

Energy Insecurity and Health in NYC

Energy insecurity (EI)

The inability to meet basic household energy needs—encompasses hardship affording utility bills, inefficient and deficient housing conditions and coping behaviors to contain costs and maintain comfort



EI impacts
28%
of NYC
households

EI impacts health including respiratory, cardiovascular and mental health, sleep and use of electronic medical devices



Policy Solutions for EI in NYC



FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAM

- Expand energy assistance programs
- Link energy benefits to health insurance
- Reform safety net benefits



HOUSING AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Invest in energy efficient housing improvements
- Educate the public
- Modernize power grid equitably



HEALTH, SAFETY, AND THERMAL CONDITIONS

- Enhance utility disconnection protections
- Increase no heat enforcement
- Implement maximum indoor temperature and AC access policies



SCREENING AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIONS

- Advance public health surveillance of EI via standardized measures
- Broaden clinical screening and benefit referrals

Addressing energy insecurity via upstream and coordinated solutions can improve not only household energy affordability and housing quality but also health equity and climate resilience.



COLUMBIA

MAILMAN SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ENERGY, EQUITY, HOUSING
AND HEALTH (E2H2) PROGRAM