

Illinois 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 to \$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 Illinois

Thirty-eight percent of children in Illinois live in households with high housing cost burden and over one in five children in Illinois live in poverty.^v The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Illinois' housing stock. Twenty-two percent of Illinois' homes were built in 1939 or earlier and are likely to contain lead-based paint.^{vi} These factors make Illinois 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, as well as missed work days for parents.

The need for funding

To protect the health of Illinois families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full funding in FY 2016 and beyond is needed for the following:

- ✓ **CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program = \$29,257,000**
- ✓ **CDC's National Asthma Control Program = \$30,596,000**
- ✓ **HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes = \$120,000,000**

Funding for healthy housing in Illinois:

- Illinois has received a total of \$113,855,869 in funding for 58 grants from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control since the 1999. Of these grants:
 - The City of Chicago Department of Public Health has received a total of \$26,500,000 in funding for eight grants, with the most recent being a \$3,900,000 grant in 2014 for lead hazard reduction demonstration activities.
 - Cook County has received a total of \$760,259 in funding for one grant in 2006 for healthy homes demonstration activities.
 - Five other Chicago-based organizations have received a total of \$7,419,806 in funding for 11 grants.
- Illinois has received a total of \$18,833,758 in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control programs from FY05 – FY14. Of this funding:
 - Illinois Department of Public Health and the City of Chicago Department of Public Health have received a total of \$14,434,536 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning

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Prevention Program. Most recently in FY14 these organizations received \$420,284 and \$347,375, respectively.

- Illinois State Department of Public Health has received a total of \$4,399,222 in funding for asthma-related activities including \$721,857 in FY14.
- The Illinois Department of Health has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 1999.^{vii}

Childhood lead poisoning^{viii}

- In 2012, 13,983 of the children tested in Illinois had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$); 2,110 of them had blood lead levels of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more.^v
- The burden of Illinois childhood lead poisoning remains one of the highest in the nation.^{ix}
- Illinois ranks fifth nationally in the number of housing units at highest risk for lead hazards. The top 10 Illinois counties with a high risk of lead hazards include Cook, St. Clair (including East Side Health District), Madison, Peoria, Winnebago, Rock Island, Champaign, Kane, Vermilion, and Macon.^{vi}

Asthma

- Approximately 850,000 people in Illinois currently have asthma.^x
 - Of adults in Illinois, 8.7% had current asthma in 2012.
 - Of children in Illinois, 13.6% had current asthma in 2010.
- In 2011 the total cost due to asthma hospitalizations in Illinois was more than \$380 million.^{xi}
 - Medicaid (34%) was the top primary payer for asthma hospitalizations, followed by Medicare (29%) and private insurance (26%).
- Asthma hospitalizations were highest in St. Clair County and lowest in Mason County.^{viii}

Radon^{xii}

- Over 41% of Illinois homes tested for radon between 2003-2011 measured above the recommended level for taking action.
- The current average radon level in homes in Illinois is 4.4 pCi/L; the national indoor average radon level is 1.3 pCi/L.

Carbon monoxide deaths

- There were 855 deaths due to carbon monoxide exposure from 2000 to 2007 in Illinois.^{xiii}

Injury-related deaths

- For every 100,000 persons in Illinois, there were 26.37 unintentional deaths caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.^{xiv}

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 city of Chicago ranks 29th and is categorized as having "fair" conditions by the report.^{xv}

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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." Illinois has one city identified: Chicago is ranked as the 9th "most challenging" place to live with asthma.^{xvi}

Healthcare financing for healthy homes^{xvii, xviii}

The National Center for Healthy Housing's November 2014 [study](#) regarding state Medicaid reimbursement policies for environmental health services in the homes of people with asthma and children exposed to lead shows that in [Illinois](#) some level of Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to lead; none is in place for services related to asthma, and no efforts to explore the possibility of adding these services were identified.¹

Opportunities for Illinois to improve reimbursement of environmental health services further include:

- Effecting coverage for home-based asthma services that address environmental triggers in the home environment.
- Ensuring that services and supports are included to eliminate or reduce exposure to asthma triggers or lead hazards identified in the home environment.
- Ensuring that the eligibility criteria for lead-poisoning follow-up services in Illinois is aligned with the current CDC reference value for lead poisoning (5 µg/dL).

For additional information, please contact

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¹ Note: (a) These are self-reported results that have not been independently verified, and (b) the existence of a policy does NOT mean that services are actually being delivered on the ground.