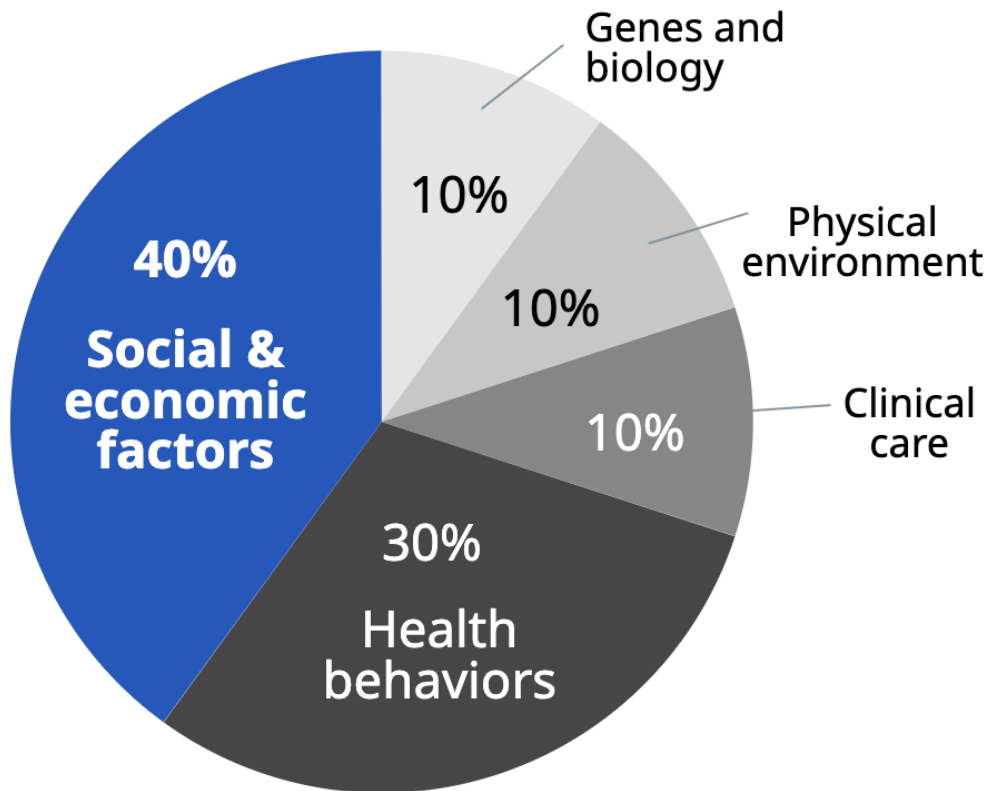


# Improving **Health Outcomes** and **Health Equity** Using **Legal Advocacy**

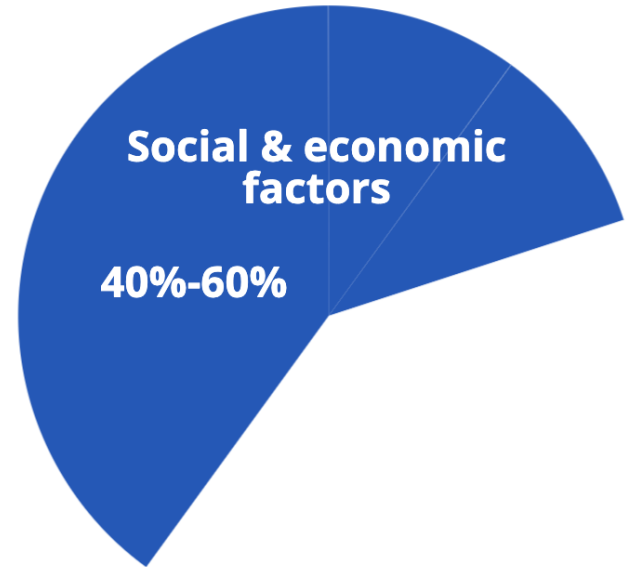
Mary Asbury, Executive Director  
Rachel Barr, Senior Supervising Attorney

September 10, 2024

# What Determines Health?



For the population we work with, **40-60%** is a more accurate estimate





**Minority and low-income individuals** are at **greater risk of poor health outcomes**



## Ways to Improve Health Outcomes & Equity

- Health insurance
- Dental care
- Healthy food access
- School achievement
- Safe communities and neighborhoods
- Childcare
- Mental health services
- Access to **effective legal advocacy**

A photograph showing a corner of a light blue wall and a white gutter. The wall and gutter are heavily stained with dark, fuzzy mold or mildew, particularly concentrated in the corner where the wall meets the gutter. The gutter is white and appears to be made of plastic or metal. The overall scene suggests a water leak or moisture problem that has led to mold growth.

People do not know what **legal advocacy** can fix



Legal Aid serves individuals and families whose annual income is **less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit**

## 45 Attorneys and 15 Paralegals



**Over 4,700 cases** in 2023



Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton,  
Hamilton, Highland, and Warren



# Legal Aid Priorities



## Housing

Unhealthy housing conditions

Eviction



## Benefits

SNAP

Cash assistance

Social Security



## Education

Expulsion

Special Education



## Family

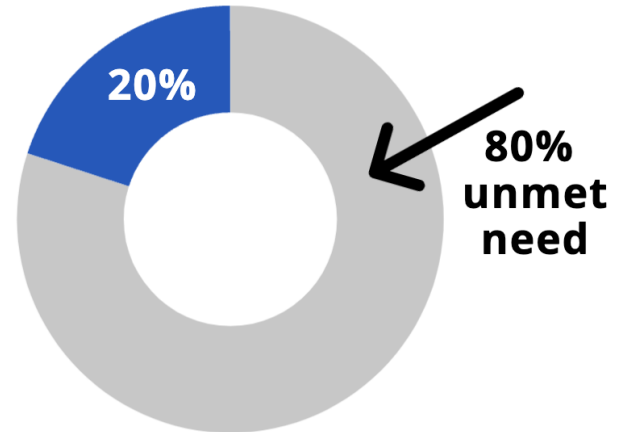
Partner violence

Divorce

Custody

Legal Aid is **only able to address 20%**  
**of civil legal needs** of low-income  
communities.

**This unmet need is a nationwide crisis.**





Health



Law



**Improved  
health  
outcomes**

Legal Aid has created **3 health law partnerships** [HLPs or MLPs] to use legal advocacy to address and resolve issues for low income children, families and pregnant women.



CHILD HELP  
CINCINNATI CHILD HEALTH-LAW PARTNERSHIP



HEALTH EQUITY  
NETWORK



## **We teach healthcare providers to identify Social Determinants of Health**

- Common social legal issues that low- income patients face
- Which issues might be resolved through legal advocacy

**↑ Legal Help Reduces Stress &  
Promotes Maternal & Newborn Health**



# Providing Legal Advocacy Reduces Hospital

## Admissions by 38%

Research By: Andrew Beck, MD, MPH | Robert Kahn, MD, MPH

Post Date: March 7, 2022 | Publish Date: March 7, 2022



HealthAffairs

[clinical](#) [exposures](#) [video](#)



*Study in Health Affairs led by Cincinnati Children's provides rigorous calculation of the impact of medical-legal partnerships, suggests expansion*

Ever since pushing a large landlord in Cincinnati to correct toxic housing conditions in 2009, clinicians at Cincinnati Children's have had powerful anecdotal evidence that a long-running partnership with the [Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati](#) was making real improvement in child health outcomes.

Now they have a large body of data to prove it.

“If this were a pill that demonstrated a 38% reduction across so many kids in terms of hospitalization, **every pharmaceutical company in the country would be going after it, and every healthcare payer would be figuring out how to cover it.**”

- Robert Kahn, MD, MPH

# Legal advocacy

✓ improves **health outcomes**

✓ promotes **health equity**