

Georgia Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

The home is the most dangerous place for U.S. families.ⁱ 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.ⁱⁱ 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–\$221,ⁱⁱⁱ and each dollar invested in asthma home-based interventions that include education and remediation results in a return of \$5.30 to \$14.00.^{iv}

The need in Georgia:

Thirty-eight percent of children in Georgia live in households with high housing cost burden, and 27% of children in Georgia live in poverty.^v The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Georgia's housing stock: Almost 40% of Georgia homes were built before 1978 (8% are pre-1950) and are likely to contain lead-based paint.^{vi} 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 Georgia 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 Georgia

- Since 1999, eligible cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits in Georgia have received eight grants for a total of \$10,534,853 in funding from HUD's Office Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for lead hazard reduction, healthy homes production, and education and outreach activities. Of this total, the most recent is a \$2.5 million award to the city of Atlanta in 2014.^{vii}
- From FY05 – FY14, Georgia received a total of \$6,800,287 in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control programs. Of this funding:
 - Georgia Department of Human Resources has received a total of \$3,515,346 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, most recently in FY14 for \$366,992.
 - Georgia State Department of Public Health has also received a total of \$3,284,941 in funding for asthma-related activities including \$629,232 in FY14.

(cont.)

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- The Georgia Department of Public Health has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2001.^{viii}

Childhood lead poisoning

- In 2011, 5,361 of the children under six years old tested in Georgia had an elevated blood lead level of five micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or greater; 778 of them had blood lead levels of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more.^{ix}
 - 70% of the cases of lead poisoning are Medicaid managed care children.
- These 12 Georgia counties have been identified as "higher risk" for childhood lead exposure: Bibb, Chatham, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Glynn, Gwinnett, Hall, Richmond, Sumter, Thomas, and Troup.^x

Asthma^{xi, xii, xiii}

- Approximately 9% of Georgia adults and 12% of Georgia children currently have asthma.
 - Black children (18.4%) were significantly more likely to have current asthma than white children (7.8%).
- 2,965 Georgia children under 18 years of age experienced asthma-related hospitalizations in 2010, the direct cost of which amounted to more than \$27.8 million.
- 7,436 Georgia adults experienced asthma related hospitalizations in 2010, the direct cost of which totaled approximately \$146.5 million.

Radon

- Six hundred people die in Georgia each year from radon-related lung cancer.^{xiv}
- Most of northern Georgia is identified with moderate to high potential for exposure to radon in homes.^{xv}

Carbon monoxide deaths

- There were 196 deaths due to carbon monoxide exposure from 2000 to 2007 in Georgia.^{xvi}

Injury-related deaths^{xvii}

- Annually in Georgia, there are an average of 2,105 deaths from unintentional injuries, excluding those caused by motor vehicles.
- Fall-related injuries are the leading cause of hospitalizations in Georgia.
- Poisoning and falls are the third and fourth leading causes of injury death in Georgia for all ages, respectively.^{xviii}

National rankings

- NCHH's 2013 *State of Healthy Housing* report ranks 45 metropolitan statistical areas according to healthy housing related data in the American Housing Survey. The state of Georgia has one city included in this report. Atlanta was tied for 12th and categorized as having "fair" healthy housing characteristics.^{xix}

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- The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America’s listing of “Asthma Capitals” for 2014 ranks the 100 largest U.S. metro areas to identify the “most challenging places to live with asthma.” The state of Georgia has two cities identified in this listing: Atlanta is ranked as the 13th “most challenging” place to live with asthma, followed immediately by Augusta in 14th place.^{xx}

NSHHC members in Georgia

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 Georgia include:

- Division of Environmental Emergency Health Services
- Georgia Southern University
- Indoor Air Quality Association

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- ^{vi} Georgia Department of Public Health. (2013). *Georgia healthy homes strategic plan*. Retrieved from http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EnvHealthLeadStrategicPlan.pdf
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- ^{xix} <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/2013StateofHealthyHousing/NationalRankings/tabid/861/healthy/1/Default.aspx>
- ^{xx} http://www.aafa.org/pdfs/2014_AC_FinalPublicList1.pdf

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

State	Name	City	Amount	L or HH	Year	Program
GA	City of Atlanta	Atlanta	\$ 2,500,000	L	2014	LBPHC
GA	Georgia Department of Community Health	Atlanta	\$ 2,100,000	L	2010	LBPHC
GA	City of Atlanta	Atlanta	\$ 2,100,000	L	2010	LBPHC
GA	Center for Working Families Inc.	Atlanta	\$ 800,000	HH	2010	HHP
GA	Georgia Tech Applied Research Corporation	Atlanta	\$ 468,890	HH	2004	HHTS
GA	City of Waterloo	Waterloo	\$ 2,105,800	L	2003	
GA	Georgia Tech	Atlanta	\$ 249,864	HH	2003	
GA	Air Quality Sciences	Atlanta	\$ 210,299	HH	2001	HHD
			\$ 10,534,853	Total FY99-FY15		

Funding from CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control Programs - GEORGIA

Program and Grantee	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	TOTALS BY PROGRAM
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention*											\$ 3,515,346
Georgia Department of Human Resources	\$ 180,118	\$ 383,683	\$ 348,734	\$ 374,086	\$ 336,419	\$ 339,130	\$ 593,092	\$ 593,092	\$ -	\$ 366,992	
Addressing Asthma in Public Health											\$ 3,214,245
Georgia State Department of Public Health	\$ -	\$ 335,027	\$ 235,833	\$ 350,000	\$ 398,404	\$ 364,404	\$ 277,441	\$ 358,404	\$ 295,732	\$ 599,000	
Surveillance - Asthma											\$ 70,696
Georgia State Department of Public Health	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,232	\$ 20,232	\$ 30,232	
Other - Asthma											\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS BY FISCAL YEAR	\$ 180,118	\$ 718,710	\$ 584,567	\$ 724,086	\$ 734,823	\$ 703,534	\$ 870,533	\$ 971,728	\$ 315,964	\$ 996,224	

GRAND TOTAL FY05 - FY 14 \$ 6,800,287

* Timeline of CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Name:

2005-2010: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

2011, 2012, 2014: Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

2013: The lead program was not funded.