

Links Between Housing and Health



Housing quality

Housing that is safe, dry, clean, maintained, adequately ventilated, and free from pests and contaminants, such as lead, radon, and carbon monoxide, can reduce the incidence of negative health outcomes such as injuries, asthma, cancer, neurotoxicity, cardiovascular disease, and poor mental health.

Housing affordability

Affordable housing enables people to pay for other basic needs such as utilities, food, and medical care, which can reduce the incidence of negative health outcomes such as malnutrition, diabetes, anxiety, and depression.

Housing community

Neighborhoods free from segregation and concentrated poverty, and in which residents have close and supporting relationships with one another, can improve physical and mental health by reducing stress and exposure to violence and crime as well as improving school performance and civic engagement.

Housing location

Easy access to public transportation, parks and recreation, quality schools, good jobs, healthy foods, and medical care can help reduce the incidence of chronic disease, injury, respiratory disease, mortality, and poor mental health.

Source: Adapted from Human Impact Partners, 29th Street/San Pedro Street Area Health Impact Assessment (2009), accessed Jan.22, 2016, <http://www.humanimpact.org/downloads/san-pedro-st-area-hia-full-report>

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For further information, please visit:
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HEALTH **IMPACT**
PROJECT

Robert Wood Johnson
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The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a national initiative designed to promote and support the use of HIAs as a decision-making tool. The project works with government agencies and policymakers to help them implement HIAs; partners with foundations to fund HIAs; provides training and technical assistance; conducts research and policy analysis to support the field; and convenes the National HIA Meeting. The project also partners with foundations to guide and support regional HIA initiatives and collaborates with government agencies and nonprofits around the United States to find practical ways to build health into decisions.