

LEAD EXPOSURE

THE PROBLEM

- Over half a million U.S. children 1-5 years old are have elevated blood lead levels.ⁱ
- Childhood exposure to lead has lifelong consequences, including decreased IQ and cognitive function, developmental delays, and behavior problems; very high levels can cause seizures, coma, and even death.ⁱⁱ
- **37.1 million homes** in the U.S. have lead-based paint hazards.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **No safe blood lead level** in children has been identified.^{iv}
- Lead poisoning is **100% preventable**.

THE COST

- Educational system costs are estimated at **\$38,000 over three years per impacted child** with elevated blood lead levels.^v
- In 2008, the economic costs to society of lead poisoning alone were estimated at **\$50 billion**.^{vi}

THE SOLUTION

- Eliminate hazards before they poison a child.
- Fund state and local programs to provide critical public health and housing services to prevent childhood lead exposure. CDC funds public education and tracking, while HUD funds housing mitigation, all competitively awarded to local jurisdictions in greatest need.
- Research has shown that these two programs are effective.^{vii, viii}
- Increase investment in primary prevention strategies to prevent exposure to lead in the home.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- **For every \$1 spent to reduce lead hazards, there is a benefit of at least \$1.39**.^{ix}
- HUD estimates that the number of children under five with blood poisoning **would have included an additional 265,000 children if not for HUD** programs' actions to control hazards in over 370,000 housing units.^x

NEEDED ACTIONS

Funding in FY 2019 should be:

- ✓ **CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program = \$50,000,000**
- ✓ **CDC's National Asthma Control Program = \$30,000,000**
- ✓ **HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes = \$230,000,000**
- ✓ **EPA's Lead Categorical Grant and Lead Risk Reduction Programs = \$27,306,000 total**

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- ⁱ Wheeler, W., & Brown, M. J. (2013, April 5). Blood lead levels in children aged 1–5 years — United States, 1999–2010. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, 62(13), 245–248. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6213.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Division of the National Toxicology Program, Office of Health Assessment and Translation. (2012, June 13). *NTP monograph on health effects of low-level lead*. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/hat/noms/lead/index.html>
- ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (2011, April). *American healthy homes survey: Lead and arsenic findings*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/AHHS_REPORT.PDF
- ^{iv} U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, February 9). Lead [Web page]. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>
- ^v About 20% of children with blood lead levels over 25 µg/dL require special education for an average of three years. From: Korfmacher, K. S. (2003, July 9). Long-term costs of lead poisoning: How much can New York save by stopping lead? Rochester, NY: University of Rochester. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from <http://abacus.bates.edu/~raustin/FluxFlow/L6.3%20lead%20abatement%20analysis.pdf>
- ^{vi} Trasande, L., & Liu, Y. (2011, May). Reducing the staggering costs of environmental disease in children, estimated at \$76.6 billion in 2008. *Health Affairs*, 30(5). Retrieved July 16, 2018, from <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2011/05/02/hlthaff.2010.1239.full>
- ^{vii} National Center for Healthy Housing & University of Cincinnati Department of Environmental Health. (2004, May 1). *Evaluation of the HUD lead-based paint hazard control grant program: Final report*. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from http://nchh.org/resource-library/report_evaluation-of-the-hud-lead-based-paint-hazard-control-grant-program_final-report.pdf
- ^{viii} U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. (2012, January 4). *Low level lead exposure harms children: A renewed call for primary prevention*. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/acclpp/final_document_030712.pdf
- ^{ix} Health Impact Project (2017, August). *10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure*. Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/08/hip_childhood_lead_poisoning_report.pdf
- ^x U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2015). Lead hazard control and healthy homes lead hazard reduction: 2016 summary statement and initiatives (dollars in thousands). Pages 33-1 to 33-15. Retrieved July 16, 2018, from http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=37-FY16CJ_LHReduction.pdf