

# Risk Factors Associated with Chronic Absenteeism



## What are the risk factors?

Multiple risk factors can contribute to students missing school. Children living in poverty are about two times more likely to be chronically absent due to food insecurity and the lack of unstable housing and transportation. Students are more likely to be chronically absent due to neighborhood violence and a negative school climate.

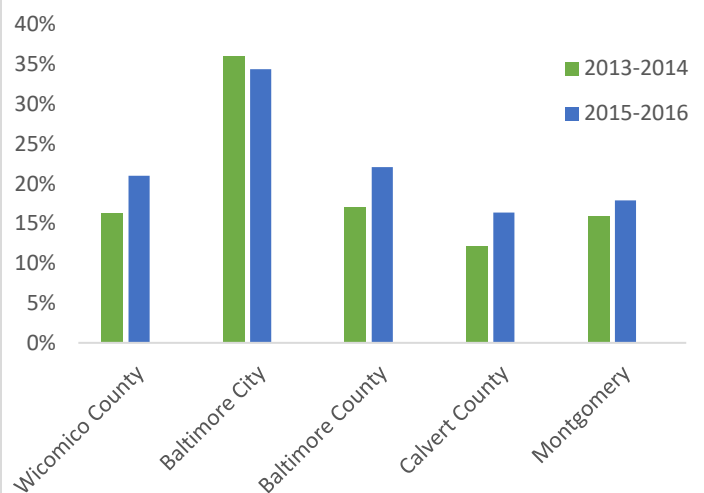
## Health and Chronic Absence

Poor health is another risk factor associated with chronic absenteeism, especially for children living in poverty. These absences are often excused. Health related causes include chronic disability, oral health, and asthma. Asthma is one of the most common health related illnesses linked to school absenteeism. Asthma rates of children living in Baltimore City is more than twice the national average. On a national level, Baltimore has one of the highest rates of pediatric hospitalizations for asthma.

## What are the Outcomes for Chronically Missing School?

- Students who are chronically absent are less likely to reach reading proficiency at the end of third grade
- By sixth grade, absenteeism over several years is an early warning sign on whether a student finishes high school
- By ninth grade, absenteeism is a better prediction of whether a student graduates from high school than eighth grade test scores.

## Chronic Absenteeism by County



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