

2020

Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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 Virgin Islands families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services.

VI received funding since 2018?

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

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 the Virgin Islands. For example:



Approximately **50% of housing units were built before 1978 and are likely to contain lead-based paint** (2010).



The Virgin Islands have **no mandatory testing for blood-lead levels in place and don't collect data on lead-based paint in private residences.**



Approximately **48% of Virgin Island renters spend over 30% of their income on rent** (2010).



About **6% of housing** in the Virgin Islands **lacks complete plumbing facilities**, and approximately **7% lacks complete kitchen facilities** (2010).



5,011 people from the Virgin Islands have asthma, approximately 5% of the population.



52% of all housing in the Virgin Islands was damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria; more than **50% of Virgin Islands residents reported the presence of mold in their homes** following the hurricanes.



Approximately **1,600 falls** occurred in the Virgin Islands in 2017.



Approximately **10 people in the Virgin Islands are poisoned by carbon monoxide annually.**