

The National Tribal Healthy Homes Assessment, Training & Technical Assistance Support Center

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Overview

- Provide information about the National Tribal Healthy Homes Training Program
- Share information about environmental health “gaps”
- Share information about the reported needs among our training attendees
- How the tribes are using the Tribal Healthy Homes framework and resources at the local level



The National Tribal Healthy Homes (THH) Assessment, Training & Technical Assistance Support Center

- HUD ARRA grant recipient (2009)
- 36 month project period
- Regional Tribal Healthy Homes Trainings – all tribes nation-wide
- 2 ½ day trainings – attendees prioritize the topics covered
- Technical Assistance is offered to all tribes
- Diagnostic equipment loan kits
- Add on: Providing the EPA RRP (Renovation, Repair, and Painting) Certified Renovator, 1-day training



The National Tribal Healthy Homes (THH) Assessment, Training & Technical Assistance Support Center

- To date:
 - Trainings conducted:
 - Sacramento, CA – June 2010
 - Bozeman, MT – August 2010
 - Southern Ute Reservation, CO – October 2010
 - San Diego, CA – December 2010
 - Ada, OK – Chickasaw Nation – February 2011
 - Auburn, WA – Muckleshoot Casino - February 2011
 - Red Lake Reservation, MN – April 4th 2011
 - Albuquerque, NM – August 29th – September 1st
 - Kansas City, KS – September 26th – September 29th
 - Michigan – Inter-tribal Council - October



Typical THH Training Attendees

- Housing program personnel (supervisors, maintenance staff)
- Housing Inspectors
- EPA Directors
- Social workers
- Community & Family Services Departments
- Lead Outreach Coordinators
- CHR/Environment Health staff
- Weatherization Coordinators
- HVAC Technicians
- IHS Environmental Health Officers
- Housing Development Coordinators

Environmental Health Training “Gaps”

- EPA RRP (Renovation, Repair, and Painting) Rule
- Diagnostic equipment utilized during a home assessment (hygrometers (air), moisture meters, CO/gas monitors, etc.)
- Trainings that take into consideration the unique situations on native lands.
- Moving from information to action! What do I do next?

Reported Needs of Training Attendees

Topics most relevant or beneficial to you?

- Home energy/weatherization
- Mold/moisture
- Allergies & asthma
- Combustion gases
- Drinking & Waste Water
- Home Safety
- Hanta virus
- Household chemicals
- Meth

Reported Needs of Training Attendees

What are the most critical issues you see?

- Mold & Moisture
- Meth
- **Occupant education, suggestions for encouraging cleanliness and maintenance**
- Home energy/weatherization
- Water
- Radon
- Rodents (mice)
- Elders' home conditions

How Tribes are Using the THH Framework and Resources

Who are the tribes partnering with at the local level?

- Housing programs
- DOE Project Energy Coordinators
- Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Advocates
- Community Health Workers
- EPA and Health Departments



How Tribes are Using the THH Framework and Resources

Who are tribes targeting?

- Community-wide
- Tribal members/families
- Tribal members living in housing which has received either IHBG (Indian Housing Block Grant) and/or ICDBG (Indian Community Development Block Grant) funds. (They are not excluding tribal members who have not received this funding.)

How Tribes are Using the THH Framework and Resources

What types of activities are the tribes engaged in?

- Tribal newspaper articles
- Tribal radio station PSAs
- One-on-one education with Tribal home occupants
 - preventative maintenance, energy conservation, and healthy living conditions emphasized
- Local workshops:
 - DIY Preventative Maintenance Workshops
 - DIY Energy Conservation & Weatherization Workshops

Conclusions

- Comprehensive Healthy Homes trainings are very much needed among this population.
- Providing low-/no-cost recommendations are effective motivators.
- Majority of tribes have expressed the need for assistance in educating their occupants about proper maintenance. This is a touchy subject!

Conclusions

- Many Tribal Housing Programs are passionate about implementing Tribal Healthy Homes at the local level – this is something they WANT to do!
- Providing ready-to-use, culturally-appropriate, information and resources (PSAs, newsletter articles/puzzles, etc.) is critical to the implementation at the local level.



Tribal Healthy Homes Project Website:

www.tribalhealthyhomes.org

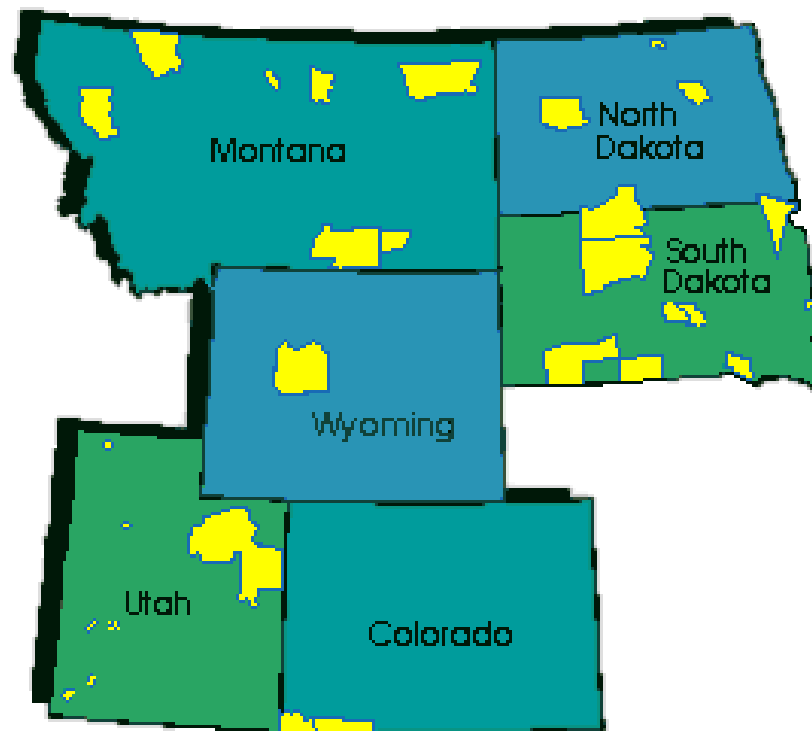
TRIBAL HOUSING

Teri Bahrych, US EPA, Region 8



General Comments

- I have assessed for lead-based paint over 750 houses located on all 26 Region 8 reservations



General Comments

- **All 565 tribes are not the same. Each has it's own culture, traditions, way of living, etc. Generalizations should not be made.**



Three Types of Home Ownership

1. **Federal**
2. **Tribal**
3. **Private**



Federal

1. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

Most of these homes were built before the 60's and over half have lead-based paint. Some houses have no window in the bathroom which makes a perfect place for mold.



Federal

2. HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

HUD has a large percentage of housing units on R8 reservations. I have found no lead-based paint in any HUD house I have assessed.



Federal

3. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES (IHS)

IHS is not building new housing units. Approximately half of the existing units have lead-based paint. These units are being abated.



Federal

4. Other Federal Agencies

Some other federal agencies have housing units:

- Bureau of Reclamation (BLM)
- Department of Energy (DOE)



Tribal

1. Each Tribe in Region 8 is actively building houses for their members.
2. As of today, I have not found any lead-based paint in tribally built houses.
3. However, historically the military has given excess modular housing to tribes and this housing does have lead-based paint.



Private

1. It's hard to characterize these houses. They are typically located away from a development
2. Built by individual contractors using individual designs
3. Each reservation is unique in the number of privately owned homes
4. Tribes have programs for members to purchase tribal houses
5. Habitat for Humanity houses fit in this category

Housing Issues on Tribal Lands

1. The most pressing issue with tribal housing is shortage **of housing**.
 - There are tribes in Region 8 that have waiting lists with over **100 families waiting for homes**. *(for some tribes that is a several year wait)*
2. Due to this shortage, houses on many reservations have become **multi-family units**.
 - **Two and three families will live in one house** because there is no where else to live.

Housing Issues on Tribal Lands

- 3. Maintenance** is another issue which is a never ending problem.
- Torn screens, broken windows and faucets that continually leak, are very common.



What information does EPA offer on lead in the home?

Let's Make All Kids Lead-Free Kids

Learning disabilities, hearing loss, and violent behavior are some of the effects lead paint can have on young children. If your home was built before 1978, lead paint on your walls, doors, windows and sills may be dangerous.

Call 800-424-5323 (LEAD) or [read more](#).



Lead paint poisoning affects over one million children today.

1-800-424-5323 (LEAD)
www.epa.gov/lead

What information does EPA offer on lead in the home?

- Brochures for families, contractors, renters, fixer- uppers and landlords
- Magnets to remind parents to have their children tested

Contacts & Websites

www.epa.gov/lead

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