

Breana R. Cervantes¹, Madeleine Allman¹, Hannah Wolf¹, Nabeeha Asim¹, Quenette L. Walton¹, Judith McFarlane², & Carla Sharp¹
University of Houston¹, Texas Woman's University²

BACKGROUND

- Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) is associated with significant risk of child mental health problems and is particularly high among African American children.
- Support for survivors of IPV and their children is increasingly taking the form of long-term rehousing programs.
- A child's home environment is a critical component of their daily functioning has been established as a risk and/or protective factor in the development of mental health problems.
- The quality of a child's home environment provided through an IPV rehousing program is a unique context.
- Little is known about the qualitative characteristics of the home environment, including observable racial socialization parenting practices among African American families, and their relation to child outcomes.

CURRENT STUDY

- Leveraging a larger study (1R01HD102436-01A1), the current study aimed to:
 1. Qualitatively describe the home environments of mothers and children in a long-term PV rehousing program
 2. Evaluate preliminary relations between the quality of home environment and caregiver- and child-reported mental health outcomes

METHOD

Participants

- $N = 39$ mothers ($M_{age} = 34.9$, 46.2% African American) and their children ($M_{age} = 9.6$, 48.7% African American) residing in a rehousing program for IPV survivors

Measures

- Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) Inventory
- Africentric Home Environment Inventory
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

RESULTS

Aim 1.

HOME Domain	M (SD)
Responsivity (points possible: 10)	8.4 (1.6)
Encouragement of Maturity (points possible: 7)	4.9 (1.6)
Emotional Climate (points possible: 8)	5.7 (1.4)
Learning Materials & Opportunities (points possible: 8)	4.1 (1.5)
Enrichment (points possible: 8)	3.9 (1.8)
Family Companionship (points possible: 6)	3.8 (1.4)
Family Integration (points possible: 4)	.89 (.68)
Physical Environment (points possible: 6)	6.3 (1.9)
Total HOME (points possible: 59)	38 (7.0)
Total Africentric HOME (points possible: 10)	3.5 (1.9)

RESULTS CONTINUED

Aim 2.

- Pearson's correlations revealed several statistically significant associations at the $p < .05$ level.
- The HOME subdomains of Encouragement of Maturity, Emotional Climate, Family Companionship, and Physical Environment appeared to demonstrate the highest number of significant associations with SDQ scores.
- No significant associations between Africentric HOME and SDQ scores.

DISCUSSION

- The present sample's characteristics were similar to the HOME manual's published averages in a low-income, racially diverse sample of middle childhood-aged children (Bradley et al., 1988).
- Compared to other published means, our sample had lower mean Africentric HOME scores, even compared to other samples with low socioeconomic status (SES) (Caughy et al., 2002). These findings are consistent with evidence that lower SES populations and other negative social climates have lower observable racial socialization practices (Caughy et al., 2011).
- Lower quality of home environment was associated with greater child mental health problems and fewer prosocial behaviors, per caregiver report.
- HOME subscales with the greatest strength of association reflect specific resources/opportunities to consider increasing access to at the rehousing policy level.