



UNITED STATES

2024 Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

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.**

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

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...

visit: <http://bit.ly/StatePro>

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