

Vermont 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 Vermont

Thirty-two percent of children in Vermont live in households with high housing cost burden, and 15% of children in Vermont live in poverty.^v The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Vermont's housing stock: An estimated 62% of Vermont homes were built before 1978 (over 27% of Vermont's homes were built prior to 1940) and are likely to contain lead-based paint.^{vi} Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems, in turn resulting in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed work days for parents.

The need for funding

To protect the health of Vermont 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 Vermont

- Since 1999, eligible cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits in Vermont have received \$33,647,375 in funding from 13 grants from HUD's Office Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for lead hazard reduction, healthy homes production, and education and outreach activities. Of this total:
 - \$3.4 million was awarded to the City of Burlington in 2014^{vii} and \$3.2 million was awarded to the Vermont Housing and Conversation Board in 2015^{viii} for lead-based paint hazard control activities.
- From FY05 – FY14, Vermont received a total of \$6,353,780 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:
 - The Vermont Department of Health has received a total of \$3,245,737 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
 - The Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont State Agency of Human Services have received a total of \$3,108,043 in funding for asthma-related activities, including \$462,178 in FY14.

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- The Vermont Department of Health has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2000.^{ix}

Childhood lead poisoning

- In 2008, Vermont became the first state to pass legislation that defined 5µg/dL as an elevated blood lead level.^x
- In 2014, 334 of the children tested in Vermont had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (µg/dL); 29 of them had blood lead levels of 10 µg/dL or more.^{xi}

Asthma

- The prevalence of current asthma in Vermont adults in 2012 was 11%, the third highest in the United States.^{xii}
- In 2014, 8% of Vermont children were reported as having current asthma; this equates to one in twelve children or approximately 9,100 Vermont youth with current asthma.^{xiii}
- In 2009, there was a rate of 77.5 emergency department visits per 10,000 Medicaid insured individuals in Vermont, a number almost double the statewide rate of all Vermonters of 40.6.^{xiv}
- In 2009, \$2.2 million was charged for asthma care among the Medicaid insured in Vermont, including \$905,000 for emergency department visits and \$1.3 million for hospitalizations.

Radon

- One in eight homes in Vermont contain unsafe levels of radon gas.^{xv}
- Approximately 50 Vermonters die annually from lung cancer associated with radon exposure.^{xvi}

Injury-related deaths

- Between 2002 and 2010, the number and rate of fall-related deaths in Vermont have increased. In 2010, Vermont's death rate of 126.0 per 100,000 adults age 65 and older is significantly higher than that it was in 2002 (74.1) and also higher than the national rate. In 2007, Vermont's fall-related death rate for this age group was 129.1 compared to 45.3 nationally.^{xvii}
- For every 100,000 persons in Vermont, there were 33.38 unintentional deaths caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.^{xviii}

Healthcare financing for healthy homes^{xix, xx}

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 Vermont some level of Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to both lead and asthma. Additionally, efforts are underway to explore reimbursement for services related to asthma.¹

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

- Ensuring that services and supports are included to eliminate or reduce exposure to asthma triggers or lead hazards identified in the home environment.

NSHHC members in Vermont

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 Vermont include the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition.

For additional information, please contact:

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- ^{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. 2015 Kids Count Data Book: Vermont State Profile. Retrieved from http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2015KC_profile_VT.pdf
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- ^{vii} http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNo_14-117
- ^{viii} http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2015/HUDNo_15-104
- ^{ix} <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/contacts/vt.htm>
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Funding from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

State	Name	City	Amount	L or HH	Year	Program
VT	Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Montpelier	\$ 3,231,148	L	2015	LBPHC
VT	City of Burlington	Burlington	\$ 3,400,000	L	2014	LBPHC
VT	Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Montpelier	\$ 2,300,000	L	2013	LBPHC
VT	City of Burlington	Burlington	\$ 2,475,000	L	2011	LHC
VT	Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Montpelier	\$ 3,100,000	L	2010	LBPHC
VT	City of Burlington	Burlington	\$ 2,865,629	L	2007	LBPHC
VT	Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Montpelier	\$ 3,000,000	L	2007	LBPHC
VT	Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Montpelier	\$ 3,000,000	L	2005	LHC
VT	City of Burlington	Burlington	\$ 1,567,019	L	2003	
VT	State of Vermont	Montpelier	\$ 3,000,000	L	2003	LHC
VT	State of Vermont	Montpelier	\$ 2,600,000	L	2001	
VT	State of Vermont	Montpelier	\$ 3,000,000	L	1999	
VT	State of Vermont	Montpelier	\$ 108,579	L	1999	

\$ 33,647,375 Total FY99-FY15

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

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*											\$ 3,245,737
State of Vermont Department of Health	\$ 348,620	\$ 412,606	\$ 402,290	\$ 402,290	\$ 390,000	\$ 364,492	\$ 575,735	\$ -		\$ 349,704	
Addressing Asthma in Public Health											\$ 3,057,042
Vermont State Department of Health	\$ -	\$ 335,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 349,838	\$ 340,000	\$ 312,567	\$ 249,637	\$ 450,000	
Surveillance - Asthma											\$ 51,001
Vermont State Agency of Human Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,230	\$ 24,593	\$ 12,178	
Other - Asthma											\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS BY FISCAL YEAR	\$ 348,620	\$ 747,606	\$ 737,290	\$ 737,290	\$ 740,000	\$ 714,330	\$ 915,735	\$ 326,797	\$ 274,230	\$ 811,882	

GRAND TOTAL FY05 - FY 14 \$ 6,353,780

* 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.