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 Ohio 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 Ohio. For example:

- In Ohio, 25% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 20% of children live in poverty.
- 65% of Ohio housing was built prior to 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; almost 19% was built in 1939 or earlier.
- In 2017, black children in Ohio had over twice the asthma prevalence rate of white children (21.6% versus 9.6%, respectively).
- In 2014, unintentional falls among older Ohioans were responsible for 81,275 emergency department visits, 19,461 hospitalizations, and 1,160 deaths.

In 2019, 3,533 of Ohio children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 978 of them were 10 μg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 46% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approximately 9% of adults and 8% of children have current asthma in Ohio (2018).


Of Ohio’s 88 counties, 29 contain radon levels above the EPA 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,...

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