

## **Alaska Healthy Housing Fact Sheet**

The home is the most dangerous place for U.S. families.<sup>i</sup> Nearly six million families live in housing rivaling that of developing countries, with broken heating and plumbing, holes in walls and windows, roach and rodent infestation, falling plaster, crumbling foundations, and leaking roofs. Millions more in all 50 states live in housing with serious health and safety hazards, including mold, exposed wiring, radon, unvented heaters, toxic chemicals, broken stairs, missing smoke detectors, and other hazards.<sup>ii</sup> Home-based interventions to address health hazards improve health and have a large return on investment: Each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control results in a return of \$17 to \$221,<sup>iii</sup> and each dollar invested in asthma home-based interventions that include education and remediation results in a return of \$5.30 to \$14.00.<sup>iv</sup>

### **The need in Alaska**

Thirty-four percent of children in Alaska live in households with high housing cost burden, and 36% of children in Alaska have parents who lack secure employment.<sup>v</sup> Approximately 9% of Alaska's homes were built prior to 1960, and over 40% before 1980.<sup>vi</sup> These factors make Alaska a high housing hazard state. Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems, in turn resulting in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed work days for parents.

### **The need for funding**

To protect the health of Alaska families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full funding in FY 2017 and beyond is needed for the following:

- ✓ **CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program = \$35,000,000**
- ✓ **CDC's National Asthma Control Program = \$30,596,000**
- ✓ **HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes = \$230,000,000**

### **Funding for healthy housing in Alaska**

- Since 1999, eligible cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits in Alaska have received 2 grants for a total of \$1,443,044 in funding from HUD's Office Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. Both grants were for healthy homes related activities; the most recent was awarded in FY13 to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for \$743,044.

### **Childhood lead poisoning**

- In 2012, the lead screening rate in Alaska for children under six years of age was 1.4% compared to the United States overall at 10%.<sup>vii</sup>

### **Asthma**

- In 2011 and 2010 respectively, approximately 10.3% of Alaska children and 10% of Alaska adults had current asthma.<sup>viii</sup>

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- In 2010, the estimated direct cost of asthma in Alaska was \$144 million<sup>ix</sup>; this cost increased to \$150 in 2012.<sup>x</sup>
- As of 2013, Alaska was one of 12 U.S. states and territories that does not maintain an asthma surveillance system.<sup>xi</sup>

### **Radon**

- Twenty-one percent (21%) of valid radon tests conducted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks over the past 24 years have had a reading  $\geq 4$  pCi/L, EPA's recommended action level. Levels were highest in the Fairbanks area and zip codes with the highest proportion of radon levels  $\geq 4.0$  pCi/L include 99737 (Delta Junction–East), 99743 (Healy/Denali National Park), and 99712 (Fairbanks–Two Rivers).<sup>xii</sup>

### **Carbon monoxide deaths**

- There were 47 deaths due to carbon monoxide exposure from 2000 to 2007 in Alaska.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **Injury-related deaths**

- In 2013, 30 Alaskans died from unintentional injuries resulting from falls.<sup>xiv</sup>
- From 2005-2009, 494 Alaskans died of accidental poisoning.<sup>xv</sup>
- Unintentional injuries alone are the third leading cause of death overall for all Alaska Native people. Per capita, Alaska Native people die from unintentional injuries twice as often as non-Native Alaskans, and nearly three times as often as all Americans.<sup>xvi</sup>

### **NSHHC members in Alaska**

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition (NSHHC) is a broad, voluntary coalition of over 225 organizations working to improve housing conditions nationwide through education and outreach to key national stakeholders and federal public decision-makers. Current NSHHC organizational members from Alaska include the Safe Houses Coalition.

### **For additional information, please contact**

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## Funding from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

State	Name	City	Amount	L or HH	Year	Program
AK	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	Anchorage	\$ 743,044	HH	2013	HHTS
AK	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Anchorage	\$ 700,000	HH	2001	HHD
			<b>\$ 1,443,044</b>	<b>Total FY99-FY15</b>		