

# There are Many Health Hazards at Home: Are your Tenants at Risk?

-Asthma is a chronic lung disease that makes breathing difficult.

-Asthma is a disease that is not curable but **can be controlled**.

-Approximately 80% of emergency visits due to asthma are **preventable**

-Almost 5 million kids in the United States have Asthma.

-Most children hospitalized for asthma are **under age 5**

-**Asthma has doubled** in the past decade and **asthma deaths have tripled** in the past 15 years.

-African American and Latino children are much sicker from their asthma than white children

-The cost of asthma, both direct health care costs and indirect costs like missed work and school are \$12 billion annually

## Q. What do landlords need to know about asthma?

A. Asthma is on the rise, as are deaths due to asthma. Today about 1 in 10 children have asthma. The costs of asthma are astronomical and include the cost of health care, missed school days and missed workdays. The cause of asthma is believed to be a combination of genetics and environment and many things that trigger asthma attacks are found indoors. Many triggers can be reduced or eliminated through cooperation between landlords and tenants which, in turn, will help reduce asthma symptoms, *prevent asthma attacks*, and keep children with asthma out of the emergency room.

## Q. Are tenants with Asthma protected under any law?

A. Yes, tenants are protected under the U.S. Fair Housing Act Amendments (FHAA, 1988), California Habitability Law, Section 504 of the US Rehabilitation Act (1973) and Title II of the US Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA 1990). Please see the *Housing Laws and Asthma* fact sheet for more information.

## Q. How can landlords keep properties asthma friendly?

A. Landlords can be aware of possible asthma triggers and work with families to maintain an asthma friendly living environment. Asthma triggers include smoke, mold, cockroaches, dust, pet dander, pesticides, cleaning agents, chemicals, fumes, strong odors, and pollution, trees and pollen, among others.

## Q. What can I do to help my tenant's health condition?

A. Ask occupants if they have an asthma sensitive child and attempt to accommodate them. Learn what you can do to help make their environment free of asthma triggers. (Please see reverse side for suggestions.)

## Q. Where can I go to learn more information?

A. The Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma is a partnership to improve the lives of children with asthma in the Long Beach community. For more information on asthma training or to join their coalition please call Elina Green (562) 427-4249 or email [egreen@memorialcare.org](mailto:egreen@memorialcare.org)

Find out what you can do to help your tenants. Use our checklist on the reverse side to learn how to make your apartments asthma friendly.



THE LONG BEACH ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

