

LEAD POISONING FACT SHEET

The Scary Statistics

535,000 children ages 1 to 5 diagnosed with elevated blood lead (EBL) levels of 5 µg/dl or higher¹

Any home built
before 1978
may contain lead paint

37.1 million
homes contain lead paint²

23.2 million homes contain prominent lead hazards²

Effects of Lead Poisoning

Children with Low Levels:

- Learning disabilities
- Decreased intelligence (I.Q.)
- Speech development problems
- Hearing loss
- Hyperactivity
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Aggressive, violent behavior

Adults with Low Levels

- Fatigue/irritability
- Impaired concentration
- Nausea/Constipation
- Depression
- Premature birth or low birth weight
- 46% increased rate of early mortality
- 16-19% increased risk of cardiovascular disease

The new CDC lead
reference level is

5 µg/dl

though any EBL level is
reason for concern.¹

Children with High Levels:

- Reduced motor control and balance
- Developmental disabilities
- Coma
- Convulsions
- Death

Adults with High Levels

- Hearing loss
- Anemia
- Hypertension
- Miscarriages or stillbirths
- Impotence
- Seizures
- Death

Get Help

Free Services Available to Eligible Families

- Health and safety assessment
- Lead hazard reduction
- Window and door replacement
- Home safety education
- Legal services
- Tenants' rights assistance
- Housing Choice Voucher program
- Asthma trigger reduction
- Pest management
- Mold remediation

For help or more information, please contact:



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative[®]

2714 Hudson Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21224
410.534.6447 | 800.370.5323 | www.ghhi.org



The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning (CECLP) is the legal entity for the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). Began as a program of the Coalition in 2008, GHHI became the legal "DBA" of the Coalition in 2014.

Did You Know?

The Costs of Lead Poisoning

- Childhood lead poisoning results in an average loss of lifetime earnings of \$723,000 per child²
- Developmental issues due to lead poisoning lead to increased costs for special education and the criminal justice system

Societal Implications of Lead Poisoning:

- A child is estimated to lose two IQ points for each 10 µg/dL increase in blood lead level⁴
- Effects are long term and often irreversible

Juvenile Delinquency:

- Lead exposure is associated with an increased risk for antisocial and delinquent behavior⁵
- Lead effects neurotransmitters which affect cognition and influence impulse control

Cost Savings from Lead Poisoned Prevention:

- Each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control results in a return of \$17–\$221 or a net savings of \$181–269 billion³
- Lead poisoning prevention results in cost savings from reductions in crime and delinquency and reductions in special education costs

Federal Health Care & Children at Risk⁶:

- Elevated blood lead levels remain a significant problem for children served by federal health care programs (Medicaid, WIC, Health Centers Program)
- An estimated 400,000 children aged 1-5 in federal health care programs are not being screened for lead
- Lead testing screening rates are adversely affected by lack of oversight, funding and other problems

Required Screening: Medicaid & HCFA Policy:

- All children eligible for Medicaid are required to have a blood lead test at the ages of 12 and 24 months
- All Medicaid children between 36-72 months must receive a blood lead test if they have not received one previously

References

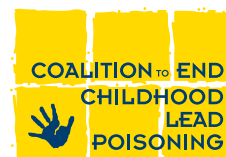
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