

# UNITED STATES

## 2018 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet



### The home is one of the most dangerous places for U.S. families.

Forty-five percent of U.S. homes have at least one health or safety hazard. This means that 35 million homes have problems ranging from broken heating and plumbing fixtures, holes in walls and windows, roach and rodent infestations, falling plaster, crumbling foundations, and leaking roofs to mold, exposed wiring, radon, unvented heaters, toxic chemicals, broken stairs, missing smoke detectors, lead, and other hazards. These hazards place American families at unnecessary risk for injuries and illness like lead poisoning, asthma, and lung cancer.

**53 million**  
**U.S. homes**  
place their occupants at risk

For example, in the United States each year...

**500,000**  
**children**

aged 1-5 years old  
have elevated blood  
lead levels

**26.5 million**  
**people**

have asthma  
(1 in 12 children;  
1 in 12 adults)

**30,000**  
**older adults**

die from  
unintentional falls

**21,000**  
**people**

die from radon-  
related lung cancer

**400**  
**people**

die from  
unintentional CO  
poisoning not linked  
to fires

**Housing hazards cost  
the U.S. billions annually,  
contributing to:**

**\$63 billion**  
asthma

**\$50 billion**  
lead poisoning

**\$500 million**  
residential fatalities  
from CO poisoning

**\$2.9 billion**  
radon-induced  
lung cancer

**\$200 billion**  
unintentional injuries

**Solutions are known, affordable, and  
provide a significant, positive ROI.**

**For every \$1:**

- invested in home visiting programs that address both asthma self-management and indoor environmental triggers, **there is a return of \$5.30-\$14.00**
- spent to reduce lead hazards, **there is a benefit of \$1.39** and poisonings can be prevented:
  - HUD estimates that the number of children under five with elevated BLLs in 2010 **would have included an additional 265,000 children** if not for HUD programs' actions to control hazards in over 370,000 housing units
- spent ensuring compliance with the RRP rule or removing lead service lines, **there is a benefit of \$3.10 or \$1.33**, respectively
- invested in poison control centers, **approximately \$7 to \$15 are saved** in unnecessary healthcare expenses
- spent to install a smoke detector, there is **a societal benefit of \$28**

**National Center for  
HEALTHY HOUSING**

October 2018. 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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