



# UNITED STATES

## 2017 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.

**35 million U.S. homes**  
place their occupants at risk

For example, in the United States each year...

**500,000 children**

aged 1-5 years old have elevated blood lead levels

**24 million people**

have asthma (1 in 11 children; 1 in 12 adults)

**27,000 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

### Housing related health hazards cost the U.S. billions annually.

**\$56 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 \$17 to \$220** and poisonings can be prevented:

CDC's lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes efforts alone **prevent approximately 100,000 children from being lead poisoned each year**

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

- 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**

For references and additional state-specific healthy homes information, visit [www.nchh.org](http://www.nchh.org) or contact [sgoodwin@nchh.org](mailto:sgoodwin@nchh.org)