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 Washington 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 Washington. For example:

- **CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**: YES
- **CDC’s National Asthma Control Program**: NO
- **CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network**: YES
- **HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**: YES
- **HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**: YES
- **HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program**: YES
- **EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants**: YES
- **EPA’s State Indoor Radon Grants**: YES
- **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

In Washington, 31% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 14% of children live in poverty.

In 2018, 448 Washingtonian children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); only 4% of children under six years of age were screened. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 54% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

47% of Washington homes were built before 1978 and are likely to contain lead-based paint; approximately 15% are estimated to have existing lead hazards.

Approximately 10% of adults (2018) and 7% of children (2016) have current asthma in Washington.

In 2018, unintentional falls were responsible for approximately 920 deaths of Washingtonians over the age of 65 per 100,000 (60.25 per 100,000 nationally).

In Washington, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives were more likely to have asthma than other racial or ethnic groups (2000-2012).


Approximately 22% of homes tested for radon in Washington in 2018 had levels above the EPA action level.

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