

Maine 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 Maine

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

The need for funding

To protect the health of Maine 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 Maine

- Maine has received a total of \$25,768,949 in funding for eleven grants from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes since the 1999.
- From FY05 – FY14, Maine received a total of \$6,505,334 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:
 - Maine has received a total of \$2,596,353 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
 - The Maine State Department of Health and Human Services has received a total of \$3,908,981 in funding for asthma-related activities, most recently for \$509,194 in FY14.
- The Maine Department of Health and Human Services has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2000.^{vii}

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Indoor air quality

- Approximately 80 percent of occupied housing units in Maine use “fuel oil, kerosene, etc.” as their principal heating fuel, the highest percentage by state in the country.^{viii}

Childhood lead poisoning^{ix, x}

- In 2011, 6,940 children under six years old tested in Maine reported elevated blood lead levels over 5 µg/dL.
 - 130 of these children reported elevated blood lead levels above 10 µg/dL.
- In 2010, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program identified the following five areas of the state that account for 40 % of all identified cases of children with an elevated blood lead level: Bangor, Lewiston/Auburn, Portland, Saco/Biddeford, and Sanford.

Asthma

- Maine continues to have a high burden of asthma relative to the rest of the nation.^{xi, xii}
 - Approximately 10.3% of Maine adults currently have asthma, compared to 8.5% nationally.
 - In 2008, an estimated 25,629 children in Maine had asthma.^{xiii}
- Between 2000 and 2005, the proportion of asthma emergency department visits that had MaineCare (Medicaid) listed as the expected payer increased by roughly 40%.^{xiv}
- In Maine, approximately 8,000 emergency room visits and 1,000 hospitalizations occur due to asthma each year, costing approximately \$4.1 million.^{xv}

Radon

- An estimated one in three Maine homes has air radon concentrations higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s action level. In some areas, such as the Sebago Lake area, as many as two-thirds of homes tested have high levels. In addition, an estimated one-sixth of Maine wells have radon concentrations higher than the recommended amount.^{xvi}

Carbon monoxide deaths

- There were 35 deaths in Maine due to carbon monoxide exposure from 2000 to 2007.^{xvii}

Injury-related deaths

- For every 100,000 persons in Maine, there were 28.32 unintentional injury deaths caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.^{xviii}

NSHHC members in Maine

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 Maine include:

- Bangor Public Health and Community Services
- Lead Smart Training

Maine Healthy Housing Fact Sheet (continued)

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
ME	City of Lewiston	Lewiston	\$ 3,395,159	L	2014	LBPHC
ME	Maine State Housing Authority	Augusta	\$ 2,409,093	L	2012	LBPHC
ME	Maine State Housing Authority	Augusta	\$ 3,000,000	L	2008	LBPHC
ME	City of Lewiston	Lewiston	\$ 2,279,525	L	2008	ARRA
ME	City of Portland	Portland	\$ 1,525,172	L	2007	LBPHC
ME	Maine State Housing Authority	Augusta	\$ 3,000,000	L	2005	LHC
ME	City of Portland	Portland	\$ 1,500,000	L	2004	LHCR
ME	State of Maine	Augusta	\$ 2,160,000	L	2002	
ME	City of Auburn	Auburn	\$ 2,400,000	L	2001	
ME	City of Portland	Portland	\$ 1,300,000	L	2001	
ME	State of Maine	Augusta	\$ 2,800,000	L	1999	
			\$ 25,768,949	Total FY99-FY15		

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

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*											\$ 2,596,353
Maine Department of Human Services	\$ 312,194	\$ 312,669	\$ 330,191	\$ 326,649	\$ 252,701	\$ 296,127	\$ 382,911	\$ 382,911	\$ -	\$ -	
Addressing Asthma in Public Health											\$ 3,846,787
Maine State Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 350,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 430,000	\$ 396,000	\$ 358,850	\$ 316,937	\$ 500,000	
Surveillance - Asthma											\$ 62,194
Maine State Department of Health and Human Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,500	\$ 26,500	\$ 9,194	
Other - Asthma											\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS BY FISCAL YEAR	\$ 662,194	\$ 647,669	\$ 665,191	\$ 701,649	\$ 702,701	\$ 726,127	\$ 778,911	\$ 768,261	\$ 343,437	\$ 509,194	

GRAND TOTAL FY05 - FY 14 \$ 6,505,334

* 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.