

# PUERTO RICO

## 2019 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

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 work days for parents. To protect the health of families in Puerto Rico and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services:

	PR received funding since 2017?
<b>CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CDC's National Asthma Control Program</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CDC's Environmental Health Tracking Network</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>HUD's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>EPA's Lead Categorical Grants</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>EPA's Drinking Water Revolving Fund</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>HHS' Maternal and Child Health Block Grants</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>HHS' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program</b>	<b>YES</b>

Full funding to federal programs such as these will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the families and residents of Puerto Rico, including:



In Puerto Rico, **29% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and **58% of children live in poverty**.



Puerto Rico **does not require blood lead data reporting**. Blood lead prevalence (5 µg/dL) for children under six is **estimated at over 3%**.



**54% of Puerto Rico housing was built before 1978** and is likely to contain lead-based paint.



In 2013, there were **over 95,000 emergency room visits due to asthma in Puerto Rico**. The **highest percentage** of these claims originated **from the Caguas region**.



Over **111,000 children** and **334,000 adults in Puerto Rico have current asthma**, about 16% and 12% of the population for each age group, respectively (2017).



**97.2% of the population** in Puerto Rico is served by **water systems that violate EPA's Lead and Copper Rule**.



Unintentional falls were responsible for 152 deaths in Puerto Rico in 2014; **107 of these deaths were among adults over the age of 65**.



FEMA reported a total of **357,492 homes damaged by Hurricane Maria** as of May 11, 2018. About **23% of Puerto Rico's housing stock was affected**.