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 workdays for parents. The requirement for safe and healthy housing has become even more urgent as people spend more time than ever in residential environments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect the health of Alaska families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services.

Full funding to federal programs such as those listed above will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the residents and families of Alaska. For example:

- **CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**: YES
- **CDC’s National Asthma Control Program**: NO
- **CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network**: NO
- **HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**: YES
- **HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**: YES
- **HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program**: YES
- **EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants**: NO
- **EPA’s State Indoor Radon Grants**: YES
- **EPA’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund**: YES
- **HHS’ Maternal and Child Health Block Grants**: YES
- **HHS’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**: YES
- **DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program**: YES

Less than 8% of Alaskan children under 6 years of age were tested for elevated blood lead in 2018; the percentage of elevated blood lead levels among children tested was highest in the southwest region of the state. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 42% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Alaska, 25% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 14% of children live in poverty.

40% of Alaska housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.

Approximately 51,000 Alaskan adults have current asthma, over 9% of the adult population (2018).

Unintentional falls were responsible for 29 deaths in Alaska in 2018. Total charges billed to older Alaskan adults for fall-related injuries was $135 million in 2016 – triple that of 2012.

In Alaska, 21% of collected radon tests had levels above the EPA action level for indoor air (1990-2014).

In 2005, the total direct cost for asthma care in Alaska was approximately $118 million.


February 2021. For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues... visit: [http://bit.ly/StatePro](http://bit.ly/StatePro) contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org