

BUILD HEALTH DC

Focusing on the intersection of housing conditions
and pediatric asthma disparities in DC.



BOLD



UPSTREAM



INTEGRATED



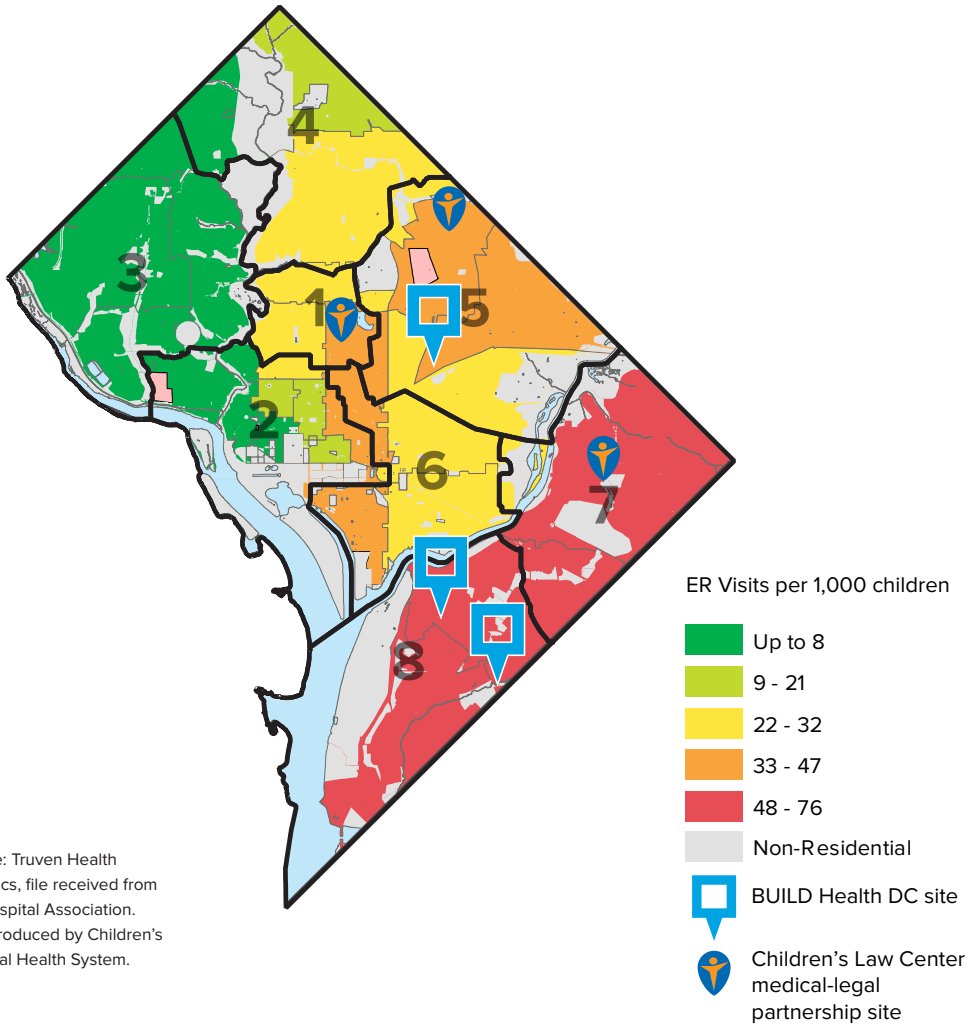
LOCAL



DATA-DRIVEN



ASTHMA-RELATED EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY DC CHILDREN



Today, a child with asthma in Ward 7 and 8 is 20 times more likely to end up in the emergency room for asthma than a child living in Ward 3.

This must change.

Focusing on the intersection of pediatric health and housing conditions law, BUILD Health DC and our project to reduce childhood asthma is a nationally replicable model that leverages medical expertise, legal support, and funding from Managed Care Organizations, to find real solutions to asthma in low-income neighborhoods in Southeast DC.



The District of Columbia is far behind other U.S. cities in our ability to use housing inspection data to target public health interventions.

Now, for the very first time ever, Children's Law Center, DC Department of Health and IMPACT DC are partnering to collect and analyze data to demonstrate that addressing health-harming housing conditions leads to:

- improved health outcomes
- decreased health and social services costs for the government
- reduced reliance on emergency services for children with asthma

BUILD Health DC aims to combine data from each partner, including:

- referral data
- medical-legal partnership intervention outcomes
- emergency department admission and discharge data
- broader claims data available through Children's Law Center's data sharing agreements with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations

Our collective effort to analyze reliable data is a critical step forward to demonstrate that the asthma disparity in DC can be largely addressed through a combination of public health, community engagement and legal interventions. Our work will also illustrate that housing code violations and the need for effective residential inspections is, at its core, a public health issue.

DIRECT SERVICES

Prioritizing community engagement is a fundamental component of BUILD Health DC. By all partners working together to receive continuous feedback and input from families, we can better understand how pediatricians and lawyers work with parents and children, and ways systems may fall short in keeping families engaged to address health-harming housing conditions.

In order to prioritize community engagement, BUILD Health DC has undertaken a few new projects.

First, BUILD Health DC has expanded Children's Law Center's medical-legal partnership to focus on providing direct services to families with children with uncontrolled asthma living in Wards 7 and 8.

With the addition of an on-site lawyer to the healthcare team at IMPACT DC, even more families have easier access to legal care, located right where their child goes to the doctor.

Second, BUILD Health DC has conducted focus groups with parents of children with asthma in an effort to learn how our partners can be more responsive to community needs, and help achieve better outcomes with healthcare and legal service delivery.

Finally, we also conduct trainings and education in the community for parents and caregivers, including empowering them with critical information about their rights, housing conditions laws in DC, the importance of Asthma Action Plans and more.





BUILD Health DC aims to reduce the number of children living with uncontrolled asthma, addressing the stark racial and health disparities in Southeast DC.

To do this, BUILD Health DC increases collaboration and focus among community stakeholders, such as government agencies, policymakers, healthcare and legal services organizations, to tackle systemic-wide factors that lead to pediatric asthma and to promote health and wellness for DC's children and families.

Together, these stakeholders will develop city-wide solutions to the asthma and housing crises based on what we learn from our data collection and direct services. We already know that potential solutions will need to include wide-ranging avenues of change, so our work must build consensus across sectors and bring our city's leaders and providers together to innovate creative solutions.

Together, we will create a healthier DC for all children.

The
**BUILD
HEALTH**
Challenge



Each day, Ms. Henderson and her two young children, Jake* and Joey*, came home to rats, cockroaches, mold, holes in the walls, falling plaster and more.

The family of three lived with these surroundings for months. These unsafe housing conditions exacerbated Jake's asthma. The mold, rodents and insects triggered his symptoms, leading to dangerous, chronic asthma attacks. As a result, he wasn't a stranger to emergency rooms visits, and missed school regularly.

Through IMPACT DC at Children's National Health System, Ms. Henderson was able to learn more about Jake's asthma, its triggers and treatments. The IMPACT DC team was also able to refer Ms. Henderson to Children's Law Center, whose housing attorney took legal action to make sure the family's landlord made critical repairs to the home, eliminating the conditions that were making Jake's asthma worse.

CONNECTING HOMES WITH HEALTH

Now that Jake is living in a healthier home, his asthma symptoms are improving exponentially. Children like Jake are the reason our medical-legal partnership is so important.

** BUILD Health DC works hard to protect our clients' confidentiality. Jake and Joey's names and images have been changed. All other details are true.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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