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 Texas 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 Texas. For example:

- **In Texas, 32% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 21% of children live in poverty.

- **38% of Texas housing was built before 1978** and is likely to contain lead-based paint.

- **In 2017, 6,767 Texas children tested had an elevated blood lead level** (5 μg/dL or more). Average blood lead testing activity **fell over 42% in the spring of 2020** due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The **Panhandle region of Texas has the highest risk for radon in the state**. While statewide average indoor testing levels fall within a safe range, homes in this area have reported levels over 20 pCi/l (five times the EPA action level).

- **Over 540,000 children** (2017) and **1.5 million adults** (2018) in Texas have current asthma, about 8% and 7% of the population for each age group, respectively.

- In 2016, there were **over 6,315 pediatric hospitalizations due to asthma** in Texas, amounting to **over $149,800,000 in total charges**.

- **In 2018, unintentional falls were responsible for 1,781 deaths** among Texans over the age of 65.


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**National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING**

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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