



National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Jack Reed
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
The Honorable David Price
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Collins, and Ranking Member Reed:

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Price, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Members of Congress:

As organizations committed to protecting the health of children and adults, we are writing to express our vigorous support for continued federal funding for the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and fully restored federal funding for the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We respectfully urge you to provide \$120 million for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, including \$25 million for the Healthy Homes Program, and \$29 million for CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 appropriations bill. Robust support for these programs is essential for supporting communities seeking to protect children at the highest risk of lead poisoning from hazards in their homes and further ensuring that children at the highest risk of lead poisoning will have access to critical services that can prevent the onset of future disability.

Lead poisoning, which is 100% preventable, remains a significant environmental public health threat. CDC estimates that 535,000 children in the U.S. from one to five years old have blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). Childhood lead exposure at these levels can lead to lifelong consequences, including decreased cognitive function, developmental delays, and behavior problems; very high levels can cause seizures, coma, and even death. Children exposed to lead can lose I.Q. points and are six times more likely to drop out of school than children without harmful lead levels. The annual economic costs to society of lead poisoning alone are over \$50 billion. There is no "safe" level of lead for a child.

There are 24 million homes in the U.S. with lead-based paint hazards jeopardizing the health and development of millions of children. Since its inception in 1993, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes program has successfully

developed programs that created 208,000 lead-safe units, ensured that over 186,000 additional units are lead-safe, and addressed health and safety conditions in over 20,000 substandard housing units.

Additionally, HUD estimates that without its programs' actions to control hazards in over 370,000 housing units, an additional 265,000 children would have been included in CDC's estimate of the number of young children with blood lead levels above 5 µg/dL. Providing \$120 million in FY 2016 to the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is crucial to its continued success.

HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes activities to reduce health and safety hazards in housing units save billions of dollars by increasing productivity and decreasing medical and special education costs. Educational system costs alone are estimated at \$38,000 over three years per child with lead poisoning. Studies show a return of \$17-\$221 per dollar invested in lead hazard control and a net savings of \$181-269 billion. Funding for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes at \$120 million in FY 2016 will reduce preventable medical and education costs, strengthen the economy, and keep children healthy.

During the last two decades, CDC has delivered a cost-effective program to prevent lead poisoning and help children who have already been exposed to lead. CDC is the only agency that houses the information about where and when children are poisoned, maintaining it through a national surveillance system that monitors blood test results for four million children each year. State health and housing agencies rely on this surveillance system to best target funds and enforcement to the highest risk areas. An FY 2016 funding level of \$29 million for CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program would allow 36 sites to go beyond surveillance activities to implement critical prevention strategies to control or eliminate sources of lead in environments of at-risk children. Providing \$29 million in FY 2016 to CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is crucial to allowing the CDC to fund state and local health departments, screen children, ensure that lead-poisoned infants and children receive medical and environmental follow-up, and prevent childhood lead poisoning through neighborhood-based approaches.

Again, we urge your support in funding these critical programs and continued support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing efforts. We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

**Number of Children Tested and Confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs)
by State, Year, & BLL Group, Children < 72 Months Old**

Year	State	Population < 72 months old	Number of Children Tested	Total Confirmed BLL ≥10 µg/dL	Confirmed BLLs ≥10 µg/dL as % of Children Tested	Number of Confirmed Children By Highest Blood Lead Level (µg/dL) at or Following Confirmation							
						5-9 µg/dL ^	10-14 µg/dL	15-19 µg/dL	20-24 µg/dL	25-44 µg/dL	45-69 µg/dL	≥70 µg/dL	≥5 µg/dL ^
2013	Alabama	365,443	24,563	115	0.47%	748	70	23	10	8	3	1	863
2013	Arizona	546,609	61,905	81	0.13%	557	52	14	10	3	2	0	638
2011	California	3,036,508	565,397	1,156	0.20%	15,485	680	245	114	108	9	0	16,641
2012	Connecticut	245,428	75,181	533	0.71%	3,988	326	93	43	60	8	3	4,521
2011	Delaware	67,146	8,190	44	0.54%	226	26	9	6	3	0	0	270
2013	District of Columbia	38,156	9,300	32	0.34%	169	17	8	1	6	0	0	201
2012	Florida	1,288,261	177,754	306	0.17%	3,334	200	46	22	27	2	9	3,640
2013	Georgia	825,000	103,941	205	0.20%	2,733	126	46	14	17	2	0	2,938
2013 ¶	Illinois	1,005,860	148,643	1,672	1.12%	7,808	944	385	142	173	24	4	9,480
2013	Indiana	522,074	50,182	295	0.59%	2,209	177	62	18	35	3	0	2,504
2011	Iowa	242,345	76,278	500	0.66%	30,363	241	124	62	59	13	1	30,863
2011	Kansas	246,178	34,648	237	0.68%	1,597	151	39	20	25	2	0	1,834
2013	Kentucky	338,977	11,405	58	0.51%	375	44	7	4	3	0	0	433
2010	Louisiana	375,722	52,430	133	0.25%	N/A	62	35	18	15	3	0	N/A
2011	Maine	84,268	13,961	130	0.93%	N/A	78	27	8	15	1	1	N/A
2013	Maryland	437,188	110,132	353	0.32%	2,495	218	70	24	35	6	0	2,848
2013	Massachusetts	442,592	210,791	683	0.32%	6,887	432	132	61	51	6	1	7,570
2012	Michigan	720,314	143,210	784	0.55%	5,759	469	164	82	61	8	0	6,543
2013	Minnesota	427,426	89,489	191	0.21%	1,833	111	51	17	10	2	0	2,024
2012	Mississippi	252,345	42,656	160	0.38%	3,540	89	36	13	20	2	0	3,700
2013	Missouri	468,264	184,470	1,011	0.55%	8,226	620	206	90	84	11	0	9,237
2010	Nevada	224,163	13,597	25	0.18%	184	16	4	1	4	0	0	209
2013	New Hampshire	84,767	14,004	106	0.76%	906	72	21	9	3	1	0	1,012
2013	New Jersey	652,622	176,627	841	0.48%	5,583	499	168	88	71	13	2	6,424
2011	New York (Excl. NYC)	1,386,618	222,805	2,137	0.96%	11,649	1,260	460	210	177	27	3	13,786
2013	New York City	639,380	324,230	876	0.27%	6,813	551	163	79	73	6	4	7,689
2010-13	North Carolina	758,124	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	Ohio	866,996	156,755	1,454	0.93%	8,588	864	303	132	132	19	4	10,042
2013	Oklahoma	316,500	41,356	190	0.46%	1,134	118	38	18	12	4	0	1,324
2012	Oregon	284,723	13,671	31	0.23%	348	17	8	4	2	0	0	379
2013	Pennsylvania	877,769	143,424	1,937	1.35%	10,969	1,153	415	141	188	34	6	12,906
2013	Rhode Island	69,386	27,520	228	0.83%	1,260	137	57	15	17	1	1	1,488
2010 ¶	Texas	2,315,927	363,338	945	0.26%	9,834	546	212	69	107	8	3	10,779
2013	Vermont	38,743	7,619	39	0.51%	600	20	7	6	5	1	0	639
2011	Virginia	611,895	98,474	279	0.28%	3,138	164	47	34	29	5	0	3,417
2012	Washington	526,207	17,710	18	0.10%	443	8	5	1	4	0	0	461
2013	West Virginia	125,045	11,881	44	0.37%	459	28	11	3	2	0	0	503
2013	Wisconsin	431,404	93,919	759	0.81%	5,251	448	139	76	83	11	2	6,010

N/A = Data was either unavailable for analysis or the state did not have surveillance system in place at that time

¶ Incomplete data, CDC does not have the state's complete dataset

NOTE: State data and analysis may vary from CDC data due to strict CDC guidelines and criteria