

## Florida 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 to \$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 Florida

Forty-six percent of children in Florida live in households with high housing cost burden, and 25% of children in Florida live in poverty.<sup>v</sup> The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children and families is exacerbated by the approximately 433,000 Florida homes built before 1950 that are likely to contain lead-based paint.<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 Florida 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 Florida

- Since 1999, eligible cities, counties, and qualifying nonprofits in Florida have received two grants totaling \$5,196,000 in funding from HUD's Office Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for lead hazard reduction, healthy homes production, and education and outreach activities. The most recent grant, which totaled \$3,000,000, was awarded to the City of Miami in 2004.
- Florida has received a total of \$8,503,470 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:
  - Florida Department of Health has received a total of \$6,161,083 from the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, most recently in FY11 for \$593,887.
  - Florida State Department of Health has received a total of \$2,342,387 in funding for asthma-related activities including \$813,884 in FY14.
  - In FY 2014, the state of Florida did not receive funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for lead poisoning prevention.<sup>vii</sup>
- The Florida Department of Health has been funded by CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2009.<sup>viii</sup>

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### **Childhood lead poisoning**

- In 2013, 3,640 of the children tested in Florida had an elevated blood lead level, which is five or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ); 306 of them had blood lead levels of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or more.<sup>ix</sup>
- In 2010, the numbers of Florida children under 5 years of age identified with elevated blood lead levels between 5 and 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  for selected counties are as follows<sup>x</sup>:
  - Broward County – 501 children
  - Collier County – 42 children
  - Hendry County – 26 children
  - Miami-Dade County – 1,659 children

### **Asthma<sup>xi</sup>**

- Approximately 1.6 million Floridians had current asthma in 2012: one in every 10 Florida children and one in every 12 Florida adults.
- The combined charges in 2012 for asthma-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations in Florida exceeded one billion dollars (\$1,085 million). Of this total, Medicaid covered 55.9%.

### **Radon**

- One out of every five residences in Florida has elevated radon levels.<sup>xii</sup>
- Nine counties in Florida are categorized by the U.S. EPA as having “moderate potential” for elevated indoor radon levels above 4 pCi/L.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **Carbon monoxide deaths**

- There were 447 deaths due to carbon monoxide exposure from 2000 to 2007 in Florida.<sup>xiv</sup>

### **Injury-related deaths**

- In Florida in 2012, 46% of fatal unintentional injuries and 57% of nonfatal unintentional injuries resulting in hospitalization occurred at home.<sup>xv</sup>
- Unintentional falls are the leading cause of injury death among Florida residents ages 65 years and older.<sup>xvi</sup>

### **National rankings**

- NCHH’s 2013 *State of Healthy Housing* report ranks 45 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) according to healthy housing related data in the American Housing Survey. The state of Florida has two MSAs included in this report. The Tampa-Saint Petersburg-Clearwater area tied for third and the Miami-Hialeah area tied for sixth; both are categorized as having “most healthy” healthy housing characteristics.<sup>xvii</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 Florida has nine cities identified in this listing. Jacksonville, in 20th place, is the “most challenging” city identified for the state; the eight additional cities also identified are Orlando (49th), Tampa

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(50th), Lakeland (55th), Miami (58th), Daytona Beach (64th), Sarasota (75th), Palm Bay (76th), and Cape Coral (82nd).<sup>xviii</sup>

### Healthcare financing for healthy homes<sup>xix, xx</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 [Florida](#) no Medicaid reimbursement is in place for activities related to lead or asthma; efforts to explore reimbursement for services related to asthma were identified.<sup>1</sup>

Opportunities for Florida to improve reimbursement of environmental health services include:

- Effecting coverage for home-based healthy homes services addressing lead and asthma 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.

### For additional information, please contact

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<sup>i</sup> 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>

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

<sup>iii</sup> 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>

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

<sup>v</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (n.d.). 2014 kids count data book: Florida state profile. Retrieved from [http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2014KC\\_profile\\_FL.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2014KC_profile_FL.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> Florida Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. (2003). 2003 Annual Report. Retrieved from <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/lead-poisoning/documents/annual-03.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> National Center for Healthy Housing (2014, October 24). CDC awards \$11 million for lead poisoning prevention. [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://nchh.org/tabid/139/default.aspx?ContentID=218>

<sup>viii</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014, September 25). Asthma: Florida. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/contacts/fl.htm>

<sup>ix</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Number of children tested and confirmed EBLs by state, year, and BLL group, children < 72 months old. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/Website\\_StateConfirmedByYear\\_1997\\_2013\\_10162014.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/Website_StateConfirmedByYear_1997_2013_10162014.htm)

<sup>x</sup> Florida Department of Health. (2014). Environmental Public Health Tracking: Childhood Lead Screening Indicator Data. Retrieved from <http://www.floridatracking.com/HealthTrackFL/DealIndicator.aspx?PageId=11300>

<sup>xi</sup> Forrest, J. & Dudley, J. (for Florida Department of Health). (2013). *Burden of asthma in Florida*. Retrieved from <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/asthma/documents/asthma-burden2013.pdf>

<sup>xii</sup> Florida Department of Health. (n.d.). Radon Program. Retrieved from <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/radon/>

<sup>xiii</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). Radon: Where you live: Florida. Retrieved from <http://www.epa.gov/radon/states/florida.html>

<sup>xiv</sup> National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. CDC Environmental Health Tracking Network (2000-2007). Carbon monoxide deaths (#)/multi-year period. Retrieved from <http://ephrtracking.cdc.gov/QueryPanel/EPHTNQuery/EPHTNQuery.html?c=CO&i=-1&m=-1#>

<sup>xv</sup> Florida Department of Health. (n.d.). Florida injury facts: Unintentional injury. Retrieved from <http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/documents/data-fact-sheets/unintentional-injury-2012.pdf>

<sup>xvi</sup> Florida Department of Health. (n.d.). Injury prevention. Retrieved from <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/injury-prevention/index.html>

<sup>xvii</sup> National Center for Healthy Housing. (n.d.). Ranking of communities by healthy housing quality—All units in MSA. Retrieved from <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/2013StateofHealthyHousing/NationalRankings/tabid/861/healthy/1/Default.aspx>

<sup>xviii</sup> Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. (2014, April 28). The most challenging places to live with asthma. Retrieved from [http://www.aafa.org/pdfs/2014\\_AC\\_FinalPublicList1.pdf](http://www.aafa.org/pdfs/2014_AC_FinalPublicList1.pdf)

<sup>xix</sup> National Center for Healthy Housing. (2014). 2014 snapshot of healthcare financing for healthy homes in the United States. Retrieved from <http://www.nchh.org/Resources/HealthcareFinancing/Snapshot.aspx>

<sup>xx</sup> Morley, R., Reddy, A., Horton, K., & Malcarney, M.-B. (2014, November). *Healthcare financing of healthy homes: Findings from a 2014 nationwide survey of state reimbursement policies*. Retrieved from [http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/Reimbursement%20Landscape\\_MAIN%20REPORT\\_FINAL%20\(18%20November%202014\).pdf](http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/Reimbursement%20Landscape_MAIN%20REPORT_FINAL%20(18%20November%202014).pdf)

<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.