

NYS has more children with elevated blood lead levels than any other state

Lead exposure harms children and costs taxpayers

In 2016, lead exposure harmed at least 17,000 young children statewide

Lead poisoning is a completely preventable, but irreversible condition with lifelong impacts. Research indicates there is no safe level of lead in children. Even low-level exposure can cause permanent neurological damage and behavioral disorders. In 2016, over 17,000 children under age six in New York had confirmed blood lead levels of at least 5µg/dL (the lowest level that can be conclusively determined by all New York laboratories at this time).¹ This is more than any other state in the nation. The rate of children with elevated blood lead levels in Upstate New York is worse than only four other states (Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wisconsin). Eliminating all lead exposure for children born in 2018 nationwide would yield \$84 billion in economic benefits.² Improving NYS lead poisoning prevention policy and funding will prevent harmful lifelong impacts and help taxpayers realize economic gains.

Current funding levels for lead poisoning prevention efforts fall short of need

NYS appropriated an additional \$9.4 million in funding for lead poisoning prevention in Fiscal Year 2020. However, even with this additional funding, available federal, state, and local funding levels for lead hazard remediation and abatement will be insufficient to eliminate most lead hazards in housing across the state. Accordingly, additional, targeted funding streams are necessary to prevent harm to young, low-income children.

Additional federal funding may be available through CHIP and Medicaid

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Health Services Initiative (HSI)

States have the option under CHIP to develop state-designed HSIs to improve the health of low-income children. In November 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an HSI for coordinated lead abatement activities in eligible homes of Medicaid and CHIP eligible children. Covered services include: removal, enclosure, or encapsulation of lead based paint and lead dust hazards; removal and replacement of lead water service lines; removal or covering of soil lead hazards; and workforce training for entities completing lead abatement activities. Michigan was approved for \$23.8 million per year for five years. NYS has the opportunity to design a similar program using up to 10 percent of its federal CHIP funding less administrative expenses.

Medicaid

States can also leverage Medicaid funding to pay for follow-up services for Medicaid eligible children who have already been exposed to lead hazards. Ohio currently reimburses for case-management and environmental investigation services for children with elevated blood lead levels as a part of its Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment program (EPSDT). Using a Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver, Rhode Island reimburses for case-management, home assessment, nutritional counseling, lead education, and interim controls to limit subsequent exposure to lead hazards for Medicaid eligible children.

¹ Center for Disease Control National Surveillance Data (2012 – 2016), available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/CBLS-National-Table-508.pdf>.

² 10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure, Health Impact Project (August 2017), available at https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2017/08/hip_childhood_lead_poisoning_report.pdf.

**Number and Percentage of Children with Blood Lead Levels ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
for Selected Counties in New York State (2015)**

County Name	Number of Children tested with BLL ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Percent of Children tested with BLL ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
Erie	395	6.9%
Albany	268	7.8%
Broome	223	5.1%
Allegany	172	12.6%
Onondaga	158	4.5%
Oneida	156	10.0%
Monroe	102	2.5%
Washington	68	12.0%
Fulton	27	9.8%
Yates	18	8.6%

CBLs County-Level Summary for New York State, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015

**Number and Percentage of Children with Blood Lead Levels ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
New York City (2015)**

County Name	Number of Children tested with BLL $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Percent of Children tested with BLL $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
Kings	2521	2.4%
Bronx	1573	2.2%
Queens	1448	1.6%
New York	482	1.2%
Richmond	173	1.3%

CBLs County-Level Summary for New York State, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015