

Healthy Home Rating System (HHS) 3-City Study

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Purpose

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has adapted and is distributing for use an English/Welsh rating tool, the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). The U.S. version will be called the Healthy Home Rating System (HHS). It is intended to assess home health hazards and to guide home improvements for the HUD Healthy Homes Production Grants. This tool has substantial potential to produce systematic measurement of 29 different hazards occurring in American housing units. This has broad significance to identifying and remedying health hazards in American housing.

Study Description

The HHS 3-City Study, from the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University (the Center), seeks to examine the adaptation of the HHSRS (as the HHS) for the U.S., investigating the ratings produced and the reliability of those ratings. For this project, assessments were conducted with partners in three cities. CLEARCorps in Detroit, Michigan, the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department in Oakland, California, and the Greensboro Housing Coalition in Greensboro, North Carolina sought to conduct 500 HHS assessments each in their communities.

Study Objective

The results of the completed HHS assessments are now being analyzed by the Center to meet the following objectives:

1. The first objective of this study is to assess the extent to which housing hazards measured by the Healthy Home Rating System (HHS) vary across cities in the U.S. when compared to England.
2. The second objective is to assess the reliability of assessments completed using the HHS.
3. The third overall objective is to test the effect on assessors of providing likelihood's and outcomes based upon U.S. (or even local) data.
4. The fourth objective is to assess the effect of training on assessment quality and reliability.