

Environmental burden of disease associated with inadequate housing

A method guide to the quantification of health effects of selected housing risks in the WHO European Region

Edited by

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**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

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**Methods for quantifying health impacts of selected
housing risks in the WHO European Region**

Edited by: Braubach, M., Jacobs, D.E., Ormandy, D.

The WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn Office, WHO Regional Office for Europe coordinated the development of this report.

ABSTRACT

This guide describes how to estimate the disease burden caused by inadequate housing conditions for the WHO European Region as well as for subregional and national levels. It contributes to the WHO series of guides that describe how to estimate the burden of disease caused by environmental and occupational risk factors. An introductory volume to the series outlines the general methodology.

In this context, the WHO Regional Office for Europe took up the challenge to quantify the health effects of inadequate housing and convened an international working group to quantify the health impacts of selected housing risk factors, applying the environmental burden of disease (EBD) approach.

The guide outlines, using European data, the evidence linking housing conditions to health, and the methods for assessing housing impacts on population health. This is done for twelve housing risk factors in a practical step-by-step approach that can be adapted to local circumstances and knowledge. This guide also summarizes the recent evidence on the health implications of housing renewal, and provides a national example on assessing the economic implications of inadequate housing.

The findings confirm that housing is a significant public health issue. However, to realize the large health potential associated with adequate, safe and healthy homes, joint action of health and non-health sectors is required.

Keywords

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RISK ASSESSMENT – methods
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