

Hazard: Crowding and Space

Identity of Hazard(s): Lack of space within the dwelling for living, sleeping and normal family/household life.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Psychological distress and mental disorders¹

Health Alert! Lack of space and overcrowded conditions have been linked to a number of health outcomes, including psychological distress and mental disorders, especially those associated with a lack of privacy and childhood development. Crowded conditions are also linked with increased hygiene risks, an increased risk of accidents, and spread of contagious disease.¹

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take¹

- Within a dwelling there should be sufficient space for the separation of different household activities, either by physical separation or by a clearly defined space within a larger space. The degree of separation is partly dependent on the number of people who can be expected to share the space, and whether or not they are expected to be part of the same household.
 - There should be sufficient provision for sleeping having regard to the numbers likely to be accommodated in the dwelling. As a guide, and depending on the sex of household members and their relationship, and the size of rooms, a dwelling containing one bedroom is suitable for up to two persons, irrespective of age. A dwelling containing two bedrooms is suitable for up to four persons. One containing three bedrooms is suitable for up to six persons, and one containing four bedrooms is suitable for up to seven persons.
 - As well as sufficient sleeping space, there should be a living area of sufficient size for the household. Indoor and outdoor play and recreation space is necessary in accommodation housing children. Outdoor play space should be readily visible from within the dwelling and safely separated from public and neighboring areas.
 - To provide for adequate privacy for the user, each bath or shower should be sited in a bathroom and each toilet should be sited in a bathroom or separate compartment provided with a lockable door.
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- The Detroit Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering (BSEED): (313) 628-2451
 - Property Maintenance Division can handle rental property issues with Overcrowding and Occupancy Issues.
- Young Detroit Builders (low cost carpentry): (313) 964-2763
- CLEARCorps Detroit: (313) 924-4000

¹http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf