Lead Poisoning Persists in New York State

Lead can enter our bodies by breathing it in, or eating it.¹

Lead poisoning can affect children and adults

Eating or breathing dust from lead-based paint is the leading cause of lead poisoning in children.¹

Biggest health concerns for kids:¹
- Lowered IQ
- Developmental delays
- Learning disabilities
- Memory loss
- Hearing loss
- Attention deficits
- Hyperactivity
- Behavioral disorders

In adults:²
- Kidney, brain, and reproductive issues
- High blood pressure and heart disease

THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD

NEW YORK STATE LEAD AND HOUSING FACTS

New York State has the oldest housing in the country.³

~75% of NY homes were built before 1978.⁴

That’s ~5.5 million housing units built before lead paint was banned federally.⁴

3.9% of NY children tested have 5+ μg/dL blood lead levels — significantly higher levels and number of children than across the country: only 2.5% of US children tested have 3.5+ μg/dL.⁵,⁶

Renters are in more danger:
In Buffalo, 80% of properties where children with elevated blood lead levels live are rentals.⁷

WHAT YOU CAN DO
- Is your home built before the ‘70s? Make sure it’s been tested for lead
- Keep painted walls and trim in good repair
- Leverage government resources to test and replace lead in pipes, and address lead paint

WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO
- Ensure landlords and their insurance companies are accountable
- Take over enforcement of the federal Renovation, Repair, and Paint laws
- Require testing for lead before sales, and complete disclosure to renters

Sources:
1. https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm
4. US Census Bureau’s 2021 American Community Study Comparative Housing Characteristics: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table. 75% of housing units are in the ranges of before 1939 to 1979 (the year after lead in indoor paint was banned in the US.)
Lead Poisoning Persists in Syracuse
Urgent action needed on environmental justice crisis

Lead Paint in Homes

City of Syracuse Vital Statistics

28.8%
of Syracuse residents live below the federal poverty line—over double the rate in New York State (13.9%)

1963
The year the typical house was built in Syracuse. NYS didn’t ban lead until 1970, and the federal ban started in 1978.

Sources
For people living below the poverty level, percent of owner/renter-occupied, type of housing: https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US3673000-syracuse-ny/
For median housing age: https://housemethod.com/home-warranty/median-home-age-us/

Lead Free Kids NY is a coalition of over 40 organizations. Learn more: https://bit.ly/leadfreekidsny