

HEALTH STARTS AT HOME

In 2018, City of Bloomington Public Health examined health and housing data to better understand the relationship between rental housing conditions and cost, and the health of Richfield residents. State and local health data, experiences shared by groups of low-income renters, school district staff, and community experts contributed to the report findings.

To access the full report and recommendations, visit blm.mn/HEDA.

1 QUALITY HOUSING PREVENTS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY TRIGGERS



Asthma is the most common disease in American children. It is also the leading cause of emergency room visits, hospitalizations and school absences. Renters repeatedly mentioned asthma triggers in their homes such as mold, cockroaches, rodents, dirty carpets and secondhand smoke.

2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPROVES HEALTH

Renters often face hard choices between paying rent and paying for healthy food or needed medical expenses.

"...my kids haven't been to the dentist for two years because we can't afford it..." -Richfield renter

"You may not be able to get [the] groceries you want because it has to go toward rent." -Richfield renter

52%

of Richfield renters struggle to pay rent.

3 SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH



Over and over renters mentioned stress due to housing concerns. Stress may lead to or worsen mental and physical health issues. Children's success in school may be negatively affected.

"[Eviction] affected my family a lot.. [my kids] were raised there, they were born there, and we did not know where we were going to move to. And they didn't want to move. My kids used to tell me, 'this is our house,' but I explained we were being evicted. . . [and] they would cry."
-Richfield renter

Renters reported feeling stuck in poor and inadequate living conditions. They fear retaliation by landlords and can't find or afford other housing options.

"They don't give a lot of maintenance in this building. I want to move out, but it's been difficult. It's very stressful and I get very upset." -Richfield renter



QUALITY, AFFORDABLE, SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

This report was made possible by the City of Bloomington Public Health through funding support provided by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, Minnesota Department of Health. Research was conducted in Richfield.

