



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. In 2010, they trained over 2700 people and reached target communities such as high-risk, low-income residents, day laborers, students studying construction, and the Latino community.
- * In 2010, the **Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning** served 1,194 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 39,229 individuals in Maryland through direct outreach efforts in the past two years.
- * **Baltimore's Green Building Standards** are required for all new and extensively modified buildings over 10,000 square feet. In 2010, six projects registered under the BGBS program and five registered under LEED® Silver. The requirements for the Baltimore program 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 the 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 and the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, with an emphasis on asthma reduction for families with children. The program improves indoor air quality by replacing furnaces, improving air flow, installing carbon monoxide detectors, and detecting and addressing gas leaks.
- * In 2010, the **Department of General Services** instituted the Baltimore Green Cleaning Program in 70 city buildings - protecting the health of building occupants and visitors.

PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

	2008-09	2010
COALITION TO END CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PROGRAMS		
Properties receiving lead hazard reduction interventions	323	165
Properties receiving Healthy Homes interventions to reduce indoor allergens and safety hazards	261	201
Tenants provided with tenant's rights assistance to repair lead hazards in their home	414	152
Families receiving relocation assistance from lead hazardous housing to lead certified housing	213	62
BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S HEALTHY HOME PROGRAM	2008-09	2010
People trained in home environmental asthma	NA	368
People trained in lead and healthy home interventions	1,580	1,058
People trained on integrated pest management/bed bugs	NA	1,750
Families provided with a comprehensive home visit to assess conditions	2,633	1,108
People who received lead and healthy homes materials and outreach at health fairs	37,269	39,229

4 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
- Install a Carbon Monoxide detector in your home

« While not exhaustive of all efforts, these figures illustrate examples of ongoing efforts in Baltimore to improve the health of indoor environments. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective approach to pest management that is environmentally friendly and cost effective. IPM reduces hazards to humans and assists in improved indoor environments.