



## Ohio Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

The home is the most dangerous place for U.S. families.<sup>i</sup> 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.<sup>ii</sup> 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–\$221<sup>iii</sup> and each dollar invested in asthma home-based interventions that include education and remediation results in a return of \$5.30 to \$14.00.<sup>iv</sup>

### The need in Ohio

Thirty-one percent of children in Ohio live in households with high housing cost burden and 24% of children in Ohio live in poverty.<sup>v</sup> The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the age of Ohio's housing stock. Approximately 23% of Ohio's homes were built in 1939 or earlier and are likely to contain lead-based paint.<sup>vi</sup> These factors make Ohio 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, and missed work days for parents.

### The need for funding

To protect the health of Ohio 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 Ohio

- Ohio has received a total of \$189,575,400 in funding for 93 grants from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control since 1999. Of this total:
  - Mahoning County has received a total of \$23,975, in funding for 10 grants; the most recent of which was a \$2,500,000 grant in 2013 for lead-based paint hazard control.
  - The City of Akron has received a total of \$21,020,000 in funding for 7 grants; the most recent of which was a grant in 2012 for lead hazard reduction demonstration activities.
- Ohio has received a total of \$13,524,595 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:
  - Ohio has received a total of \$9,573,346 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

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- The Ohio State Department of Health has received a total of \$3,951,249 in funding for asthma-related activities, most recently for \$726,422 in FY14.
- The Ohio Department of Health has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2003.<sup>vii</sup>

### **Childhood lead poisoning**

- In 2012, 11,332 of the children tested in Ohio had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ); 1,706 of them had blood lead levels of ten  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or more.<sup>viii</sup>
- 7.3% of Ohio children receiving blood lead tests in 2011 had blood lead levels greater than 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .
- In 2007, only 39% of Medicaid two-year olds and 63% of Medicaid one-year olds in Ohio received a lead test.<sup>ix</sup>
- Ohio has a total of 3.6 million units built in or before 1979 that are assumed to have lead-based paint hazards.<sup>x</sup>

### **Asthma**

- 9.8% of adults in Ohio had current asthma in 2010.<sup>xi</sup>
- 9.2% of Ohio youth had current asthma in 2010.<sup>viii</sup>
- In Ohio, nearly one in 5 children at or below the poverty line have asthma.<sup>viii</sup>

### **Radon**

- Approximately 30.5% of schools in Ohio have a potential for at least one room to have a radon concentration in excess of the US EPA action level (4 pCi/L) compared to 19.3% nationwide.<sup>xii</sup>

### **Carbon monoxide deaths**

- There were 616 deaths in Ohio due to carbon monoxide exposure in 2000-2007.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **Injury-related deaths**

- For every 100,000 persons in Ohio, there were 28.73 unintentional deaths at home caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.<sup>xiv</sup>

### **National rankings**

- NCHH's 2013 *State of Healthy Housing* report ranks 45 metropolitan statistical areas according to healthy housing related data in the American Housing Survey. The state of Ohio has three cities that were categorized as "fair" by the report: Columbus (16<sup>th</sup>), Cleveland (22<sup>nd</sup>), and Cincinnati (32<sup>nd</sup>).<sup>xv</sup>
- 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 Ohio has three cities in the within the 25 most challenging: Dayton (21<sup>st</sup>), Cleveland (23<sup>rd</sup>), and Toledo (25<sup>th</sup>). Four additional cities are included in the next 25: Akron (31<sup>st</sup>), Cincinnati (34<sup>th</sup>), Youngstown (45<sup>th</sup>), and Columbus (46<sup>th</sup>).<sup>xvi</sup>

### **Healthcare financing for healthy homes<sup>xvii</sup>**

The National Center for Healthy Housing's November 2014 [study](#) regarding state Medicaid reimbursement policies for environmental health services in the homes of people with asthma and

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children exposed to lead shows that in [Ohio](#) some level of Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to lead, but none is in place for activities related to asthma.<sup>1</sup>

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

- Effecting coverage for home-based asthma services that address environmental triggers in the home environment.
- Ensuring that services and supports are included 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 Ohio is aligned with the current CDC reference value for lead poisoning (5 µg/dL).

### For additional information, please contact:

Julie Kruse, Director of Policy  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
[jkruse@nchh.org](mailto:jkruse@nchh.org), 202.280.1982

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i Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Injury in the United States: 2007 chartbook. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/injury2007.pdf>

ii National Center for Healthy Housing. (2013). State of healthy housing. Retrieved from <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/2013StateofHealthyHousing.aspx>

iii Gould, E. (2009, July). Childhood lead poisoning: Conservative estimates of the social and economic benefits of lead hazard control. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 117(7), 1162-1167. Retrieved from <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/117/7/ehp.0800408.pdf>

iv The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide). (2013, September 27). Asthma control. Retrieved from <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/asthma/multicomponent.html>

v The Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2014 Kids Count Data Book: Ohio State Profile. Retrieved from [http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2014KC\\_profile\\_OH.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2014KC_profile_OH.pdf)

vi American Community Survey 2004. Percent of Housing Units That Were Built in 1939 or Earlier by State. Retrieved from [http://www.statemaster.com/graph/hou\\_per\\_of\\_hou\\_uni tha\\_wer\\_bui\\_in\\_193 or\\_ear-units-were-built-1939-earlier](http://www.statemaster.com/graph/hou_per_of_hou_uni tha_wer_bui_in_193 or_ear-units-were-built-1939-earlier)

vii <http://nchh.org/tabid/139/default.aspx?ContentID=218>

viii Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Number of Children Tested and Confirmed EBLLs by State, Year, and BLL Group, Children < 72 Months Old. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/StateConfirmedByYear1997-2012.htm>

ix Ohio Healthy Homes Network. *Incidence of Lead Poisoning in Ohio*. Retrieved from [http://www.ohhn.org/health/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=60](http://www.ohhn.org/health/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=60)

x CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Reporting Tool. Retrieved from <http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/QueryPanel/EPHTNQuery/EPHTQuery.html?c=AS&i=1&m=-1#>

xi Ohio Department of Health. *The Burden of Asthma in Ohio 2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/eh/asthma/Burden%20of%20Asthma%20in%20Ohio%202012.ashx>

xii University of Toledo. Management of Indoor Radon in the State of Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.eng.utoledo.edu/aprg/radon/concentrations/files/OhioRadon.ppt>

xiii CDC Environmental Health Tracking Network (2000-2007). Carbon Monoxide Deaths (#)/Multi-Year Period. Retrieved from <http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/QueryPanel/EPHTNQuery/EPHTQuery.html?c=CO&i=1&m=-1#>

xiv CDC's WISQARS Database: Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System. Composite indicator (excluding estimated 20% of unintentional deaths related to motor vehicles). Unintentional Deaths in Home/Death Rate (per 100,000). Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

xv <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/2013StateofHealthyHousing/NationalRankings/tabid/861/healthy/1/Default.aspx>

xvi [http://www.aafa.org/pdfs/2014\\_AC\\_FinalPublicList1.pdf](http://www.aafa.org/pdfs/2014_AC_FinalPublicList1.pdf)

xvii <http://www.nchh.org/Resources/HealthcareFinancing/Snapshot.aspx>

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