



UNITED STATES

2019 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

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

Forty percent of U.S. homes have at least one health or safety hazard. This means that 35 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.

35 million
U.S. homes
place their occupants at risk

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

270,000
children

aged 1-5 years old
have elevated blood
lead levels

25.1 million
people

have asthma
(1 in 11 children;
1 in 12 adults)

31,000
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:**

\$63 billion
asthma

\$50 billion
lead poisoning

\$500 million
residential fatalities
from CO poisoning

\$2.9 billion
radon-induced
lung cancer

\$200 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 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 \$7 to \$15 are saved** in unnecessary healthcare expenses
- spent to install a smoke detector, there is **a societal benefit of \$28**

**National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING**

October 2019. 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>

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