



ALASKA

2022 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

Hazardous conditions found in unsafe housing can lead to lead poisoning, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, cancer, and unintentional injuries or death, resulting in poor school attendance and performance for children, missed workdays for parents, and the loss of loved ones for all. These hazards and their health impacts disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income communities, making the need for healthy housing a significant environmental and racial justice issue. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed, urgently, our need for safer, healthier, and affordable housing: The increased time spent at home and challenges to healthy housing service delivery have not only affected health negatively but also displayed—in sharp contrast—the longstanding crisis of inequitable access to quality housing and healthcare. In addition, climate change and the associated increase in both incidence and severity of extreme weather events are expanding the scope of policies contributing to healthy housing.



In Alaska, **29% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 14% of children live in poverty (2020).



38% of Alaska housing was built before 1978 and may contain lead-based paint.



Almost **9% of Alaskan adults currently have asthma**, and about 14% have had asthma during their lifetimes (2020).



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.



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



On average, **15 Alaskans die annually from carbon monoxide exposure** (2015-2019).



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



Unintentional falls were responsible for 52 deaths among Alaskans over the age of 65 in 2020. **Total charges billed to older Alaskan adults for fall-related injuries was \$135 million** in 2016—triple that of 2012.

CRITICAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

A broad array of programs across the federal government support healthy housing activities and related efforts including increasing affordable housing, improving health outcomes, providing supportive services to families, improving energy efficiency, and identifying and addressing environmental hazards. Critical programs and services supporting crucial health and housing services in states and localities are outlined below; increasing appropriations allows new states to access funding and currently funded states to expand their programs.

Has AK received funding since 2020?

CDC's:

- ✓ **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**
- x **National Asthma Control Program**
- x **Environmental Health Tracking Network**

HUD's:

- ✓ **Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**

EPA's:

- x **Lead Categorical Grants**
- ✓ **State Indoor Radon Grants**
- ✓ **Environmental Justice Grants**

DOE's:

- ✓ **Weatherization Assistance Program**

For more information on these programs and their impacts, as well as many others available to support healthy housing efforts, refer to [NCHH's Agency Fact Sheets](#).

December 2022. 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>
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