MASSACHUSETTS

2026 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. Recent events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, along with the associated increase in both incidence and severity of extreme weather events, have urgently underscored and amplified our need for safer, healthier, affordable, and more resilient housing and drawn much-needed attention to the expanding scope of related programs and policies. Increased time spent at home and ongoing challenges to healthy housing service delivery due to these events and others have affected health negatively and displayed—in sharp contrast—the longstanding crisis of inequitable access to quality housing and healthcare.

In Massachusetts, **34% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 13% of children live in poverty (2023).

Approximately 67% of Massachusetts housing was built prior to 1978 and may contain lead-based paint; approximately 30% was built in 1939 or earlier.

Over **11% of adults** and **7% of children have current asthma** in Massachusetts (2022).

In 2024, **1,241 Massachusetts residents aged 65 years and over died from unintentional falls**.

In 2023, **2,036 Massachusettsan children under age four tested had an elevated blood lead level** (5 µg/dL or more); **416 children under age six had blood lead levels of 10 µg/dL or more**.

On average, **eight Bay Staters die annually from carbon monoxide exposure** (2018–2022).

An estimated **650,000 Massachusetts homes have radon levels above the EPA action level** of 4 pCi/L; about 34,000 of these have levels above 20 pCi/L.

Approximately **628 cases of radon-related lung cancer occur annually** in Massachusetts.

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 MA received funding since 2024?

CDC's:

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

HUD's:

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

EPA's:

- ✓ **Lead Categorical Grants**
- ✓ **State Indoor Radon Grants**
- ? **Environmental Justice Grants** (program and grants status uncertain)

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.

*July 2026. 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**

contact: **sgoodwin@nchh.org**

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