

New York Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

The home is the most dangerous place for U.S. families.ⁱ Nearly six million families live in housing rivaling that of developing countries, with broken heating and plumbing, holes in walls and windows, roach and rodent infestation, falling plaster, crumbling foundations, and leaking roofs. Millions more in all 50 states live in housing with serious health and safety hazards including mold, exposed wiring, radon, unvented heaters, toxic chemicals, broken stairs, missing smoke detectors, and other hazards.ⁱⁱ Home-based interventions to address health hazards improve health and have a large return on investment: Each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control results in a return of \$17 to \$221,ⁱⁱⁱ and each dollar invested in asthma home-based interventions that include education and remediation results in a return of \$5.30 to \$14.00.^{iv}

The need in New York

Forty-five percent of children in New York live in households with high housing cost burden and 23% of children in New York live in poverty.^v Over 33% of New York homes were built before 1940, and, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, New York state has the largest number and percentage of pre-1950 housing in the United States.^{vi, vii} These factors make New York a high housing hazard state. Unhealthy housing conditions can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems. These health problems in turn result in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed work days for parents.

The need for funding

To protect the health of New York families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full funding in FY 2016 and beyond is needed for the following:

- ✓ **CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program = \$29,257,000**
- ✓ **CDC's National Asthma Control Program = \$30,596,000**
- ✓ **HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes = \$120,000,000**

Funding for healthy housing in New York

- Since 1999, eligible cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits have received 98 grants, for a total of \$213,739,736 in funding from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for lead hazard reduction, healthy homes production, and education and outreach activities. Of this total:
 - Ten grants have been awarded either to the city of Rochester or the Monroe County Department of Public Health, for a total of \$28,605,824.
 - The city of New York has been awarded a total of \$32,100,000 in 11 grants.
 - Westchester County has been awarded a total of \$16,899,639 in seven grants.

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- New York has received a total of \$16,510,793 in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control programs from FY05 – FY14. Of this funding:
 - New York has received a total of \$12,082,430 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, including two awards totaling \$805,474, in funding for lead poisoning prevention activities in FY14; one to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for \$404,472, and one to Health Research, Inc./New York State Department of Health for \$401,002.^{viii}
 - The New York State Department of Health has received a total of \$4,428,363 in funding for asthma-related activities, most recently for \$575,717 in FY12.
- The New York State Department of Health/Health Research, Inc. has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2001.^{ix}

Childhood lead poisoning^x

- In 2012, 12,067 children under six years old tested in New York reported elevated blood lead levels over 5 µg/dL.
 - 1,678 of these children reported elevated blood lead levels above 10 µg/dL.
 - 8,684 of these children were from New York City alone.
- In 2013, 197 children were identified in Monroe County with elevated blood lead levels above 10 µg/dL.^{xi}

Asthma^{xii, xiii}

- An estimated 1.4 million adults (9.7%) and 456,000 children (10.4%) in New York had current asthma in 2011 and 2010 respectively.
- In 2010, asthma-related hospitalizations in New York State totaled \$618,000,000, and in 2011 the total cost was \$660,000.
- More than \$276 million were spent in 2010 for asthma-related services among the New York State Medicaid managed care population with asthma; resulting in an average cost of \$1,109 per asthma enrollee.

Radon

- Thirty-four of New York's 62 counties are classified in the "highest potential" radon zone by the U.S. EPA.^{xiv}

Carbon monoxide deaths

- There were 437 deaths due to carbon monoxide exposure in New York from 2000 to 2007.^{xv}

Injury-related deaths

- Annually, for every 100,000 persons in New York, there are 17.57 unintentional injury deaths caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.^{xvi}

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National rankings

- NCHH's 2013 *State of Healthy Housing* report ranks 45 metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) according to healthy housing related data in the American Housing Survey. The New York Area MSA, is tied for 10th and categorized as one of the "most healthy" communities. The only other New York MSA included in this report is Buffalo, which was ranked 34th by the report and is classified as having "fair" conditions.^{xvii}
- The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's listing of "Asthma Capitals" for 2014 ranks the 100 largest U.S. metro areas to identify the "most challenging places to live with asthma." The state of New York does not have any cities identified within the top 60 "most challenging." New York City, in 61st place, is the "most challenging" city identified for the state; four additional cities are also identified: Buffalo (73rd), Syracuse (78th), Albany (95th), and Rochester (96th).^{xviii}

Healthcare financing for healthy homes^{xix}

The National Center for Healthy Housing's November 2014 [study](#) regarding state Medicaid reimbursement for environmental health services in the homes of people with asthma and children exposed to lead shows that in [New York](#) some level of Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to both asthma and lead and efforts are under way to expand reimbursement for services related to asthma.¹

Opportunities for New York to improve reimbursement of environmental health services further include:

- Extending coverage for asthma control services to include those administered by nontraditional providers, such as certified asthma educators and community health workers;
- Ensuring that services and supports are in place to eliminate or reduce exposure to asthma triggers or lead hazards identified in the home environment.
- Ensuring that the eligibility criteria for lead poisoning follow-up services in New York is aligned with the current CDC reference value for lead poisoning (5 µg/dL).

For additional information please contact

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¹ Note: (a) These are self-reported results that have not been independently verified; (b) the existence of a policy does NOT mean that services are actually being delivered on the ground.

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