

The Impact of Lead on Your Children



Penn Medicine
Lancaster General Health



What is lead poisoning and who is at risk?

- Lead poisoning is when a person's health is negatively affected by lead that is found in what they eat, drink, touch, or breathe. It has no cure but is 100% preventable.
- Children age 6 and under are most at risk to the effects of lead. Their growing bodies are more sensitive to the damaging effects.
- Pregnant women and the developing fetus are also at an increased risk of being impacted by lead poisoning

Your child may be at higher risk for lead poisoning if they are:

- Living in a home built before 1978
- A member of racial-ethnic minority groups
- Around a parent or household member who is exposed to lead at work, through a hobby, or has a known lead exposure
- Exposed to lead through imported items, including:
 - Food items such as candy and candy wrappers and spices.
 - Toys, jewelry, lead-glazed antiques or handmade pottery or cookware.
 - Traditional folk medicines and cosmetics, and herbal remedies.

What are the impacts of childhood lead poisoning?

- Reduced IQ, ADHD, learning disabilities, hearing loss, and speech development problems

How can Lead-Free Families help my family?

- Provide education about the dangers of lead
- Help you with scheduling a blood lead level screening in home for your child.
- Referral services for children who have been diagnosed with an elevated blood-lead level.
- Free lead paint inspection
- Free lead paint remediation services to prevent childhood lead exposure (landlords pay 10% of remediation costs)
- Free relocation services provided for your family during remediation

How do I know if my family qualifies for help from Lead-Free Families?

- The home you own or rent must have been built prior to 1978.
AND
- There must be a child age 6 and under who lives or spends a significant amount of time in the household, or an individual who is currently pregnant.
AND
- Your household income must fall at or below 400% of the federal poverty line. (Example: A family of 4, the maximum income is \$106,000)

For questions, contact us at **717-544-LEAD (5323)** or **Info@LeadFreeFamilies.org**

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