

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

2019 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

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 work days for parents. To protect the health of families in the District of Columbia and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services:

	DC received funding since 2017?
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	YES
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

Full funding to federal programs such as these will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the families and residents of the District of Columbia, including:



In the District of Columbia, **39% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 26% of children live in poverty.



In 2017, **128 District of Columbia children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 µg/dL or more); 35 of them had blood lead levels of 10 µg/dL or more.**



80% of District of Columbia housing was built prior 1978 (36% before 1940) and is likely to contain lead-based paint. Due to the age of the housing stock, the District **requires a 100% screening rate for children at ages 1 and 2.**



In 2010, **wards 1, 4, and 5 accounted for 65% of elevated blood lead levels** identified in District of Columbia children under 6 years of age.



Approximately **9% of adults and 11% of children have current asthma** in the District of Columbia (2015).



Children ages 0-17 experience the **highest rates of emergency department visits with asthma** as the primary, secondary, or tertiary diagnosis **in wards 7 and 8** (2015).



In 2017, **unintentional falls were responsible for 43 deaths among Washingtonians over the age of 65.**



21% of District of Columbia households have severe housing problems, including overcrowding or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities.