

Connecticut 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–\$221ⁱⁱⁱ 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 Connecticut

Forty-one percent of children in Connecticut live in households with high housing cost burden, and approximately 15% of children in Connecticut live in poverty.^v The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Connecticut's housing stock, which is considerably older than the national average. Of Connecticut's 1.5 million housing units, 73% was built prior to 1980, compared to 57% nationally, and 46% was built prior to 1960.^{vi} Nearly a quarter of Connecticut homes were built in 1939 or earlier. Connecticut's older housing stock is concentrated in the urban areas of the state; the city of New Haven has 47,271 pre-1980 housing units, comprising 86% of the total housing stock in the city. Connecticut's cities also have the highest prevalence rates for lead poisoning, asthma, injury, and tobacco use compared to other locations. Poverty rates increased from 9.4% of Connecticut residents in 2009 to 10.1% in 2010. In 2010, 12.8% of Connecticut's children lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.^{vii}

The need for funding

To protect the health of Connecticut 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 Connecticut

- Since 1999, the state of Connecticut, eligible cities, and qualifying nonprofits have received \$126,613,833 in funding from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for lead hazard reduction, healthy homes production, and education and outreach activities. Of this total, the following three grants were awarded in 2015: \$3.7 million to the State of Connecticut; \$3.2 million to the City of Waterbury; \$3.2 million to the City of New Haven.^{viii}
 - The City of New Haven has received six HUD Lead Hazard Control Grants totaling more than \$14 million for lead abatement and housing rehabilitation since 1994.
- From FY05 – FY14, Connecticut received a total of \$9,790,471 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:

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- The Connecticut Department of Public Health has received a total of \$5,918,677 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, most recently in FY14 for \$373,921.
- The Connecticut State Department of Public Health has also received a total of \$3,871,794 in funding for asthma-related activities including \$601,000 in FY14.
- The Connecticut Department of Health has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2001.^x

Lead poisoning

- In 2012, 4,521 of the children tested in Connecticut had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$); 533 of them had blood lead levels of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more.^x
- Each year, approximately 700 children in Connecticut are newly diagnosed with lead poisoning.^{xi}
- Black (1.6%) and Hispanic (1.5%) children were more likely to have EBLLs of greater than or equal to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ than white children (0.8%).^{xii}
- 42 children in New Haven were identified as having blood lead levels above 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in 2012.

Asthma

- The prevalence of current asthma among Connecticut adults increased from 7.8% in 2000 to 9.4% in 2009. In 2009, the estimated prevalence of diagnosed asthma in Connecticut children was 11.9%. Nearly 12% of the population has asthma, a higher rate than the national average.^{xiii}
- In 2009, Connecticut spent more than \$112 million for acute care due to asthma as a primary diagnosis, \$80.3 million on hospitalization charges, and \$32.6 million on emergency room visit charges. Three out of four (74.5%) asthma hospitalizations by residents of the five large cities were paid by public funds (Medicaid or Medicare), compared to about half (52.7%) by residents from the rest of Connecticut.^{xiv}

Radon

- The majority of Connecticut is located in a high or moderate potential radon zone and four out of eight counties are in "red" or high radon-risk zones.^{xv}
- One in five homes in Connecticut has elevated levels of radon in the indoor air. Reducing radon in homes reduces the risk of lung cancer.^{xvi}

Carbon monoxide deaths

- There were 52 deaths in Connecticut due to carbon monoxide exposure in 2000-2007.^{xvii}

Injury-related deaths

- Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for Connecticut residents between the ages of one and 44 years of age. For every 100,000 persons in Connecticut, there were 27.19 unintentional injury deaths caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.^{xviii}

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National rankings

- NCHH's 2013 *State of Healthy Housing* report ranks 45 metropolitan statistical areas according to healthy housing related data in the American Housing Survey. The state of Connecticut has one city included in this report: Hartford. Seattle is tied for 24th and is categorized as having "fair" healthy housing characteristics.^{xix}
- The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's listing of "Asthma Capitals" for 2014 ranks the 100 largest U.S. metro areas to identify the "most challenging places to live with asthma." The state of Connecticut has three cities identified in this listing: New Haven, Bridgeport, and Hartford are ranked as the 11th, 28th, and 39th "most challenging" places to live with asthma.^{xx}

Healthcare financing for healthy homes^{xxi, xxii}

The National Center for Healthy Housing's November 2014 [study](#) regarding state Medicaid reimbursement policies for environmental health services in the homes of people with asthma and children exposed to lead shows that in [Connecticut](#) although some level of Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to asthma, none is in place for activities related to lead.¹

Opportunities for Connecticut to further improve reimbursement of environmental health services include:

- Effecting coverage for healthy homes services addressing lead in the home environment.
- Ensuring that services and supports are included to eliminate or reduce exposure to asthma triggers or lead hazards identified in the home environment.
- Extending coverage for asthma control services to include those administered by non-traditional providers such as certified asthma educators and community health workers.

NSHHC members in Connecticut

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 Connecticut include:

- City of Bridgeport
- City of West Haven
- Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program
- Fuss & O'Neill EnviroScience, LLC
- Ledge Light Health District
- United Illuminating Company
- Bridgeport Lead Free Families Program
- Yale Regional Lead Treatment Center & CCMC Healthy Home Program

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¹ Note: (a) These are self-reported results that have not been independently verified, and (b) the existence of a policy does NOT mean that services are actually being delivered on the ground.

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- ⁱⁱ National Center for Healthy Housing. (2013). State of healthy housing. Retrieved from <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/2013StateofHealthyHousing.aspx>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Gould, E. (2009, July). Childhood lead poisoning: Conservative estimates of the social and economic benefits of lead hazard control. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 117(7), 1162-1167. Retrieved from <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/117/7/ehp.0800408.pdf>
- ^{iv} The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide). (2013, September 27). Asthma control. Retrieved from <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/asthma/multicomponent.html>
- ^v The Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2014 Kids Count Data Book: Connecticut State Profile. Retrieved from http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2014KC_profile_CT.pdf
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- ^{vii} Connecticut Department of Public Health and Connecticut Healthy Homes Data Book. *The State of Housing in Connecticut: A Healthy Homes Initiative*. Retrieved from http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/hh_data_book.pdf
- ^{viii} http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2015/HUDNo_15-104
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- ^{xiii} National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, as part of the Weatherization Plus Health Initiative.
- ^{xiv} Connecticut Department of Public Health and Connecticut Healthy Homes Data Book. *The State of Housing in Connecticut: A Healthy Homes Initiative*. Retrieved from http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/hh_data_book.pdf
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Funding from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control

State	Name	City	Amount	L or HH	Year	Program
CT	City of New Haven	New Haven	\$ 3,231,610	L	2015	LBPHC
CT	City of Waterbury	Waterbury	\$ 3,231,610	L	2015	LBPHC
CT	State of Connecticut	Hartford	\$ 3,714,272	L	2015	LHRD
CT	City of Hartford	Hartford	\$ 3,900,000	L	2014	LHRD
CT	City of Bridgeport	Bridgeport	\$ 2,499,960	L	2013	LBPHC
CT	City of New London	New London	\$ 2,020,956	L	2013	LBPHC
CT	State of Connecticut	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2013	LHRD
CT	Naugatuck Valley Health District	Seymour	\$ 2,480,000	L	2012	LBPHC
CT	City of Norwich	Norwich	\$ 2,107,857	L	2012	LBPHC
CT	City of New Haven	New Haven	\$ 2,480,000	L	2012	LBPHC
CT	State of Connecticut Department of Social Services	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2011	LHRD
CT	City of Waterbury	Waterbury	\$ 2,475,000	L	2011	LHC
CT	State of Connecticut Department of Social Services	Hartford	\$ 1,860,000	HH	2011	HHP
CT	City of Bridgeport	Bridgeport	\$ 3,099,996	L	2010	LBPHC
CT	City of Hartford	Hartford	\$ 4,496,236	L	2010	LHRD
CT	City of New London	New London	\$ 200,482	HH	2010	HHP
CT	State of Connecticut Department of Social Services	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2009	LBPHC
CT	State of Connecticut Department of Social Services	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2009	LHRD
CT	City of New Haven	New Haven	\$ 3,000,000	L	2008	LBPHC
CT	Naugatuck Valley Health District	Seymour	\$ 3,000,000	L	2008	LBPHC
CT	Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, Inc.	Bridgeport	\$ 2,000,000	L	2008	LEAP
CT	The ACCESS Agency, Inc.	Willimantic	\$ 1,999,161	L	2008	LEAP
CT	City of New London	New London	\$ 2,004,538	L	2008	ARRA
CT	City of Norwich	Norwich	\$ 1,699,588	L	2008	ARRA
CT	City of Waterbury	Waterbury	\$ 3,000,000	L	2008	ARRA
CT	Connecticut Children's Medical Center	Hartford	\$ 875,000	HH	2008	ARRA
CT	City of Bridgeport	Bridgeport	\$ 3,000,000	L	2007	LBPHC
CT	City of Hartford	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2006	LHC
CT	City of Hartford	Hartford	\$ 3,416,713	L	2006	LHRD
CT	Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center		\$ 298,058	L	2006	LO
CT	State of Connecticut	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2006	LHC
CT	State of Connecticut	Hartford	\$ 4,000,000	L	2006	LHRD
CT	City of New Britain	New Britain	\$ 3,000,000	L	2005	LHC
CT	City of New Haven	New Haven	\$ 3,000,000	L	2005	LHC
CT	City of Waterbury	Waterbury	\$ 3,000,000	L	2005	LHC
CT	City of Bridgeport	Bridgeport	\$ 3,000,000	L	2004	LHC
CT	City of New London	New London	\$ 2,452,796	L	2004	LHCR
CT	The ACCESS Agency, Inc.	Willimantic	\$ 1,720,000	L	2004	LEAP
CT	East Hartford	East Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2003	
CT	State of Connecticut	Hartford	\$ 3,000,000	L	2003	
CT	State of Connecticut	Hartford	\$ 2,600,000	L	2003	LHRD
CT	City of New London	New London	\$ 1,200,000	L	2001	
CT	City of Stamford	Stamford	\$ 850,000	HH	2001	HHD
CT	City of Hartford	Hartford	\$ 2,900,000	L	2000	
CT	City of New Britain	New Britain	\$ 2,400,000	L	2000	
CT	City of New Haven	New Haven	\$ 2,800,000	L	2000	
CT	City of Stamford	Stamford	\$ 2,100,000	L	2000	
CT	City of New London	New London	\$ 1,100,000	L	1999	
CT	City of Norwich	Norwich	\$ 3,400,000	L	1999	
CT	City of Manchester	Manchester	\$ 1,000,000	L	1999	

\$ 126,613,833 Total FY99-FY15

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

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*											\$ 5,918,677
Connecticut Department of Public Health	\$ 804,762	\$ 855,319	\$ 831,400	\$ 845,000	\$ 834,934	\$ 780,324	\$ 593,017	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 373,921	
Addressing Asthma in Public Health											\$ 3,786,294
Connecticut State Department of Public Health	\$ 350,000	\$ 335,027	\$ 335,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 365,000	\$ 365,000	\$ 326,267	\$ 575,000	
Surveillance - Asthma											\$ 85,500
Connecticut State Department of Public Health	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,500	\$ 27,000	\$ 26,000	
Other - Asthma											\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS BY FISCAL YEAR	\$ 1,154,762	\$ 1,190,346	\$ 1,166,400	\$ 1,180,000	\$ 1,234,934	\$ 1,180,324	\$ 958,017	\$ 397,500	\$ 353,267	\$ 974,921	

GRAND TOTAL FY05 - FY 14 \$ 9,790,471

* 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.