The home is one of the most dangerous places for U.S. families.

Forty-five percent of U.S. homes have at least one health or safety hazard. This means that 45 million homes have problems ranging from broken heating and plumbing fixtures, holes in walls and windows, roach and rodent infestations, falling plaster, crumbling foundations, and leaking roofs to mold, exposed wiring, radon, unvented heaters, toxic chemicals, broken stairs, missing smoke detectors, lead, and other hazards. These hazards place American families at unnecessary risk for injuries and illness like lead poisoning, asthma, and lung cancer. Recent events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, along with the associated increase in both incidence and severity of extreme weather events, have urgently underscored and amplified our need for safer, healthier, affordable, and more resilient housing and drawn much-needed attention to the expanding scope of related programs and policies.

For example, in the United States each year, approximately...

- **590,000 children** aged 1-5 years old have elevated blood lead levels
- **25 million people** have asthma (1 in 16 children, 1 in 12 adults)
- **38,700 older adults** die from unintentional falls
- **21,000 people** die from radon-related lung cancer
- **400 people** die from unintentional CO poisoning not linked to fires

Housing hazards cost the U.S. billions annually, contributing to:

- **$81.9 billion** asthma
- **$84 billion** lifetime costs of lead poisoning for each annual birth cohort
- **$1.3 billion** accidental CO poisonings
- **$2.9 billion** radon-induced lung cancer
- **$383.2 billion** unintentional injuries

Solutions are known, affordable, and provide a significant, positive ROI.

For every $1:
- invested in home visiting programs that address both asthma self-management and indoor environmental triggers, there is a return of $5.30-$14.00.
- spent to reduce lead hazards, there is a benefit of $1.39 and poisonings can be prevented:
  - HUD estimates that the number of children under five years with elevated BLLs in 2010 would have included an additional 265,000 children if not for HUD programs’ actions to control hazards in over 370,000 housing units.
- spent ensuring compliance with the RRP rule or removing lead service lines, there is a benefit of $3.10 or $1.33, respectively.
- invested in poison control centers, approximately $13 are saved in unnecessary healthcare expenses.
- spent to install a smoke detector, there is a societal benefit of $28.
- spent to install a CO detector, there is a societal benefit of over $7.00.

May 2024. 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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