



Nebraska Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

The Need in Nebraska:

Twenty-six percent of children in Nebraska live in households with high housing cost burden, and 18 percent of children in Nebraska live in poverty.ⁱ The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Nebraska's housing stock. Twenty-six percent of Nebraska's homes were built in 1939 or earlier and are likely to contain lead-based paint.ⁱⁱ These factors make Nebraska a high housing hazard state. Unhealthy housing conditions can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems. In turn, these health problems result in missed school days and poor school performance for children, and missed work days for parents.

Funding for Healthy Housing in Nebraska:

- Nebraska has received a total of \$12,410,631 in funding for eight grants from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control since the inception of the grants program in 1999.
- The last grantee to be funded from the state of Nebraska from the HUD Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control was the City of Omaha in fiscal year 2010; there were no other grantees from the state in that year.
- The state of Nebraska currently does not receive funding for healthy homes programmatic activities from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.ⁱⁱⁱ

Childhood Lead Poisoning:

- Counties located in southwest Nebraska had lower screening rates in 2005 than the rest of the state.^{iv}
- In 2012, Douglas and Lancaster counties had the greatest numbers of children under six with confirmed blood lead levels greater than 5 µg/dL.^v

Asthma:

- Of adults in Nebraska, 7.3 percent had current asthma in 2011.^{vi}
- Of Nebraska youth, 6.1 percent had current asthma in 2010.^{vi}
- A 1998 CDC report identifies Nebraska as having the second highest asthma mortality rate in the nation from 1990-1995.^{vii}

Radon:

- Nebraska has a very high prevalence of radon in homes.^{viii}
- Fifty-nine (59) percent of Nebraska homes tested for radon by the Nebraska Radon Program through 2011 had radon levels above the recommended level for taking action.^{ix}
- The average radon level in homes tested in Nebraska through 2011 is 6.3 pCi/L^{vii}; the national indoor average radon level is 1.3 pCi/L.^{ix}

Carbon Monoxide Deaths:

- There were 127 deaths in Nebraska due to carbon monoxide exposure between 2000 and 2007.^x

Injury-Related Deaths:

- For every 100,000 persons in Nebraska, there were 32.02 unintentional deaths at home caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.^{xi}



Nebraska Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

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 Nebraska families and prevent continued increases in associated health care costs and societal consequences.

¹The Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2013 *Kids Count Data Book: Nebraska State Profile*. Retrieved from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/~media/43/2013KC_state_profile_NE.pdf

²American Community Survey 2004. *Percent of Housing Units That Were Built in 1939 or Earlier by State*. Retrieved from

http://www.statemaster.com/graph/hou_per_of_hou_uni_tha_wer_bui_in_193_or_ear-units-were-built-1939-earlier

³<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyHomes/programs/ne.htm>

⁴Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). *Childhood Blood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Report 2001-2005*. Retrieved from <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/Childhood-Blood-Lead-Poisoning-2001-05.pdf>

⁵Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. 2012 Map of Nebraska Children with Blood Lead Levels > 5. Retrieved from

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/BloodLeadLevelsGreaterThanFiveMap2012.pdf>

⁶CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Reporting Tool. Retrieved from <http://ephracking.cdc.gov/QueryPanel/EPHTNQuery/EPHTQuery.html?c=AS&i=-1&m=-1#>

⁷Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. *Asthma in Nebraska 1987-1998*. Retrieved from http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/epi_asthma.aspx

⁸Nebraska Radon Program Homepage. Retrieved from http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/radon_index.aspx

⁹Nebraska Radon Program. Radon Information by County: Summary of Radon Test Data. Retrieved from <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/RadonCountyDataTable2011.pdf>

¹⁰CDC Environmental Health Tracking Network (2000-2007). Carbon Monoxide Deaths (#)/Multi-Year Period. Retrieved from

<http://ephracking.cdc.gov/QueryPanel/EPHTNQuery/EPHTQuery.html?c=CO&i=-1&m=-1#>

¹¹CDC's Wisqars Database: Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System. Composite indicator (excluding estimated 20 percent of unintentional deaths related to motor vehicles). Unintentional Deaths in Home/Death Rate (per 100,000). Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>