



MAINE

2024 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

Hazardous conditions found in unsafe housing can lead to lead poisoning, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, cancer, and unintentional injuries or death, resulting in poor school attendance and performance for children, missed workdays for parents, and the loss of loved ones for all. These hazards and their health impacts disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income communities, making the need for healthy housing a significant environmental and racial justice issue. Recent events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, along with the associated increase in both incidence and severity of extreme weather events, have urgently underscored and amplified our need for safer, healthier, affordable, and more resilient housing and drawn much-needed attention to the expanding scope of related programs and policies. Increased time spent at home and ongoing challenges to healthy housing service delivery due to these events and others have affected health negatively and displayed—in sharp contrast—the longstanding crisis of inequitable access to quality housing and healthcare.



In Maine, **23% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 15% of children live in poverty (2021).



55% of Maine housing was built prior to 1978 and may contain lead-based paint; approximately 23% was built in 1939 or earlier.



Over 14,000 children were screened for lead poisoning in Maine in 2021; **206 were confirmed and 265 were estimated to have lead levels above 5 µg/dL.**



Approximately **12.5% of adults and 7% of children have current asthma** in Maine (2021).



In 2020, **asthma was responsible for over 2,716 emergency department visits and 180 hospitalizations** in Maine.



In 2020, **336 Mainers aged 65 and older died from unintentional falls.**



On average, **six individuals die annually from carbon monoxide exposure** in Maine (2016- 2020). In Maine in 2021, **carbon monoxide exposure** was responsible for **81 emergency department visits.**



Approximately **75% of counties in Maine are predicted to have indoor radon levels above the EPA action level.**

CRITICAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

A broad array of programs across the federal government support healthy housing activities and related efforts including increasing affordable housing, improving health outcomes, providing supportive services to families, improving energy efficiency, and identifying and addressing environmental hazards. Critical programs and services supporting crucial health and housing services in states and localities are outlined below; increasing appropriations allows new states to access funding and currently funded states to expand their programs.

Has ME received funding since 2021?

CDC's:

- ✓ **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**
- ✓ **National Asthma Control Program**
- ✓ **Environmental Health Tracking Network**

HUD's:

- ✓ **Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**

EPA's:

- ✓ **Lead Categorical Grants**
- ✓ **State Indoor Radon Grants**
- ✓ **Environmental Justice Grants**

DOE's:

- ✓ **Weatherization Assistance Program**

For more information on these programs and their impacts, as well as many others available to support healthy housing efforts, refer to [NCHH's Agency Fact Sheets](#).

May 2024. For **references**, additional **state-specific** healthy homes information, and to learn how you can **engage your members of Congress** on these vital issues...

visit: <http://bit.ly/StatePro>

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