MINNESOTA

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 Minnesota, **23% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 10% of children live in poverty (2023).

Approximately 51% of Minnesota housing was built prior to 1978 and may contain lead-based paint; 15% was built in 1939 or earlier.

In 2024, **592 Minnesotan children under six years of age tested with an elevated blood lead level** (5 µg/dL or more); **147 of them had blood lead levels of 10 µg/dL or more**.

Almost **10% of adults** and over **5% of children have current asthma** in Minnesota (2022).

In 2021, **asthma deaths in Minnesota fell to 53 compared to a peak of 82 deaths** in 2020.

Unintentional falls were responsible for 1,536 deaths of Minnesotans over the age of 65 in 2024.

On average, **27 Minnesotans die annually from carbon monoxide exposure** (2018–2022).

The **average radon level in Minnesota (4 pCi/L) is more than three times higher than the average U.S. radon level** (1.3 pCi/L).

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 MN 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...*

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