

Iowa Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

The Need in Iowa:

Just over a quarter of all children in Iowa live in households with high housing cost burden, and one in six Iowa children live in poverty.ⁱ The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Iowa's housing stock and the lack of a statewide housing code.ⁱⁱ More than 25 percent of Iowa's housing is now greater than 70 years old, increasing the likelihood of exposure to lead-based paint.ⁱⁱⁱ Age of Housing data from the American Community Survey (2005-2009) shows that 35.24 percent (467,537 units) of homes in Iowa were built prior to 1950, substantially greater than the national average of 23.39 percent.^{iv} These factors make Iowa 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, and missed work days for parents.

Funding for Healthy Housing in Iowa:

- In 2012, 14,896 of the children tested in Iowa had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$); 320 of them had blood lead levels of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more.^v
- Since 1999, seven cities and counties have received \$40,850,253 in funding from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for lead hazard reduction and healthy homes, including \$2,458,286 awarded to Cedar Rapids in 2013.^{vi}
- There are currently 31 local CLPPPs (Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs) that carry out lead poisoning prevention activities in 72 Iowa counties. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) provides lead poisoning prevention services in the 27 counties that are not covered by local CLPPPs.

Childhood Lead Poisoning:

- Seven percent of all Iowa children are lead poisoned.
- In 2010 alone, 1,130 Iowa children were newly diagnosed as lead poisoned.
- There were 1,405 lead-poisoned children in the 2004 birth cohort (children born in 2006).

Asthma:

- Within the state, 50 to 60 deaths, about 12,000 inpatient hospitalizations, 40,000 to 50,000 emergency department visits, and 35,000 to 45,000 unscheduled office visits are due to asthma each year.
- Each year in Iowa, *uncontrolled* asthma results in approximately 12,000 hospitalizations, 45,000 emergency room visits, 37,000 unscheduled doctor's office visits, and 140,000 lost school days.^{vii}
- The direct medical and indirect economic cost associated with asthma in Iowa each year is estimated at \$150,000,000.^{viii}

Radon:

- The Iowa Radon Survey has indicated that Iowa has the largest percentage (71.6 percent) of homes above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4pCi/L, which is more than any other state in the U.S.^{ix}

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Smoking:

- Only 72.4 percent of families in Iowa have a no-smoking rule, compared to 77.6 percent of households nationally.^x

Vulnerable Populations:

- By 2030, about 22 percent of Iowa's population will be over 64 years of age, ranking Iowa 12th highest in the proportion of senior citizens.
- IDPH data show that the elderly population is not only at a higher risk for unintentional falls requiring hospitalization or emergency department visits, but their average cost per visit is also higher.^{xi}
- In 2010, over 8,800 poisonings due to household hazardous materials were reported to the Iowa Poison Control Center, and 61 percent occurred in children under the age of six.^{xii}

Full funding for CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program and HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control in FY 2015 and beyond will protect the health of Iowa families and prevent continued increases in associated health care costs and societal consequences.

ⁱ <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2012/OnlineBooks/ForMedia/StateProfiles/2012KCstateprofileIA.pdf>

ⁱⁱ http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/healthy_homes/strategic_plan_2013.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Iowa Finance Authority. Iowa Housing Study. 2012. [http://www.rdgusa.com/crp/iowahousing/images/Conference percent20Presentation percent20- percent20updated.pdf](http://www.rdgusa.com/crp/iowahousing/images/Conference%20Presentation%20-%20percent20updated.pdf)

^{iv} http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/healthy_homes/strategic_plan_2013.pdf

^v Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Number of Children Tested and Confirmed EBLs by State, Year, and BLL Group, Children < 72 Months Old. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/StateConfirmedByYear1997-2012.htm>

^{vi} http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2013/HUDNo.13-080

^{vii} Healthy Homes Healthy people http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/healthy_homes/healthy_homes_brochure.pdf

^{viii} Iowa Department of Public Health. *Asthma in Iowa: Surveillance Report 1995 – 2000*

^{ix} IDPH, <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Radon/>

^x http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/healthy_homes/strategic_plan_2013.pdf

^{xi} http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/healthy_homes/strategic_plan_2013.pdf

^{xii} http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/healthy_homes/strategic_plan_2013.pdf