

# Kentucky Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

## The Need in Kentucky:

Approximately one-third of children in Kentucky live in households with high housing cost burden, and 26 percent of children live in poverty.<sup>i</sup> According to the American Community Survey, the median age of housing units in Kentucky is 34 years.<sup>ii</sup> Approximately 24 percent of Kentucky homes were built before 1950, thereby increasing the risk of lead-based paint hazard exposures.<sup>iii</sup> In 2004, a housing needs assessment found that over 30,000 housing units in Kentucky lacked adequate plumbing and/or kitchen facilities.<sup>iv</sup> These factors make Kentucky a high housing hazard state. Unhealthy housing conditions can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems. These health problems in turn result in missed school days and poor school performance, and missed work days for parents.

## Funding for Healthy Housing in Kentucky:

- Kentucky has received a total of \$9,497,145<sup>v</sup> in funding for five grants from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control since the inception of the grants program in 1999.
- In fiscal year 2011, the Kentucky Department for Public Health Environmental Lead Program was the only grantee to receive funding from HUD Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Program. Prior to FY 2011, all the grantees were either the City of Louisville-Jefferson County or Jefferson County.

## Childhood Lead Poisoning:

- Due to housing conditions, age of housing and concentration of populations, nearly 1,000 children in Lexington/Fayette and nearly 3,000 children in Louisville Metro (Jefferson County) less than six years of age are at highest risk for lead exposure.
- Translating the national rates of lead paint hazards and child occupancy into Kentucky rates, it is estimated that nearly 313,424 (26 percent) homes in Kentucky have significant lead-based paint hazards, and it is estimated that children under six years of age occupy approximately 14,417 (4.6 percent) or more of these homes.
- As of December 2010, there were 346 children in Kentucky that were diagnosed with lead poisoning.<sup>vi</sup>

## Asthma:

- In 2007, there were more than 6,000 asthma-related hospitalizations in Kentucky that generated \$62.23 million in hospital charges. That year, about one in 10 Kentucky Medicaid enrollees received asthma-related Medicaid services.<sup>vii</sup>
- In 2008, an estimated 312,561 adults in Kentucky had asthma. Adult lifetime asthma prevalence was 14.7 percent, and adult current asthma prevalence was 9.7 percent, compared with U.S. rates of 13.3 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively.<sup>viii</sup>
- The percentage of Kentucky children who were ever diagnosed with asthma and still had asthma increased from 9.4 percent in 2008 to 10.7 percent in 2010.<sup>ix</sup>

## Vulnerable Populations:

- Fall-related inpatient hospitalizations for Kentucky residents ages 65 and older increased 31 percent between 2003 and 2010,<sup>x</sup> while the total population age 65 and over increased by only 13 percent over the same period.<sup>xi</sup>
- In eastern Kentucky, one in three elderly women who live alone is in poverty. Further, "those ages 85 and over, were more likely to be poor than the entire over-65 population." For the elderly and disabled, life on a fixed income can be one of difficult choices, deciding between medications, food, or heating.<sup>xii</sup>

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If full funding is not made available for the Office of Healthy Housing and Lead Control program at HUD in FY2013 and beyond, the health of Kentuckians will continue to be at risk, and the associated health care costs will continue to increase. Allocating \$25 million in funding for HUD's healthy homes program out of the \$120 million total for that office will enable the Commonwealth of Kentucky to address the healthy housing issues described above.

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- i <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2012/OnlineBooks/ForMedia/StateProfiles/2012KcstateprofileKY.pdf>
  - ii Kentucky Housing Corporation. State of Housing in Kentucky. [Http://www.kyhousing.org/uploadedFiles/Data\\_Library/Publications\\_and\\_Reports/HousingStudyBroch906.pdf?n=2719](http://www.kyhousing.org/uploadedFiles/Data_Library/Publications_and_Reports/HousingStudyBroch906.pdf?n=2719)
  - iii <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/52852A49-8A48-450D-B874-D0B1AE38B3BA/0/04elimplan.pdf>
  - iv Kentucky Housing Needs Assessment: Phase II A Report to the Kentucky Housing Corporation. [http://www.kyhousing.org/uploadedFiles/Data\\_Library/Publications\\_and\\_Reports/HNAPhasell.pdf?n=6979](http://www.kyhousing.org/uploadedFiles/Data_Library/Publications_and_Reports/HNAPhasell.pdf?n=6979)
  - v US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, Grants provided to the State of Kentucky, Personal communication, May 6, 2013.
  - vi [http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/KY percent20- percent20Impact percent20Stmt.pdf](http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/KY%20-%20Impact%20Stmt.pdf)
  - vii <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6F68275E-D63D-4138-9348-41C3DF11A8EF/0/CommunicationsformatFinalKentuckyAsthmaSurveillanceReport2009.pdf>
  - viii [http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/stateprofiles/Asthma\\_in\\_KY.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/stateprofiles/Asthma_in_KY.pdf)
  - ix <http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/QueryPanel/EPHTNQuery/EPHTQuery.html?c=3&i=55&m=336&s=21#>
  - x Kentucky Safety and Prevention Alignment Network. <http://www.safekentucky.org/images/Data/falls-by-county/senior-falls-KY.html>.
  - xi Kentucky State Data Center. Population and Housing Units Estimates. <http://ksdc.louisville.edu/index.php/kentucky-demographic-data/estimates/population-and-housing-units>.
  - xii Appalachian Regional Commission. <http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=2266>.

