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# A Community Needs Assessment to Improve Lung Health Within Substandard Housing Units

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The Census Bureau states “more than 45 million people, or 14.5 percent of all Americans, lived below the poverty line last year [2013].” Many of these individuals are living in substandard housing conditions, which are causing preventable poor lung health among the population. The CDC reported that asthma was linked to 3,404 deaths in 2010. The link between poor health and living conditions is a hypothesis that has been contemplated for a long time now. Florence Nightingale speculated, “The connection between health and the dwelling of the population is one of the most important that exists...” (Jacobs) Based on this issue of poor substandard living conditions, I would like to design different methods to better understand the quality of living in these areas within the state of California.

I will be designing a needs assessment to understand the needs and living conditions of housing tenants within substandard living units. To obtain information of these living conditions I will be designing a survey, which would be sent out to these residents within California, regarding questions of quality on topics such as: possible poor health triggers within the home (i.e. mold, air quality, bug infestations), the prevalence of poor lung health within units, the relationship(s) with their landlords, and any other barriers that prevent the residents from filing complaints. I will also be designing health inspections for the units, and a resident meeting educating them on proper living conditions, and their rights as a resident. I will be analyzing any existing data on the matters within California.

#### Work Cited

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