

American Healthy Homes Survey (AHHS)

(Used for Indicator E6)

Brief description of the data set	A nationally representative sample of homes was selected for this survey. AHHS measured levels of lead, lead hazards, and allergens in homes nationwide. AHHS also surveyed additional potential health hazards such as arsenic, pesticides, and molds. The lead and arsenic data included the levels of lead in paint, dust and soil, and arsenic in dust and soil, and levels of paint deterioration.
Who provides the data set?	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
How are the data gathered?	Data were collected from participants in private and public residences. A 3-stage cluster sample was used to select a nationally representative sample of 1,131 homes. Samples were collected via surface wipes from four common living areas, homeowner vacuum bags, and soil samples from outside the home. Lead testing in paint was conducted using a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) instrument. Demographic and other information was collected using a questionnaire. All samples and survey information were collected during a single day.
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/NHHC/presentations/R-15 Findings from AHH survey.pdf . Slide four and five of the presentation. American Healthy Homes Survey, Draft Final Report. June, 2009.
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant environmental contaminant data include measurements of lead paint, lead dust, lead in soils, mold, allergens/endotoxins in dust, arsenic in soil, indoor moisture measurements, and indoor pesticide residues. Other relevant information found in this database includes housing type and age, demographic information on residents (age, race, income group, ethnicity), electrical safety, structural stability, moisture, pest control, ventilation, injury prevention, fire safety, deterioration of carpet, and plumbing facilities.
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	National.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Not currently.
How are database files obtained?	HUD provided data files directly to EPA for purposes of developing an indicator for America’s Children and the Environment. Summary tables are available in “American Healthy Homes Survey, Final Report, Lead and Arsenic Findings,” June 2009. http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=AHHS_REPORT.pdf .
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	None reported.
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	“American Healthy Homes Survey, Final Report, Lead and Arsenic Findings,” June 2009. http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=AHHS_REPORT.pdf
For what years are data available?	2005/2006.
What is the frequency of data collection?	Data were collected once, from June 2005 to March 2006.

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What is the frequency of data release?	The final report was released in April 2011 and can be found at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=AHHS_REPORT.pdf .
Are the data comparable across time and space?	As a one-time survey, time comparisons within the AHHS are not possible, but AHHS results can be compared with the earlier NSLAH survey (1999-2000). Geographic comparisons should be possible using the raw data, since the same data were collected at all homes. The Final Report gives some comparisons between the four Census regions.
Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?	The data can be stratified by residents' age, race, and ethnicity, Data can also be stratified by household income, census region, year of home construction, and by the housing type (rented or owned). However, estimates of lead hazards in the home for children ages 0 to 5 years broken out by race/ethnicity and income are not statistically reliable, due to the relatively small number of homes in each group.