

UNITED STATES

2020 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. 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.

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	24 million people have asthma (1 in 13 children; 1 in 13 adults)	32,500 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
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**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**

February 2021. 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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