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 Montana, 23% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 15% of children live in poverty.

52% of Montana housing was built before 1978 and may contain lead-based paint; 13% was built before 1940.

In Montana, almost 11% of adults and approximately 6% of children have asthma (2020).

Unintentional falls were responsible for 186 deaths among Montanans over the age of 65 in 2020.

There were 1,645 emergency department visits and 195 hospitalizations due to asthma in Montana in 2020.


49 of Montana's 56 counties have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level.

Significant groundwater and soil contamination from the state's history of mining and smelting pose a particular lead risk for Montana.

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...

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