

## **New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire**

Thirty-five percent of children in New Hampshire live in households with high housing cost burden, and approximately 10% of children in New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire's housing stock, which is considerably older than the national average. Of New Hampshire's 615,000 housing units, almost 60% were built prior to 1980 and 33% were built prior to 1960. Over 20% of New Hampshire homes were built in 1939 or earlier, compared to 13% nationally.<sup>vi</sup> Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, injuries, and asthma and other respiratory problems, in turn resulting 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 Hampshire families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full funding in FY 2017 and beyond is needed for the following:

- ✓ **CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program = \$35,000,000**
- ✓ **CDC's National Asthma Control Program = \$30,596,000**
- ✓ **HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes = \$230,000,000**

### **Funding for healthy housing in New Hampshire**

- Since 1999, the state of New Hampshire, eligible cities, and qualifying nonprofits have received \$24,328,495 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, one grant was awarded in the state in 2015: \$2.9 million to the city of Manchester for lead hazard reduction demonstration activities.<sup>vii</sup>
- From FY05-FY14, New Hampshire received a total of \$7,088,472 in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control programs. Of this funding:
  - The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has received a total of \$3,259,838 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, most recently in FY14 for \$314,958.
  - The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has also received a total of \$3,828,634 in funding for asthma-related activities including \$514,436 in FY14.

## ***New Hampshire Healthy Housing Fact Sheet (continued)***

- The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2001.<sup>viii</sup>

### **Lead poisoning**

- In 2012, 1,601 of the children tested in New Hampshire under the age of six had an elevated blood lead level (EBLL), which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ); 116 of them had blood lead levels of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or more.<sup>ix</sup>
- In 2014, 855 New Hampshire children under age six were newly identified with an EBLL level; 60 of them had blood lead levels of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or more.<sup>x</sup>
- The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has identified eight New Hampshire communities at highest risk for lead exposure including: Berlin, Claremont, Newport, Franklin, Laconia, Manchester, Nashua, and Rochester.<sup>xi</sup>
- The monetary costs of childhood lead poisoning in New Hampshire are estimated to be between \$141 and \$346 million annually when considering the lifetime effect on employment, earnings, and behavior.<sup>xii</sup>

### **Asthma<sup>xiii</sup>**

- New Hampshire continues to have one of the highest prevalence rates of asthma in the United States. The prevalence of current asthma was 11% among New Hampshire adults and 10.6% among New Hampshire children in 2013.
  - The prevalence of current asthma among adults in Coos County is 18%, well above the state and national average.
- Direct medical costs in New Hampshire associated with asthma have been estimated at \$167 million annually; \$2,175 per person treated for asthma.

### **Radon**

- Most of New Hampshire is located in a moderate potential radon zone with nine of the ten counties identified as "Zone 2" or a moderate radon-risk zone. One county, Carroll County, is identified as a "Zone 1" or a high radon-risk zone.<sup>xiv</sup>
- Radon is a common New Hampshire groundwater contaminant with 55% of private wells exceeding the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NH DES) recommended action level of 2,000 picocuries of Radon per liter (pCi/l) of drinking water.<sup>xv</sup>

### **Carbon monoxide deaths**

- Several deaths occur in New Hampshire every year due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning furnaces, stoves, or appliances according to the New Hampshire Carbon Monoxide Working Group.<sup>xvi</sup> Between 2000 and 2012, there were 30 deaths in New Hampshire due to unintentional carbon monoxide exposure.<sup>xvii</sup>
- In 2013, there were 186 emergency department visits in New Hampshire due to potential CO poisoning.<sup>xviii</sup>

## ***New Hampshire Healthy Housing Fact Sheet (continued)***

### **Injury-related deaths**

- Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for New Hampshire residents between the ages of one and 44 years of age.<sup>xix</sup> For every 100,000 persons in New Hampshire, there are an estimated 25.76 unintentional injury deaths caused by dangers other than automobile-related issues.<sup>xx</sup>
- In New Hampshire, the age groups most likely to go to the emergency department due to a fall injury are 0 to 14 years and 75 years and older. In 2010, an estimated 26,456 New Hampshire adults age 65 or over fell one or more times; 32.7% of these individuals reported being injured due to falls.<sup>xxi</sup>

### **Healthcare financing for healthy homes<sup>xxii, xxiii</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 children exposed to lead shows that in New Hampshire some level of Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to both asthma and lead.<sup>1</sup>

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

- Extending coverage for asthma control services statewide.
- Extending coverage for asthma control services to include those administered by non-traditional providers such as community health workers.
- Ensuring that the eligibility criteria for lead-poisoning follow-up services in New Hampshire is aligned with the current CDC reference value for lead poisoning (5 µg/dL).

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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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.

## New Hampshire Healthy Housing Fact Sheet (continued)

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## Funding from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

State	Name	City	Amount	L or HH	Year	Program
NH	City of Manchester	Manchester	\$ 2,905,091	L	2015	LHRD
NH	City of Nashua	Nashua	\$ 3,400,000	L	2014	LBPHC
NH	New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority		\$ 3,400,000	L	2014	LBPHC
NH	New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority		\$ 2,480,000	L	2012	LBPHC
NH	City of Nashua	Nashua	\$ 2,480,000	L	2012	LBPHC
NH	Planning and Community Develop Community	Manchester	\$ 3,967,678	L	2010	LHRD
NH	City of Nashua	Nashua	\$ 3,000,000	L	2007	LBPHC
NH	City of Manchester	Manchester	\$ 1,800,000	L	2006	LHRD
NH	City of Manchester	Manchester	\$ 895,726	L	2002	
			<b>\$ 24,328,495</b>	<b>Total FY99-FY15</b>		

**Funding from CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control Programs - NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Program and Grantee	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	TOTALS BY PROGRAM
<b>Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention*</b>											<b>\$ 3,259,838</b>
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 326,694	\$ 375,670	\$ 362,732	\$ 334,881	\$ 324,745	\$ 332,052	\$ 444,053	\$ 444,053		\$ 314,958	
<b>Addressing Asthma in Public Health</b>											<b>\$ 3,768,739</b>
New Hampshire State Department of Health Statistics and Data Management	\$ 350,000	\$ 335,027	\$ 264,069	\$ 350,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 396,000	\$ 309,323	\$ 364,320	\$ 500,000	
<b>Surveillance - Asthma</b>											<b>\$ 59,895</b>
New Hampshire State Department of Health and Human Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,379	\$ 18,080	\$ 14,436	
<b>Other - Asthma</b>											<b>\$ -</b>
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS BY FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 676,694</b>	<b>\$ 710,697</b>	<b>\$ 626,801</b>	<b>\$ 684,881</b>	<b>\$ 774,745</b>	<b>\$ 782,052</b>	<b>\$ 840,053</b>	<b>\$ 780,755</b>	<b>\$ 382,400</b>	<b>\$ 829,394</b>	

**GRAND TOTAL FY05 - FY 14 \$ 7,088,472**

\* Timeline of CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Name:

2005-2010: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

2011, 2012, 2014: Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

2013: The lead program was not funded.