

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BENEFITS HEALTH

People in stable housing are more likely to have the financial resources to meet health needs and access primary care. This decreases the cost burden for expensive public health services such as emergency room visits. The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's home ownership, rental housing and supportive housing investments help save public health dollars throughout the state.



Lowers exposure to health threats

Families lacking affordable housing options often live in unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions.¹ Research shows that well-constructed and well-maintained affordable housing reduces asthma, pestborne illnesses, lead poisoning, accidental injury and other health risks.² The Agency's affordable housing investments have improved nearly 34,550 deficient homes and apartments statewide.³



Reduces health care spending

A study of more than 1,600 individuals found that after people moved into affordable housing, Medicaid costs decreased by 12% as a result of fewer emergency room visits and lower medical expenditures.⁴ In addition, housing and rental assistance for families who are homeless or food insecure improved health outcomes of vulnerable children and lowered health care spending.⁵



Cuts institutional care costs

Home repair and rehabilitation helps owners who are low-income, elderly or have disabilities remain in their homes rather than entering costly institutional care, such as assisted living facilities. An analysis of the Agency's Urgent Repair Program found that every \$1 invested in home repairs could save up to \$19 in Medicaid costs.³

To learn more about how affordable housing benefits health, visit 2018.HousingBuildsNC.com

Sources: ¹ Health Affairs, ² Center for Housing Policy, ³ North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, ⁴ Center for Outcomes Research and Education, ⁵ Children's Healthwatch



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