**The Need in California:**Twenty-two percent of children in California in 2012 lived in poverty, up from 19 percent in 2005.[[1]](#endnote-1) Nearly 10 percent of California homes were built before 1940 and 63 percent of homes built before 1980.[[2]](#endnote-2) These factors make California a high housing hazard state. Unhealthy housing conditions can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems. These health problems in turn result in missed school days and poor school performance for children, and missed work days for parents.

**Funding for Healthy Housing in California:**

* Since 1999, eligible cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits have received 82 grants for a total of $180,871,598 in funding from HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for lead hazard reduction, healthy homes production, and education and outreach activities, including $3 million awarded to the City and County of San Francisco for lead hazard reduction in 2013.[[3]](#endnote-3)
* In fiscal year 2011, the state of California received $594,000 in funding for healthy homes programmatic activities from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).[[4]](#endnote-4)

**Childhood Lead Poisoning:**

* In 2011, 16,641 of the children tested in California had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (µg/dL); 1,156 of them had blood lead levels of 10 µg/dL or more.[[5]](#endnote-5)

**Asthma:**

* In 2008, an estimated 644,122 children in California had asthma. Child lifetime asthma prevalence was 11.5 percent, and child current asthma prevalence was 7.1 percent.[[6]](#endnote-6)
* Child current asthma prevalence was lower among Hispanics than non-Hispanic whites in California.[[7]](#endnote-7)

**Radon:**

* California has a small percentage of houses expected to have elevated radon overall but has areas of high radon potential in densely populated areas of the state.[[8]](#endnote-8)
* Only two counties in California, Santa Barbara and Ventura, have an average indoor screening level greater than 4 pCi/L, meaning they are in a “red zone” or have high radon levels.[[9]](#endnote-9)

**Carbon Monoxide Deaths:**

* There were 368 deaths due to carbon monoxide exposure in 2000-2007.[[10]](#endnote-10)

**Injury-Related Deaths:**

* For every 100,000 persons in California, there were 22.92 unintentional deaths at home caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.[[11]](#endnote-11)

Full funding for the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program at CDC and at HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Control program in FY2015 and beyond will protect the health of California families and prevent continued increases in associated health care costs and societal consequences.

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