



OHIO LEAD-FREE K



OHIO ACTION PLAN FOR LEAD-FREE CHILDREN

All Ohio Children Deserve to Be Lead-Free.
We Can Get There.

Lead is poison.

There is no safe level of lead in the blood.
In severe cases, lead can be life threatening.

Lead is a devastating neurotoxin that damages children's brains and bodies. Young children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning because as crawlers and toddlers they may be easily exposed to lead dust from lead-paint and because the harm from lead can be especially destructive to their still-developing neurological, cognitive and social-emotional abilities.

Most of Ohio's housing stock (over 66%) was built before 1980 and is likely to have lead hazards. The hazard exists predominately in urban core and rural communities where the housing stock is older than more newly developed suburbs. More than 330,000 of these Ohio homes are estimated to have children under 6 years old living in them.¹ Although no part of the state is free from the risk of lead, the highest rates of reported child lead poisoning in Ohio tend to be found in communities that are predominantly African-American and low-income.² In some Ohio communities, 1 in 4 children entering kindergarten have a history of lead poisoning.³

Childhood lead exposure comes at a high price – both personally and financially. According to The Pew Center on the States, “for every dollar spent controlling lead hazards, at least \$17 would be returned (and as much as \$221) in health benefits, increased IQ, higher lifetime earnings, tax revenues, lower special education costs and reduced criminal activity. Given the high societal costs of inaction, lead hazard control is a public health and fiscal imperative.”⁴ Lead remediation investments will also create jobs and an opportunity to build career pathways out of poverty into lead-remediation work for residents of the most impacted communities. The cost-benefit of investing in prevention is compelling.⁵



The Ohio Lead-Free Kids Coalition is a collection of organizations and individuals who share a deep and urgent concern about the potentially life-long harm caused by lead poisoning and the future well-being of our state. We work collaboratively toward a meaningful public commitment and investment to ensure all Ohio children are safe from lead in their homes and communities.

The Action Plan for Lead-Free Children by 2030 advances four overarching principles:



The following provides more detail to the 9-point **Action Plan for Lead-Free Children by 2030.**

1 | Help Homeowners & Landlords Eliminate Lead Hazards

- Expand the SCHIP Lead Hazard Abatement Program to target housing and other properties, such as child care, in the highest risk communities and ensure removal of lead hazards.¹¹
- Identify a dedicated revenue source for the Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund. Make the activities and relocation, including private-public match funding. Create a window replacement program within the Fund targeted to pre-1978 rental and homeowner units in high-risk census-tracts. Fund relocation of families displaced due to private sector lead remediation activities.

4 | Disclose Lead Hazards & Engage Ohioans

education, disclosure and enforcement policies. Examples of access include: disclosure at point-of-sale/point-of-lease lead inspections; electronically linking lead hazard control orders to county auditor's property records; posting all lead hazard control orders to the Public Health Data Warehouse on the ODH public website;¹⁸ assessments, lead hazard control orders, LSLs and lead remediation.

- Educate parents, physicians, nurses, educators, realtors, landlords, childcare operators and others on a continuing basis about lead hazards. Provide consumer centered, culturally competent education about lead, including information about the sources of lead (housing, soil, water,

- Adopt a health-based standard for lead in drinking water. Include LSL replacement in public health lead hazard control orders when the level of lead in drinking water exceeds the health-based standard.²³
- health-based standard for lead in drinking water until the LSL or galvanized line can be replaced.

SOURCES

¹Healthy Justice Advocacy Clinic, Columbia Law School, Cost Benefit Analysis of Lead Poisoning in the United States, The Cost of Lead Poisoning in Ohio (2019). <https://www.law.columbia.edu/experiential/clinics/health-justice-advocacy-clinic>

²Toledo Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission, The Effects of Lead Poisoning on African-American Low-Income Families in Toledo, Ohio (March 26, 2016), Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University. <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/my-product/the-effects-of-lead-poisoning-on-african-american-low-income-families-in-toledo-ohio/>. Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Final Report on Targeted Testing Plan for Childhood Lead Poisoning (April 30, 2013), The Ohio State University Statistical Consulting Service. <https://www.ohhn.org/docs/OhiosHighRiskLeadModelFinalReport2013.pdf>

³Fischer, R., Steh, S., Chan, T. . "Early Childhood Lead Exposure among Cleveland Kindergarteners by Neighborhood and School Enrollment." (Jan. 2019). <https://dailymedia.case.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/07095808/Lead-Report-CMSD.pdf>

⁴Pew Center on the States, "Cutting Lead Poisoning and Public Costs" (2010). https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2010/02/22/063_10_paes-costs-of-lead-poisoning-brief_web.pdf Referencing article: E. Gould, "Childhood Lead Poisoning: Conservative Estimates of the Social and Economic Benefits of Lead Hazard Control." Environmental Health Perspectives (July 2009). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2717145/>

⁵See for example, Altarum analysis estimates the cost of the lifetime lead poisoning burden in Ohio at \$2.8 billion. New Online Tool Calculates the Cost and Economic Benefits of Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning in the United States, Value of Prevention, Ohio, 2019. <http://valueofleadprevention.org/calculations.php?state=Ohio>. Similar cost-estimate analysis have been conducted by the Healthy Justice Advocacy Clinic, Columbia Law School, The Cost of Lead Poisoning in Ohio (2019) at <https://www.law.columbia.edu/experiential/clinics/health-justice-advocacy-clinic>

⁶This Plan was informed by "10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure," Health Impact Project, Pew Charitable trust and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, (August 30, 2017) <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2017/08/10-policies-to-prevent-and-respond-to-childhood-lead-exposure>

⁷U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program. <https://www.epa.gov/lead>

⁸Environmental Defense Fund, "State efforts to support LSL replacement". <https://www.edf.org/health/state-efforts-support-lsl-replacement>

⁹Ohio Revised Code, 3742.46 Lead poisoning prevention fund. <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3742.46>

¹⁰US EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, H2Ohio, and US EPA's Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant (WIIN Act) should be coordinated and aligned with state funding for lead hazard control and abatement to ensure a one-touch approach.

¹¹Lead hazards addressed through the program should include private lead service lines and galvanized pipes. The SCHIP Lead Hazard Abatement Program is formally known as the Medicaid Lead Hazard Abatement Grant. <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/childhood-lead-poisoning/for-homeowners-and-renters/schip-grant>

¹²Lead Abatement Tax Credit, HB 166 As-Introduced (2019). Legislative Service Commission, Department of Taxation <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/budget/133/MainOperating/IN/BillAnalysis/TAX.pdf>

¹³Ohio Administrative Code, Ch. 3701-81-02, Standards on lead-safe residential rental unit registry. <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-81-02v1>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE
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