



July 2024

Childhood Lead: A Public Health Priority

LEAD TOXICITY: AN UNREMITTING PROBLEM*

Research from the Pediatric Neurology Journal (Naranjo et al. 2020) highlights the ongoing public health implications of childhood exposure to lead. This research shows how dangerous lead is, despite all efforts to control it.

With all the evidence through articles of neurodevelopmental consequences, children are still continuously exposed to lead.

This enhances the urgent need for legislative and educational measures to reduce the exposure world-wide. The study emphasizes the importance of primary prevention strategies and targeting high-risk populations to effectively dampen the lead public health problem.



HAMILTON HOUSING STATISTICS

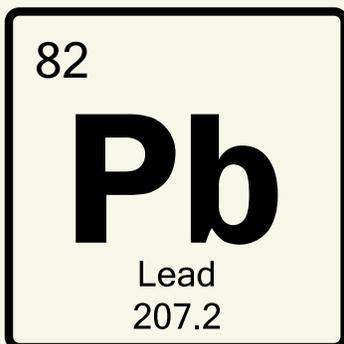
- **76.3%** of homes were built before 1980
- **27.5%** of homes are renter occupied

CURRENT LEGISLATION

- **N.J.A.C. 5:28A**: Requires the **inspection** of all nonexempt **rental dwellings** for **lead-based paint hazards** every three years or upon turnover, whichever is sooner. This is essential for identifying hazards in rental properties!

UNIVERSAL BLOOD LEAD TESTING:

- By law children should be tested for lead at the following timeframes:
 - Both 12 and 24 months of age.
 - Any child 25 to 72 months (less than 6 years) of age who has never previously been tested.
 - Any child up to 72 months of age who has been exposed to a known or suspected source of lead.



*Reference:

Naranjo, V. I., Hendricks, M., & Jones, K. S. (2020). Lead Toxicity in Children: An Unremitting Public Health Problem. *Pediatric Neurology*, 113, 51-55. 10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2020.08.005

NEWSLETTER

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Hamilton Township
Mayor's Wellness Campaign
Keeping Hamilton in Motion



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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EXPOSURE SOURCES:

- **Lead-based paint** (in homes built before 1978)
- **Water** (pipes)
- **Occupational exposure** (ex. dust on clothing from workplace)
- **Soil**
- **Imported goods**, such as: spices, canned goods, cosmetics, toys, jewelry or pottery

SYMPTOMS:

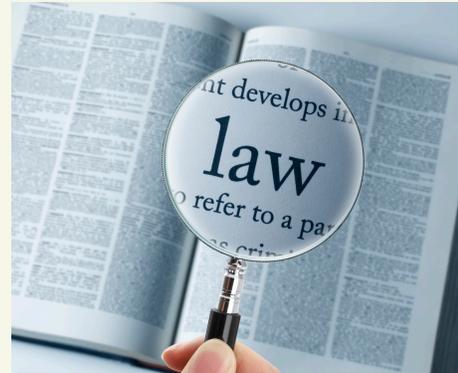
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Irritability
- Delayed development
- Fatigue
- Hearing loss
- Vomiting
- Seizures

PREVENTION:

- Talk to your healthcare provider or local health department about lead testing.
- Clean lead dust with a wet cloth or mop
- Handwashing to keep hands clean from germs and lead.
- A healthy, balanced diet rich in Vitamin C, iron, and calcium can help resist lead from staying in the body.
- Learn more! For more information, visit:
 - www.nj.gov/health/childhood-lead

CHILDHOOD LEAD SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF HEALTH

- Testing to children who are uninsured or have NJ FamilyCare Plan A
- Childhood lead case management
- Environmental lead inspections



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Lead exposure, especially in childhood, can harm brain development, which is why early detection and prevention is key. Screening helps identify elevated lead levels, and is the law in NJ. Everyone can play a part in helping prevent elevated lead levels in children:

- **Parents and caregivers:** know the sources of lead and how to prevent lead exposure and ensure your children get tested at recommended timeframes.
- **Healthcare providers:** provide lead testing, screening and education to patients.
- **Public Health:** provide education about lead exposure, prevention and provide lead case management and environmental inspections to identify sources of lead.
- **Policymakers:** promote and advocate for legislation that helps reduce lead-related health issues and disparities, to ultimately promote health equity.

Together we can reduce the negative impacts associated with childhood lead exposure to create a healthier community!

For more information about childhood lead visit:
www.nj.gov/health/childhood-lead/



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