



Goal 5: Improve the health of indoor environments

Americans spend close to 90% of their time indoors. Hazards found in indoor environments including lead, carbon monoxide, mold, allergens, radon, and second-hand smoke can pose a serious threat to the health and productivity of building occupants.

KEY FACTS AND RELATED EFFORTS

- * The Baltimore City Health Department's **Healthy Homes & Communities Division** reaches a variety of community members through lead and healthy homes training and educational initiatives. The training initiative reaches target communities such as high-risk, low-income residents, day laborers, students studying construction, and the Latino community.
- * Between 2008 and 2009, the **Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning** served 3,333 low income individuals and organizations through lead hazard control interventions, legal services, relocation assistance, home safety interventions, and family advocacy services. The Baltimore-based Coalition reached 37,269 individuals in Maryland through direct outreach efforts in the past two years.
- * As of 2009, 100% of the Baltimore City Public Schools had adopted an **Integrated Pest Management policy** for their facilities.
- * Baltimore's **green building regulations** went into effect for all new and extensively modified buildings over 10,000 square feet on July 1, 2009. The requirements are based on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver certification. Projects are required to achieve indoor environmental quality requirements and are awarded points for implementing additional measures to improve indoor health such as low VOC materials, increased ventilation, and chemical pollutant controls.
- * The Baltimore **Weatherization Assistance Program** combines healthy home strategies with the Baltimore City Health Department, including an emphasis on asthma reduction for families with children under years of age. The program improves indoor air quality by replacing furnaces, improving air flow, installing carbon monoxide detectors, and detecting and addressing gas leaks.

HEALTHY INDOORS EFFORTS 2008-2009	
COALITION TO END CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PROGRAMS	
Properties receiving lead hazard reduction interventions	323
Properties receiving Healthy Homes interventions to reduce indoor allergens and safety hazards	261
Tenants provided with tenant's rights assistance to repair lead hazards in their home	414
Families receiving relocation assistance from lead hazardous housing to lead certified housing	213
BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S HEALTHY HOME PROGRAM	
People trained in lead and healthy home interventions	1,580
Families visited to assess home conditions	2,633

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STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

- Do not smoke or allow smoking in your home
- Use natural household cleaning products
- Regularly clean the vents in your kitchen, bathroom, and dryer
- Open your windows to circulate fresh air inside when not using your heating or cooling system
- If you know or suspect you have lead paint and/or asbestos in your home have professionals handle control and cleanup

« While not exhaustive of all efforts, these figures illustrate examples of ongoing efforts in Baltimore to improve the health of indoor environments.