



Photo by SMR Architects

# Housing & Health in North King County

The relationship between health and home is well-studied and widely-recognized: the health of our bodies depends on the health of our homes

## Healthy housing is affordable, safe, and supportive

A healthy home is one where the physical, mental, and socioeconomic environment supports the well-being of household members. It is free from hazards like pests or structural deficiencies. It does not impose a cost burden, ensuring household income can be spent on other needs such as food and healthcare.

It should be possible for every North King County resident to live in a healthy home.



### Affordable

Less than 30% of household income is spent on housing, ensuring there is enough for healthy food, health care, and other needs



### Safe

Home is free from hazards such as toxins, pests, and structural problems



### Supportive

Household members are supported in making healthy choices, achieving educational and economic success, and engaging with their community



Hallmarks of Healthy Housing  
Dry  
Pest-Free  
Contaminant-Free  
Ventilated  
Maintained  
Adequate plumbing & kitchen  
Not crowded  
Affordable!

## Healthy housing is critical to well-being

Research shows that affordable, healthy homes are positively correlated to physical and psychological well being.



Poor housing quality is the most consistent and strongest predictor of emotional and behavioral problems in children and youth

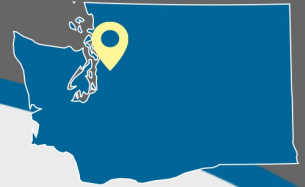


Households who spend less on housing are less likely to experience residential instability, which is associated with reduced mental and physical health outcomes

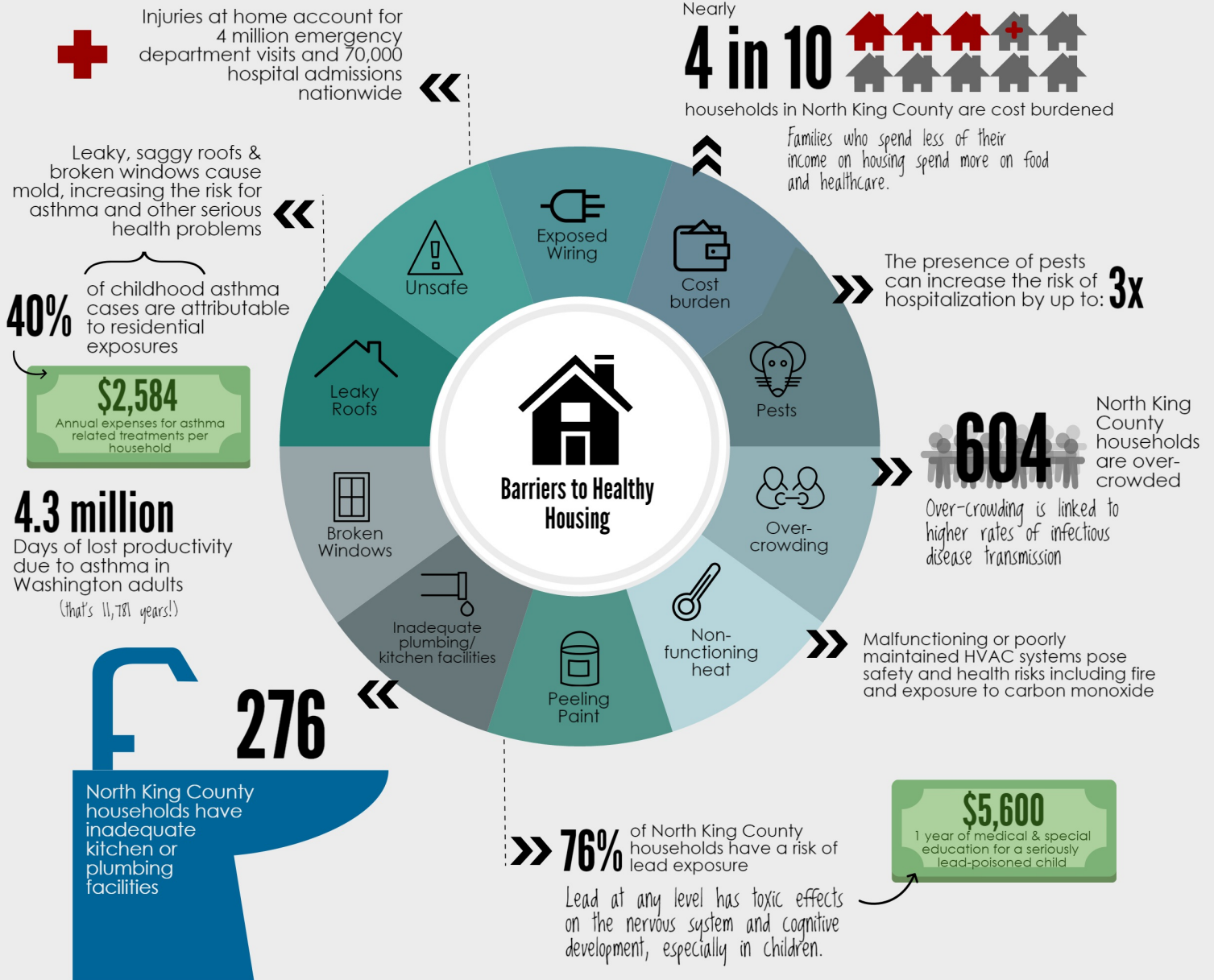


Residential exposures are major contributing factors to serious illnesses

# Impacts of healthy housing barriers in North King County



HUD's defined housing problems include overcrowding, inadequate plumbing, inadequate kitchen facilities, and cost-burden. The National Healthy Housing Standard (NHHS) builds on these to include structural integrity, safety & security, heating & energy, moisture, waste, pest management and chemical agents.



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