

New Hampshire Healthy Homes: A Case for Change

Strength Built on Partnerships

LEAD

- There are over 1,000 new childhood lead poisonings each year in NH.
- 62% of our homes were built before lead paint was banned.
- Lead has a life-time impact on a child's cognitive development.
- **SB 135 established a lead study commission to research ways to improve screening rates of children under 6 and increase primary prevention.**



ASTHMA

- NH has one of the highest rates of asthma in the nation.
- 10.6% children and 11% of adults have asthma.
- Smoke, pests, & poor indoor air quality all make asthma symptoms worse.
- **NH's direct medical cost of asthma is \$167 million annually. \$24 million of this is for children. \$8 million is due to poor air quality.**



FIRE & CO

- Two-thirds of fire deaths are in homes without working smoke alarms.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a SILENT KILLER— you can not see it, smell it, or taste it.
- Low level CO poisoning is like the flu. High levels can be fatal.
- **RSA 153:10-a sets the minimum standard for smoke and CO alarms in NH alongside State Fire Code. These alarms save lives.**



INJURY

- Falls are a leading cause of death. They can be prevented by low-cost fixes like as grab bars, lights, and clutter-free spaces.
- Medications, cleaning products, fuels, and e-cigarette cartridges contain toxic chemicals which can poison kids & pets.
- **There is a \$13.39 return on every \$1 invested in Poison Center Services.**



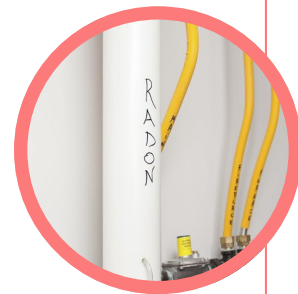
TOBACCO SMOKE

- 15.9% of NH adults and 9.8% of NH teens are current smokers.
- It costs 3x more to turn over smoking vs. non-smoking rental units.
- The use of e-smoking devices is rising. NH needs to ensure the safe handling and distribution of these tobacco products.
- **The annual direct cost of smoking in NH is about \$1.2 billion.**



RADON

- Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in NH.
- Testing your home for Radon is not expensive.
- Radon levels at 4 pCi/L or higher in the lowest living space are unsafe and a certified Radon Mitigator should be hired.
- **Building codes should require installing passive radon mitigation systems in new constructions, to prevent costly work later.**



MOLD & MOISTURE

- Leaks and moisture problems need to be fixed ASAP to reduce mold growth and to protect the building's materials and structure.
- Mold can impact people with lung problems and allergies.
- **RSA 310 requires the use of professional 3rd-party-certified mold remediation companies to ensure that all mold is safely removed.**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Fuel costs in NH are approx. \$2,500 per household. Higher fuel costs often mean less money for food.
- The average annual Social Security benefit in NH is \$14,119. 1 in 6 elderly rely on this for 90% of their income.
- **Health issues in the elderly can be worsened by poor heating and ventilation. Weatherizing homes saves money and improves health.**



PESTS

- Bedbugs, rodents, and insects are a nuisance, and can cause health problems for people with asthma.
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques help pest free homes with minimal use of toxic chemicals and poisons.
- **Under the Minimum Housing Standards (RSA 48-A: 14) pests MUST be addressed by the landlord or property manager.**



DRINKING WATER

- Nearly half of NH use a private well for their water. Most of these wells contain unsafe levels of radon, arsenic, or bacteria.
- It is important to educate and encourage private well owners to test and treat contaminated drinking water.
- **Local government can help by requiring testing or treatment of private well water when issuing local permits.**



HOME VISITS

- Over 11,897 home-visits took place in the last 3 years across NH.
- 72.5% of pregnant women in home visiting programs received a Healthy Homes Assessment before the birth of their child.
- **Home-visiting saves over \$5 for every \$1 invested in our communities.**

