

Detroit Lead Partnership

2013 Lead Fact Sheet

Did you know?

- **More than half a million U.S. children** are now believed to have lead poisoning, or about **1 in 38** young children.¹
- In 2012, **2,327 children in Detroit and 6,772 children in Michigan** tested for lead poisoning had blood lead levels of 5 µg/dl or higher.²

Gain Control: Actions you can take

1. Get your child tested for lead poisoning. *See A and B in Local Resources.*
2. Use a paper towel with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner or a cleaner made specifically for lead to clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. *See C and D in Local Resources.*
3. Reduce risk of lead paint. Make sure your child is not chewing on anything covered with lead paint. *See A, B, C, and D in Local Resources.*
4. Don't try to remove lead paint yourself, instead, hire an United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified lead renovator. *See E in Local Resources.*
5. Don't bring lead dust into your home from work or a hobby such as: ceramics, clay, painting, jewelry, model making, indoor plant/gardening, woodworking, electronics/soldering, and metal casting.

Local Resources:

- A. Ask your family doctor or pediatrician to do a blood lead test on your child at 12 months and 24 months of age. Medicaid insurance will pay for the cost of the test if your child is enrolled. If you have private insurance, coverage may vary. The cost of a blood lead test which is sent to the Michigan Department of Community Health Lead Laboratory for analysis is \$11 paid by parent or guardian.
- B. If your child needs a blood test call the **Institute of Population Health** at (313) 324-9482 or the **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** at (517) 335-8885 if you have further questions about getting your child testing for lead poisoning and to schedule a test.
- C. **For Lead Abatement in Detroit: CLEARCorps-** (313) 924-4000 OR **Detroit Planning and Development Department-** (313) 224-6380 (CLEARCorps and DP&DD provide lead abatement for qualified individuals. Please contact them to see if you qualify for their programs.)
- D. **For More Information Please Visit:** www.leadfreekids.org
- E. **For Safe Renovation:** Find an EPA certified renovator using the EPA's online search tool: http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_firm.htm

¹ "Lead Poisoning Rates Rise in U.S. After CDC Lowers Blood Cutoff." (2013, April 5). The Associated Press. Retrieved from http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57578225/lead-poisoning-rates-rise-in-u.s-after-cdc-lowers-blood-cutoff/

² Michigan Department of Community Health. (2012). *2012 Annual Data Report on Blood Lead Levels of Children in Michigan*. Retrieved from http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/2012AnnualDataReportOnBloodLeadLevels_419508_7.pdf

Lead exposure

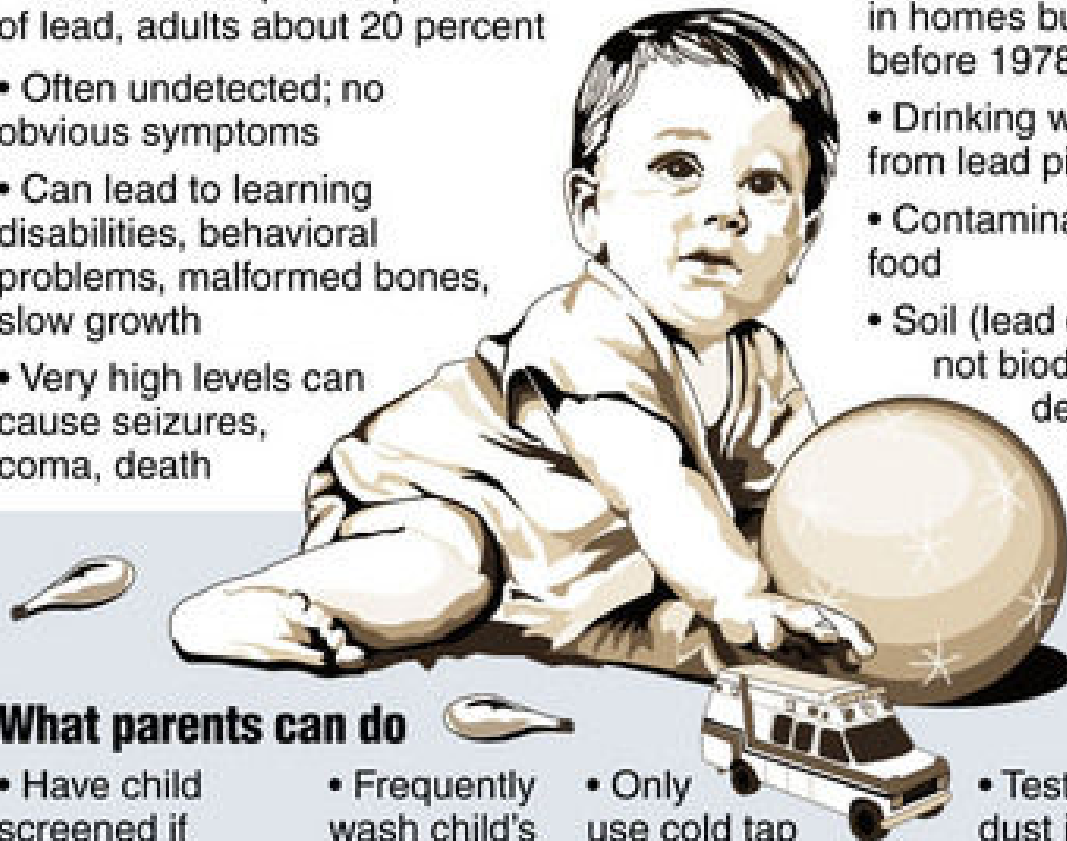
About 310,000 U.S. children ages 1 to 5 have elevated blood lead levels, which can accumulate over months and years and cause serious health problems.

Effects on children

- Kids absorb up to 70 percent of lead, adults about 20 percent
- Often undetected; no obvious symptoms
- Can lead to learning disabilities, behavioral problems, malformed bones, slow growth
- Very high levels can cause seizures, coma, death

Sources

- Lead-based paint, contaminated dust in homes built before 1978
- Drinking water from lead pipes
- Contaminated food
- Soil (lead does not biodegrade, decay)
- Toys*



What parents can do

- Have child screened if there is concern of lead exposure
- Frequently wash child's hands, toys, pacifiers
- Only use cold tap water for drinking, cooking
- Test paint, dust in home if it was built before 1978

*Old toys with lead paint a known risk, but new toys from China now have come under scrutiny

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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