WISCONSIN | 2017 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, asthma, respiratory illness, cancer, and unintentional injuries, resulting in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed work days for parents. To protect the health of Wisconsin’s families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services:

- CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- CDC’s National Asthma Control Program
- CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network
- HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
- HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants
- EPA’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund
- HHS’ Maternal and Child Health Block Grants
- HHS’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program

Full funding to federal programs such as these will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the families and residents of Wisconsin, including:

- In Wisconsin, 25% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 16% of children live in poverty.
- 68% of Wisconsin housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 20% was built before 1940.
- Over 127,000 children and 456,000 adults in Wisconsin have current asthma, about 10% of the population for each age group (2014).
- 25% of Wisconsin homes have radon levels over the EPA action level. In some portions of the southern, central, and western areas of the state, over half of test results are above the action level.

In 2015, 4,610 Wisconsin children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 648 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.

There were 465 emergency department visits due to carbon monoxide in Wisconsin in 2014; there are an average of 20 deaths from carbon monoxide annually (2011-2015).

In 2014, asthma was responsible for over 21,000 emergency department visits and over 5,000 hospitalizations in Wisconsin.

In 2015, unintentional falls were responsible for 1,216 deaths among adults over the age of 65 in Wisconsin. 87% of deaths and 70% of hospitalizations due to falls are among adults over the age of 65.

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

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