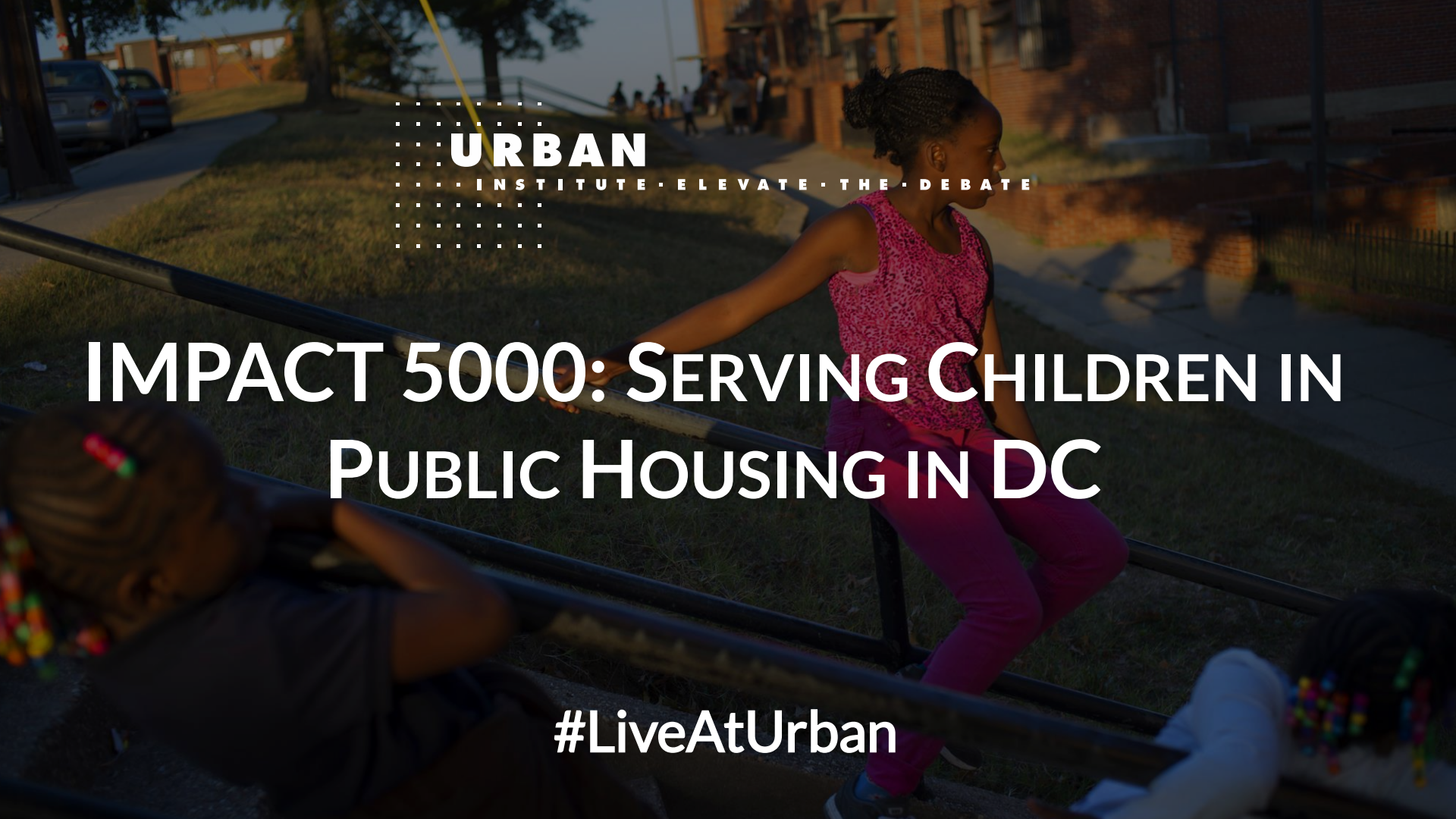

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IMPACT 5000: SERVING CHILDREN IN PUBLIC HOUSING IN DC

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January 18, 2017

IMPACT 5000: Serving Children in Public Housing in DC

A Unique Partnership & Innovative Design

- DCHA commissioned in order to get a picture of its families with children
- Partnership between Urban, DCHA, Howard University, and the University of the District of Columbia
- DCHA residents served as “field locators”, assisting with outreach, communications, and logistics
- Teams from Howard and UDC conducted surveys using tablets

Key Findings from Needs Assessment

- Parents are an important asset: they are engaged with their children and most say their children are doing well overall
- But families are coping with economic uncertainty and tough community challenges
- Because of these challenges, a substantial proportion of parents report that they and their children are struggling

DCHA parents are a strong asset

- The majority of parents of young children says that they regularly read books, tell stories, sing songs, and play outside with them
- More than half report that their young children (6-11) are doing well overall (exhibit 5 out of 6 positive behaviors)
- Nearly the same proportion report that their teens (12-17) are also doing well

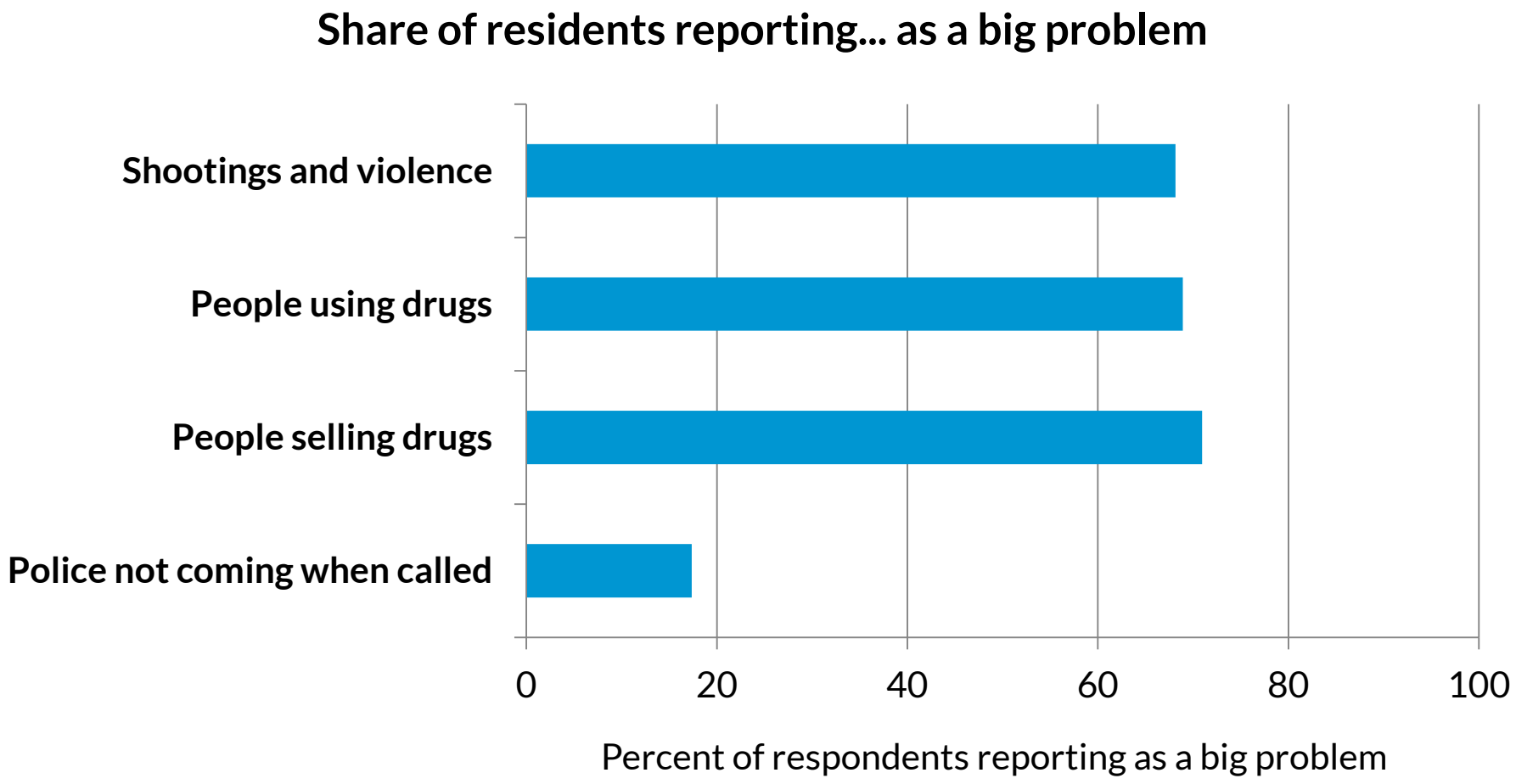
Families face steep economic challenges

- Only one-in-three adults is working outside the home
- But most have finished high school
- **Majority rely on public assistance (80% of households use SNAP, 37% use SSI: 54% use TANF/PA)**

Families are struggling to make ends meet

- More than a third report experiencing food insecurity
- About the same number say they have struggled to pay rent on time in the past year
- **One in five say they have been threatened with eviction**

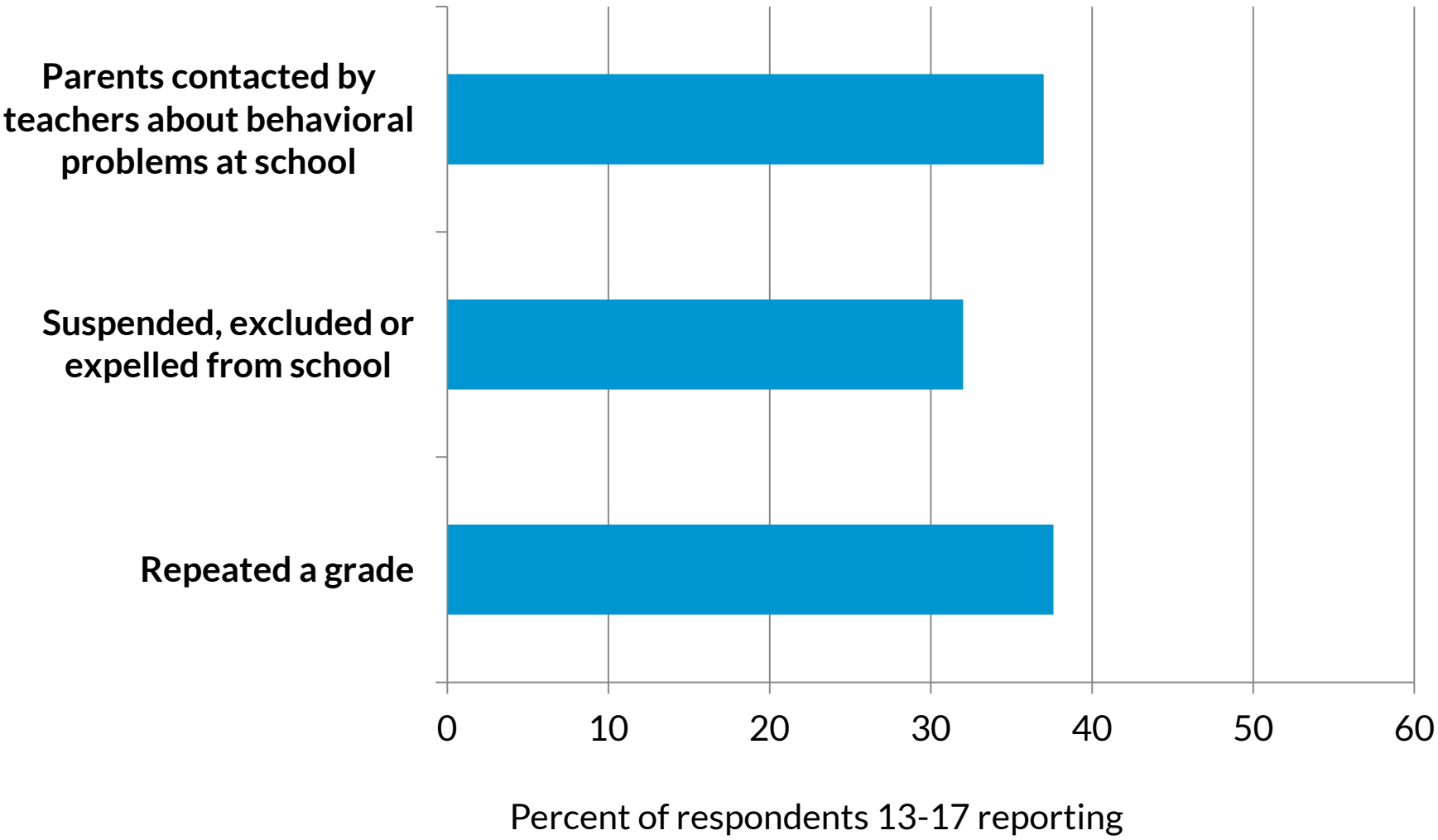
DCHA families are raising their children in dangerous conditions



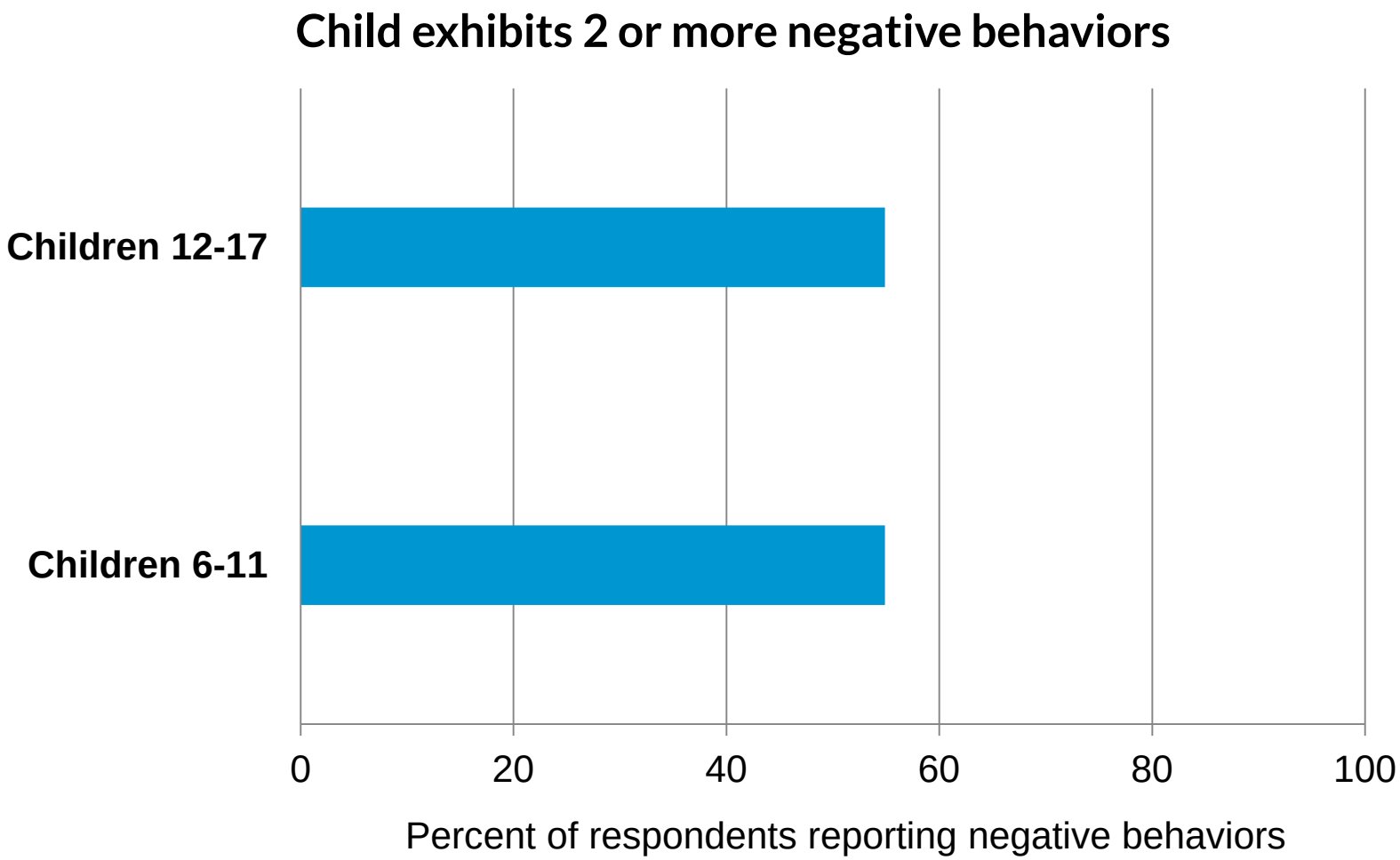
A substantial proportion of both adults and children report poor health

- Parents have serious physical and mental health challenges
  - More than 1 in 3 report fair/poor health, asthma, worry/anxiety
  - 1 in 5 scored clinically depressed
- Some parents report their children also have chronic health problems
  - 1 in 3 report their child has asthma
  - 20 percent say their child is overweight
  - 14 percent say their child has a chronic condition

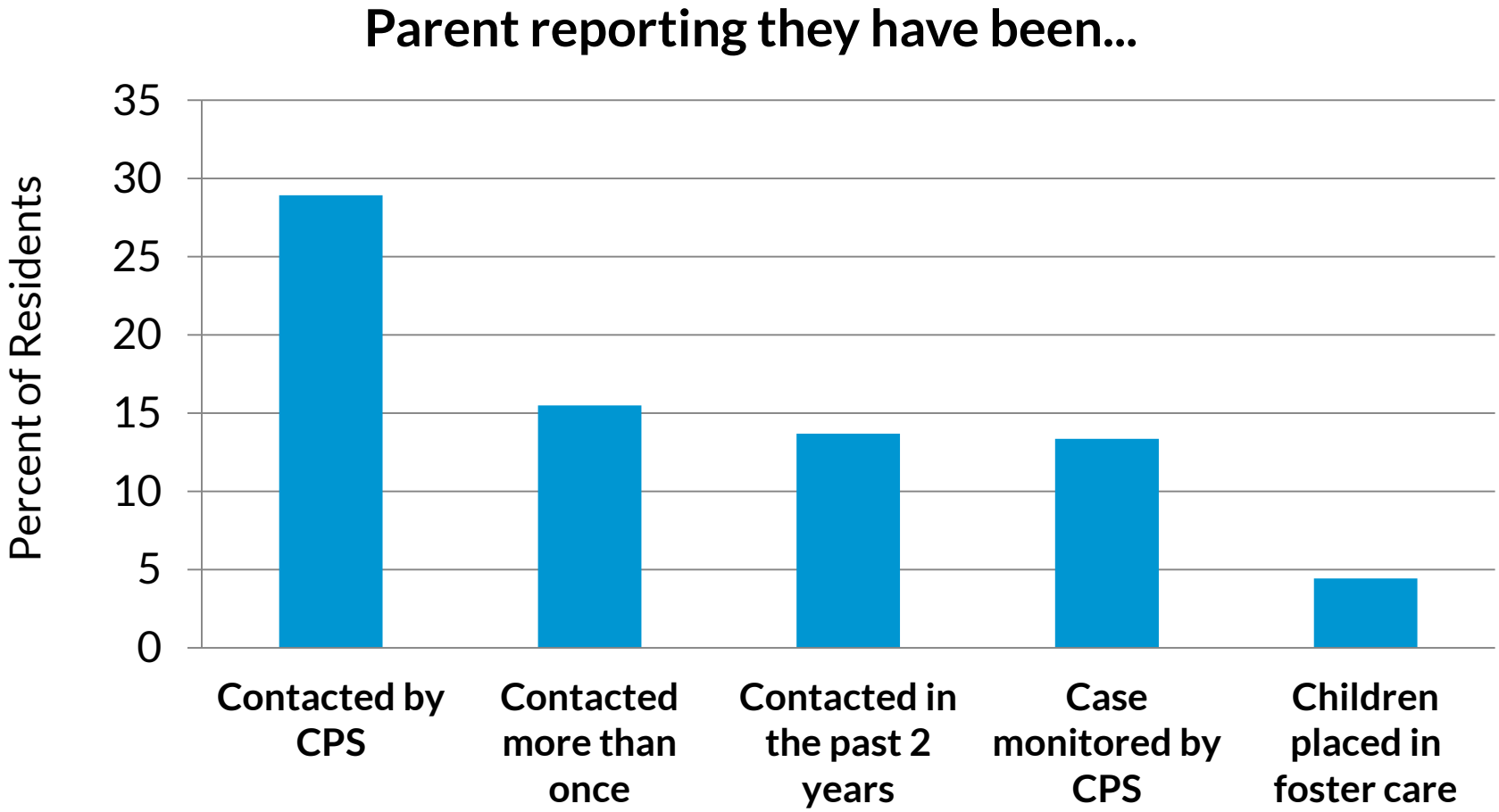
Youth are struggling in school



Over half of parents report children have behavior problems, indicating poor mental health



1 in 4 parents say they have been contacted by child protective services

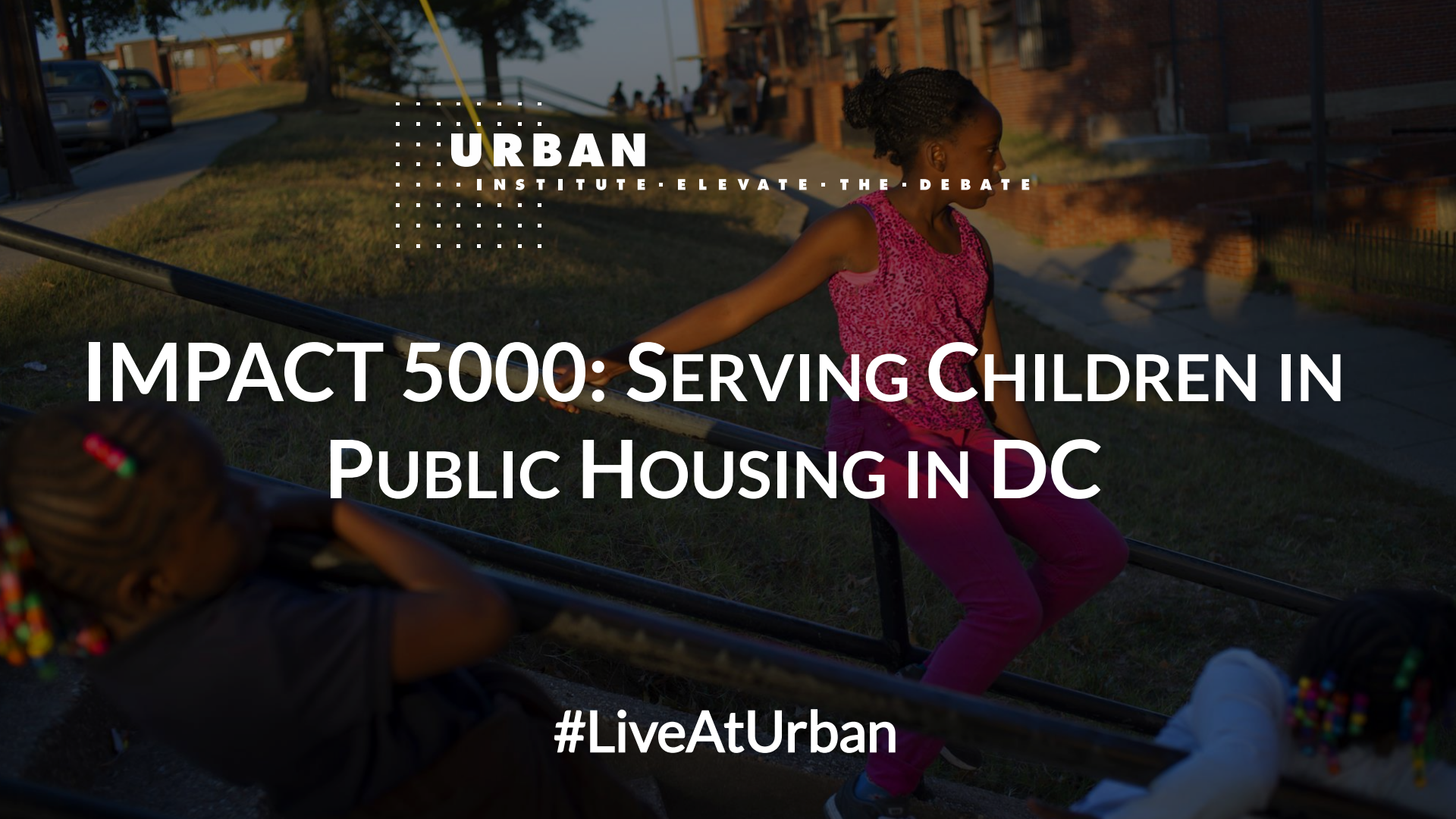


Informing IMPACT 5000

- Findings highlight the need to provide supports to DCHA families to promote stability
- Points to the types of partners DCHA will need to ensure its children succeed in school and access opportunity

With thanks to our partners

- Howard University students and:
  - Professor Rodney Green
  - Baiyina Abadey
  - Sandra Rattley
- University of the District of Columbia students and:
  - Professor Shiela Martin
  - Professor Sharon Alston
  - Professor Michelle Chatman



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