

# NYC'S A NEW LENS FOR HOUSING PLAN

**RX FOR HOUSING:  
HOUSING IS HEALTHCARE**



## A New Lens for NYC's Housing Plan:

The next housing plan is an opportunity for communities and policymakers to widen the conversation beyond counting units, articulate new metrics, and develop a shared vision of housing policy for NYC.

Public health concerns were the original driver of government intervention in New York City's housing stock. **Historically, creating and enforcing housing quality standards was focused on improving the health of residents in the city and controlling the spread of infectious diseases.** Today, our health and our housing are still connected, especially for households living in poverty.

Housing policy is health policy. Asthma and lead poisoning are primarily caused by exposure to poor housing conditions such as mold and lead paint. High housing costs mean that families have less to spend on medical needs and healthy food. The trauma of homelessness causes lasting emotional and physical health problems. **New York City's next housing plan could address health disparities by prioritizing metrics that measure health outcomes, harnessing the power of our housing policy to help New Yorkers build a healthy life.**

## WHAT IF THE GOAL OF THE NEXT HOUSING PLAN WAS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF NEW YORKERS?

Experiencing homelessness exacerbates existing health issues, restricts access to care, and makes it difficult to manage chronic conditions.

**70%**  
of lead poisoning cases in NYC are housing related.

From 2013-2018,  
**26,000 children**  
in NYC tested positive for lead poisoning.

### POVERTY AND ASTHMA ARE DIRECTLY RELATED.

Residents in NYCHA buildings have higher asthma rates than residents of any other housing type.

Asthma is the leading cause of ER visits in NYC causing adults to miss work and children to miss school.



THERE ARE 60,000 PEOPLE IN NYC DHS SHELTERS ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT.  
35% ARE CHILDREN.

Last year,  
**1,800 babies**  
in NYC were born in shelter or entered shelter within their first year of life.



Children living in private housing are over  
**2x** as likely  
to be exposed to lead compared to children who live in NYCHA buildings.

