

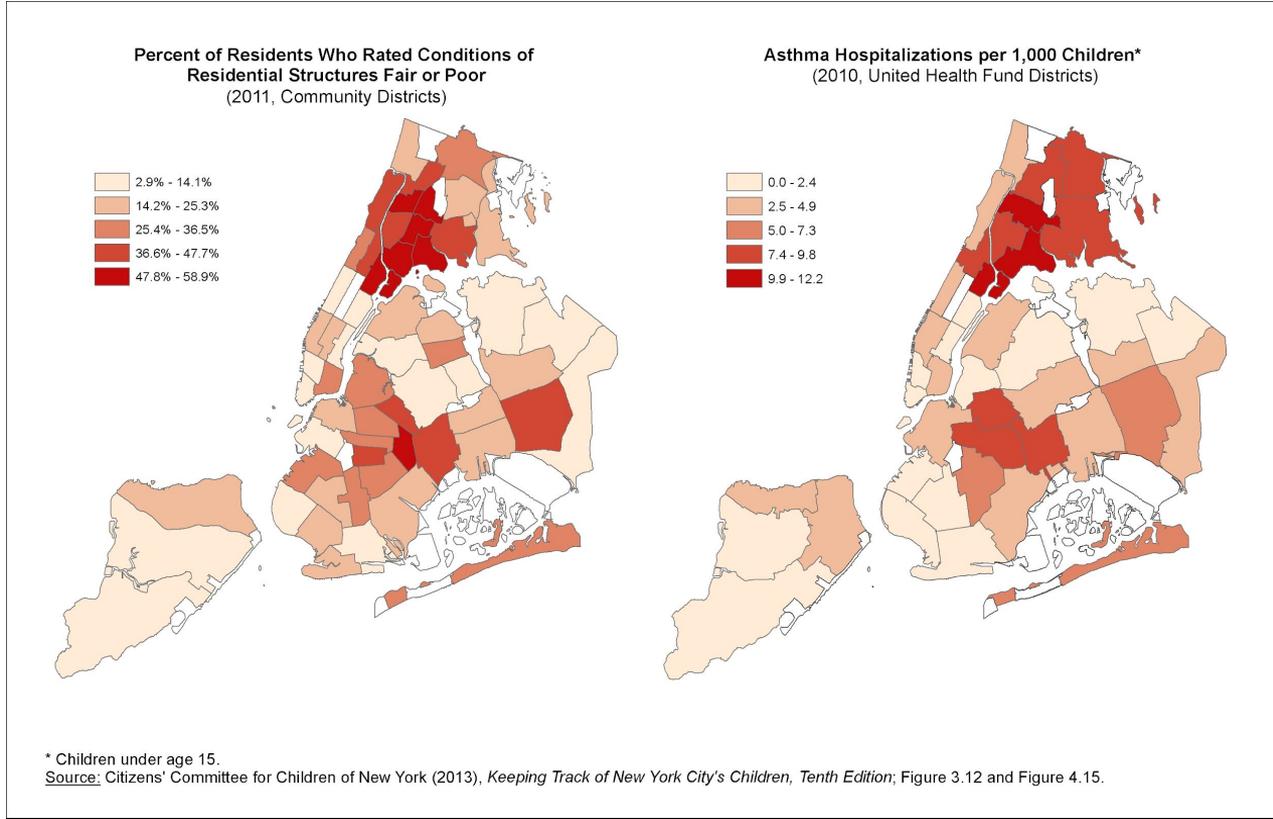
NYC's Asthma Free Housing Act: A Provider's Role

Health Justice Advocacy Clinic at Columbia Law School/
NY Lawyers for the Public Interest



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IS A HUMAN RIGHT.**
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Overlap between asthma hospitalizations and poor housing quality in NYC



Local Law 55

Passed in 2018, Local Law 55, or the Asthma Free Housing Act, holds landlords in NYC accountable for keeping rental homes free of mold and pests.

The Act also allows health professionals to refer patients to the Healthy Homes Program for home inspections so that allergens that may be triggering asthma can be remediated.



What can you do to help?

Clear the A.I.R.:

→ Ask

→ Inform

→ Refer

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Ask

- **Ask** your patient whether they have seen any signs of pests (mice, rats, or cockroaches) or mold in their home

Inform

- Inform your patient that the allergens in their home may be exacerbating their asthma
- Seek their consent to refer

Refer

- **Refer your patient:**

1. Complete this form and fax it to the Healthy Homes Program.
2. Or, submit the form online at <http://nyc.gov/health/cir> using a user ID and password. If you do not have an online account, then you can call 646-632-6085 and the HHP staff will work with you to submit the referral online.



Mold and Pest Enforcement Referral Form for Patients with Asthma

Please Print Clearly and Check All That Apply

Referral Criteria

- Does the patient have moderate persistent or severe persistent asthma? YES NO
- Have pests (mice, rats or cockroaches) or mold been observed in the home? YES NO
- Does the patient (or patient's guardian, if younger than 18 years old) consent to an inspection by the NYC Health Department? YES NO

*Acceptance of this service is not mandatory. Families can cancel the service at any time.
This service is limited to patients living within the 5 boroughs of New York City.*

**If all 3 boxes are checked YES, fax completed form with the subject "Asthma Indoor Allergen Referral" to:
(347) 396 – 8935**

NYC DOHMH will contact the family to set up an appointment after receiving the referral. If the inspector finds a pest or mold condition, the building owner will be ordered to safely correct the problem by making required repairs.

Household Information

Patient Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address, Apt #: _____ Borough/
Zip Code: _____

Guardian's Name: _____ Guardian
(If patient is younger Relationship:
than 18 years old) _____

Phone #: _____ Best time to call: _____

Email address(optional): _____

Referring Hospital/Clinic Information

Name of Referring Clinic/
Facility _____

Name of Person Making _____ Date of Referral: _____

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What does a referral do?

Your patient will be referred to the Healthy Homes Program (HHP), which will then contact your patient or their family to make an appointment for a home inspection.

If either mold or pests are found, the HHP will work with the patient and/or their family and their landlord to resolve the issue.

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Why Refer?

- Provide needed support to a patient in addressing this crucial issue in their home
- Improve asthma management among patients and help reduce adverse consequences of asthma, including hospitalizations
- Address disparities in access to healthcare and healthy homes



**Remember
Clear the A.I.R.**

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**Ask
Inform
Refer**



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Thank You!

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Slides and webinar created by the Columbia Health Justice Advocacy Clinic (Dionna Atkinson, Ruth Hirsch, Rani Kulkarni and Jacob Roth)