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 workdays for parents. The requirement for safe and healthy housing has become even more urgent as people spend more time than ever in residential environments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect the health of New York families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services.

Full funding to federal programs such as those listed above will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the residents and families of New York. For example:

- In New York, 38% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 19% of children live in poverty.
- 78% of New York housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 31% was built before 1940.
- Approximately 10% of adults and 6% of children have current asthma in New York (2018).
- Unintentional falls were responsible for over 1,432 deaths (2018) and over 100,000 emergency department visits (2014) in New Yorkers over the age of 65.

In 2017, 5,923 outstate New York children and 5,317 New York City children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 1,764 of the outstate results were 10 μg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 45% (outstate) and 66% (New York City) in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.


In 2016, asthma was responsible for over 152,000 emergency department visits and over 21,000 hospitalizations in New York.

Over half of the counties in New York have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level. Statewide, 18% of basements are estimated to be above the action level.

February 2021. 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