



Photo by Long B. Nguyen

Housing & Health in White Center

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 White Center 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



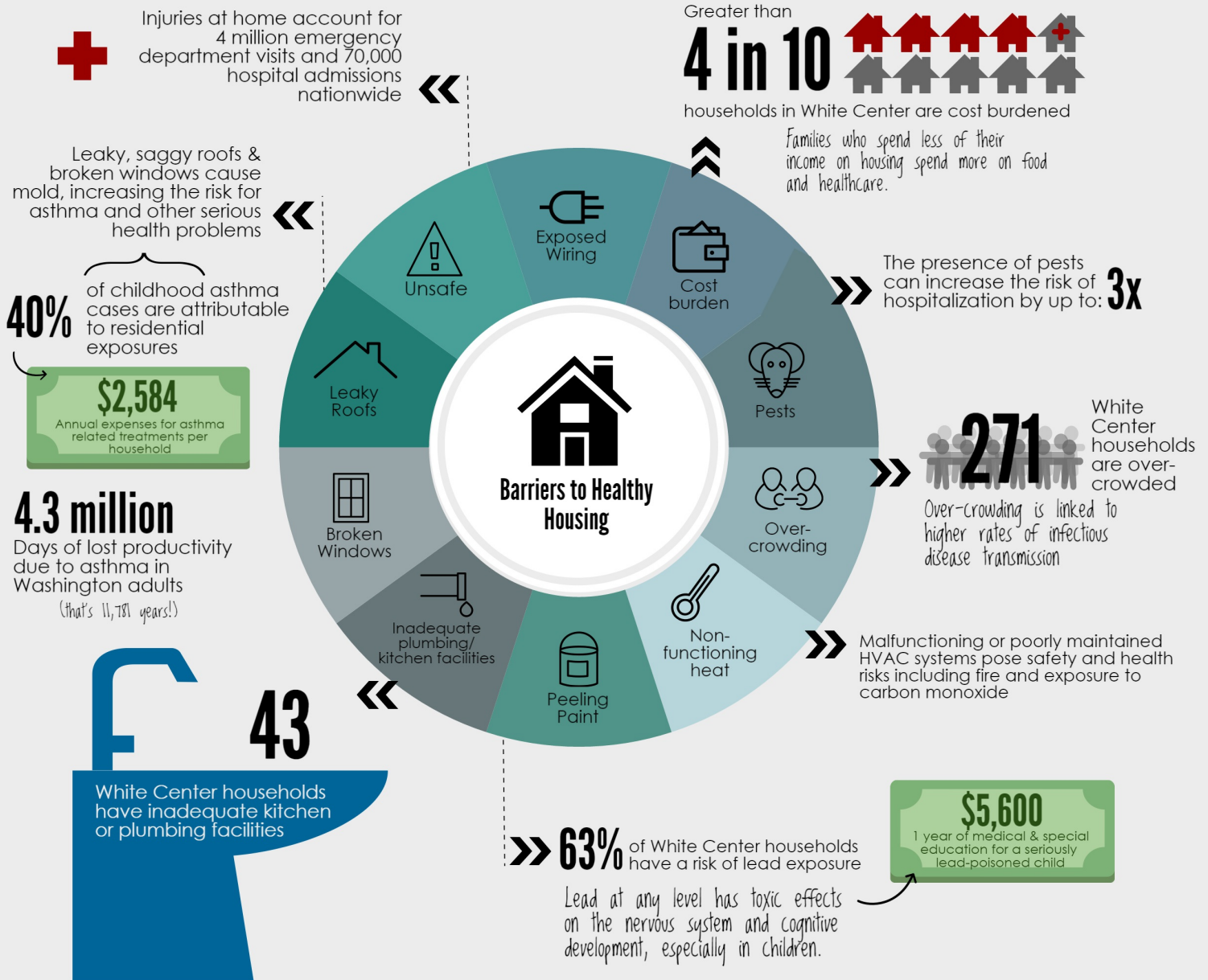
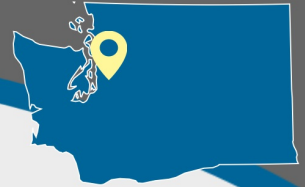
Households who spend less on housing are less likely to experience residential instability, which is associated with reduced mental and physical health outcomes



Residential exposures are major contributing factors to serious illnesses

Impacts of healthy housing barriers in White Center

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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