

I am writing as a primary care physician at Johns Hopkins and the Esperanza Center Health Clinic. My patients include undocumented immigrants who have come to the US fleeing persecution and violence, often at great personal risk. Here, in the midst of a pandemic, they are abandoned by a society who ignores the poor. Real estate inequity is everywhere if you choose to look, and my patients tell me their stories of housing insecurity every day. Out of work, out of money, people wait for the lawyers from the bank and threatening phone calls.

I recall in particular one patient I have seen for a year now. He is on dialysis and just started working again a few days a week. Since the start of the pandemic he has been living in an abandoned house. Luckily the water and electricity still work, and he can store his medications, including insulin, with some degree of safety.

Last week he came in to clinic for a previously scheduled visit. He told me, "They let me know I'm going to be evicted tomorrow."

How will he get to dialysis? (He walks there now.) Where will he store his medications? Where will he sleep?

Among the many moral tragedies and unacceptable failures of the pandemic in the US (including Baltimore and Maryland) have been two many stories like this one.

Zackary Berger, MD, PhD