

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## 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.



At least **21% of renters in the Northern Mariana Islands spend over 30% of their income on rent**. Approximately **52% of the population are below the federal poverty line** (2010).



Approximately **10% of housing on the Northern Mariana Islands lacks complete plumbing facilities** and **28% lacks complete kitchen facilities** (2020).



Almost **18% of Northern Mariana Island high school students have ever been told they have asthma** by a doctor or nurse (2019).



Approximately **11 people per 100,000 Northern Mariana Islanders die each year from indoor air pollution caused by cooking and heating fuels** (2019).



Only **77% of customers on Saipan Island have continuous 24-hour water service** (2016); **23% of homes use cisterns or other catchment systems** for water (2020).



In 2019, the Northern Mariana Islands experienced a **drought and wildfires that threatened homes and caused at least one temporary school closure**.



A popular Saipan Island region for fishing has **exorbitantly high rates of lead in the soil**, which poses a **significant contamination risk to nearby waters**.



In October 2018, **Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed nearly 5,000 homes and caused nearly \$900 million in damages** on the Northern Mariana Islands.

### 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 MP received funding since 2020?

##### CDC's:

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

##### HUD's:

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

##### EPA's:

- x **Lead Categorical Grants**
- ✓ **State Indoor Radon Grants**
- x **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>

contact: [sgoodwin@nchh.org](mailto:sgoodwin@nchh.org)

# NCHH