Healthy Housing:
Forging the Economic and Empirical Link
# Goals of the Report

1. Identify the economic and empirical links between housing and health

2. Identify the direct and indirect links between housing and health

3. Develop a new conceptual model on the complex effects of housing on health

4. Benchmark the housing and health link for the 13–County Atlanta Region

5. Present recommendations and future research needs

“Housing is one of the main settings that affects human health.”
- WHO
What is Healthy Housing?

A new conceptual model

It’s not just the building…
What is Healthy Housing?

A new conceptual model
The Case for Healthy Housing

Healthy Housing

Can help reduce:
- asthma, obesity, stress, arthritis, allergies, injuries, cardiovascular disease, depression, some cancers, and more

Improved Quality of Life

FOR THE PUBLIC
- this means a healthier and more productive life, improved student performance, more time for family

FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS
- this means a stronger workforce that attracts economic development, less cost for healthcare services, and more efficient infrastructure

FOR EMPLOYERS
- this means less absenteeism, greater productivity, and less turnover

FOR DEVELOPERS
- this means more desirable properties that get approved faster, sell faster, and garner better prices
Health & the Housing Unit

A well-studied link between health and the housing unit
The neighborhood influences by indirect links between housing and health.
The region plays a role in access to jobs, health care, and affordable housing.
Housing in the Atlanta Region

1980-2004, 27,400 units
1960-1979, 23,700 units
1940-1959, 8,400 units
1939 or earlier, 2,400 units

Are we building healthy housing?

Substandard Housing Units as a Percentage of All Occupied Units by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paulding</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>900 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>2,300 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwinnett</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>4,000 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>17,800 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1,000 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>16,100 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coweta</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>1,500 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>9,800 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>3,300 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>800 units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where is the substandard housing in the region?

Health in the Atlanta Region

Years of Potential Life Lost, All Causes

MAP SOURCE: Georgia Department of Human Resources, prepared from OASIS


DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, SF3.

MAP SOURCE: Georgia Department of Human Resources, prepared from OASIS

Health issues affect the entire region.
Recommendations

- Build consensus on housing and health in the Atlanta region
- Conduct policy and regulation audits to achieve healthy housing
- Conduct studies to examine the housing and health link in the Atlanta region
- Make more explicit the transportation–housing–health link in regional policy
- Coordinate data collection and develop a set of health and housing indicators (e.g. BRFSS)
- Create healthy housing