Housing & Health in Renton

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 Renton resident to live in a healthy home.

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 Renton

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

4 in 10 households in Renton are cost burdened

Families who spend less of their income on housing spend more on food and healthcare.

The presence of pests can increase the risk of hospitalization by up to 3x

1,579 Renton households are overcrowded

Over-crowding is linked to higher rates of infectious disease transmission

43% of Renton households have a risk of lead exposure

Lead at any level has toxic effects on the nervous system and cognitive development, especially in children.

4.3 million Days of lost productivity due to asthma in Washington adults

(3.1 million adults affected)

$2,584 Annual expenses for asthma related treatments per household

Leaky, saggy roofs & broken windows cause mold, increasing the risk for asthma and other serious health problems

473 Renton households have inadequate kitchen or plumbing facilities

Malfunctioning or poorly maintained HVAC systems pose safety and health risks including fire and exposure to carbon monoxide

$5,600 1 year of medical & special education for a seriously lead-poisoned child

Updated March 2017.


For more infographics like this one, visit housingconsortium.org