
CDC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEXUS

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY YOU



Environmental Health Nexus

CDC's Environmental Health Nexus (EH Nexus) shares environmental health messages with the public and gives special attention to environmental justice.

EH Nexus newsletters provide information about environmental health issues and offers information that promotes actions to help save lives. The newsletter communicates how to reduce harm from many threats, including climate change, contaminated food and water, toxic environments, and inadequate systems and practices.

This issue covers the following topics:

- [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#)
- [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Webinars: Making an Impact](#)
- [Lead and Your Health](#)
- [Housing is Crucial for Good Health](#)
- [Common Sources of Exposure](#)
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- [Lead Poisoning in Children is Preventable](#)
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National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is October 24–30, 2021. It’s a time to reflect on the severe issue of lead poisoning in our country.

Each year, NLPPW is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state, tribal, and local governments to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness in the effort to reduce childhood exposure to lead. NLPPW highlights the many ways parents can reduce children’s exposure to lead in their environment and prevent its serious health effects.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our partners work to heighten awareness of lead poisoning, provide resources, and encourage preventive actions during NLPPW and beyond.

NLPPW Webinars: Making an Impact!

Commemorating 30 years of CDC’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

Wednesday, October 27, from 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_-xuqXDqwRRa2jRpCqTevXg



CDC’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program will commemorate 30 years of working with state and local partners to reduce childhood lead poisoning as a public health problem. A live virtual commemoration will be broadcast via Zoom and will include a timeline of significant events in lead poisoning prevention over the last 30 years and a moderated panel discussion featuring state childhood lead poisoning prevention programs. In addition, it will feature remarks from Dr. Patrick Breyse, Director of NCEH/ATSDR and Dr. Paul Allwood, Chief of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Surveillance Branch (proposed).

Childhood Lead Exposure in the United States: CDC's Role in Prevention, Education, and Surveillance

Thursday, October 28, from 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_pV4XkcWNRiW11zFVfNNuhw

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state, tribal, and local governments to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness in an effort to reduce childhood exposure to lead. CDC Subject matter experts will discuss sources of lead in children's environments, populations at higher risk, current trends among children in the U.S., prevention strategies, and current initiatives.

Exposición al plomo durante la niñez en los Estados Unidos: el rol de los CDC en la prevención, educación y vigilancia

Thursday, October 28, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_vKNLqoJfQ3emlKmZPS2IUg

En
Español

Lead and Your Health



Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust, soil, and water are the primary sources of lead exposure for U.S. children. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing after 1978. All houses built before 1978 are likely to contain some lead-based paint. However, it is the deterioration of this paint that causes a problem.

Approximately 22.3 million housing units have deteriorated leaded paint and elevated levels of lead-contaminated house dust.

An estimated 2.6 million homes with children younger than 6 years of age have one or more lead-based paint hazards.

The health effects are the same if a person breathes, swallows, or absorbs lead particles. However, the body absorbs higher levels of lead when it is breathed in. Once our body absorbs lead, it is stored in our bones, blood, and tissues. It can take decades for lead stored in the bones to decrease.

Lead Exposure: An Environmental Justice Concern

Economic, social, and cultural factors continue impacting health outcomes and the exposure of some to environmental hazards more than others. Environmental justice (EJ) is an effort to address environmental health disparities. EJ will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment.

All people—regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—are entitled to equal protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Lead exposure is a matter of environmental justice. Some African American persons are at a higher risk of lead exposure due to poor housing stock. Children from low-income households and those who live in housing built before 1978 are at the greatest risk of lead exposure because these homes are more likely to contain lead-based paint and have pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures containing lead.

CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network has an [environmental justice dashboard](#) to help determine communities at risk, help make informed policy decisions, and help everyone learn more about how the environment affects their health.



Learn About Lead, a Serious Problem for Children

Children younger than six years old are at higher risk of lead exposure. This is because their bodies are rapidly developing and more susceptible to taking in lead if exposed. Young children also tend to put their hands or other objects into their mouths. Therefore, the most common source of lead exposure in young children is lead dust that they swallow after placing their lead-contaminated hands or other objects in their mouths.

Some other countries have less strict regulations to protect children from lead exposure; therefore, children who are immigrants, [refugees](#), [or recently adopted from outside of the United States](#) are also at higher risk for lead exposure.

Many things affect how a child's body handles exposure to lead, including

- Child's age
- Nutritional status
- [Sources of lead exposure](#)
- Length of time the child was exposed
- Presence of other underlying health conditions

Lead Poisoning in Children is Preventable



Protecting children from exposure to lead is important for lifelong good health. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect learning, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement.

The most important step that [parents and caregivers](#), [healthcare providers](#), and [public health professionals](#) can take is to prevent lead exposure before it occurs.

While some effects of lead poisoning may be permanent, if caught early there are [things parents can do](#) to prevent further exposure and reduce damage to their child's health.

Parents: Get your Child Tested for Lead

Treatment

Medical interventions and treatments vary depending on the confirmed blood lead level. [Follow CDC's recommended actions based on blood lead level for treatment options.](#)

Environmental Health Updates and Resources



American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) Call for Papers

The *American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)*, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), intends to publish a supplemental issue on the topic of lead hazards, prevention-mitigation programs, and emerging sources of exposure. The supplement will address and contribute to the comprehensive understanding of currently known and emerging hazardous sources of lead exposure related to global trade, climate change, and infrastructure renewal.

Manuscripts must be submitted to [AJPH](#) by **January 30, 2022**. For more information about this supplement, visit the [Call for Papers web page](#).

Thank you for reading. Do not keep this great resource to yourself! Please share it with your colleagues and networks.

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