who need help in their houses are about 4 times as likely to have bad-quality housing as people without disabilities.



This is unfair.



Everyone should have good-quality housing.

Unsafe Neighborhoods



It's important to live in a good neighborhood where you can get around, feel safe, and get the help you need.



But many disabled people live in unsafe neighborhoods.



Their neighborhoods are more likely to have natural disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods.



People with disabilities are also more likely to live in neighborhoods with a lot of crime.

Takeaways



Disabled people need good housing, but they don't always get it.



- Some people with disabilities pay too much money for their housing.



- Some disabled people live in bad-quality housing.



- And other disabled people live in unsafe neighborhoods.



Researchers and helpers must learn how to help disabled people get good housing.

Credits:

Written and illustrated by Finn Gardiner,
Communications Specialist, Lurie Institute for Disability
Policy.

Based on “Unaffordable, Inaccessible, and Dangerous:
Housing Disparities for People with Disabilities in the
U.S.,” by Kartik Trivedi, Tatjana Meschede, and Finn
Gardiner (2020).

Disclaimer/Funding Statement:

The Community Living Policy Center (CLPC) is funded by
the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living,
and Rehabilitation Research, grant number
90TRCPO004. NIDILRR is a Center within the
Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This
website’s contents reflect the views of the authors and
not the National Institute on Disability, Independent
Living, and Rehabilitation Research.