

New York Ranks #1 in the Nation for Childhood Lead Exposure



Now is the Time to End New York's Immoral Childhood Lead Crisis

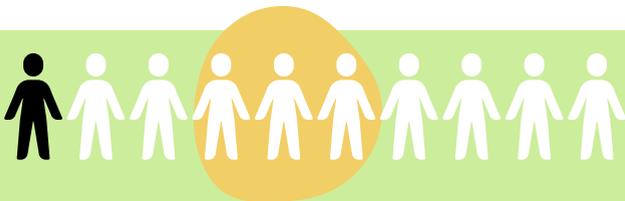
New York has no statewide system of mandatory proactive inspections of old housing likely to contain lead hazards. Instead, the state inspects homes for lead **after children have already tested positive for lead poisoning**, and relies on landlords to repair lead-poisoned housing – an often underfunded and inadequately enforced method. **Governor Hochul** and **Attorney General James** have recently voiced their commitment to tackle this crisis, so now is the time to take action to end lead exposure in New York once and for all.



Lead disproportionately impacts children of color and low-income children. The distribution of lead poisoned children along racial and socioeconomic lines affirms lead poisoning as a racial and environmental injustice



In 2017, 25 upstate counties had **higher percentages of children testing positive for lead poisoning** than in Flint, Michigan at the height of its crisis



In Syracuse, **one out of ten children** have elevated blood lead levels



In Buffalo, children in predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods are **12x more likely** to get lead poisoning than children in white neighborhoods



www.leadfreekidsny.org

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @LeadFreeKidsNY



"My 3-year-old was exposed to lead in my apartment. I have had to worry about the effects because children who are exposed to lead, a neurotoxin, are at high risk for delays in growth and speech, learning disabilities, organ failure, and even death. Lead exposure at a young age can ruin our children's lives before they truly begin."

-Enoshja Ruffin, Impacted Parent & Citizen Action of New York Member

What Can We Do About NYS' Lead Crisis?

Fill Funding Gaps

▶ Increase funding for the NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers (NYSCHECK) from \$4 million to \$5 million.

▶ Provide \$10 million to the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) as grants to landlords to conduct lead abatement; these funds need to be tied to protections for renters.

▶ \$50 million to support the existing and additional counties within the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program responsible for NY's children with elevated blood lead levels.

▶ Department of Health needs to expedite filling the seven (7) vacancies on the NYS Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Council with impacted community members and community leaders who serve in disproportionately impacted communities and others who can advise the agency.

Pass Laws

Landlord Insurance For Lead Based Paint S.88(Ryan) / A.1687 (JD.Rivera)

If children are lead poisoned, current law exempts landlord insurance companies from covering the costs. S.3079 will ensure such victims will be adequately compensated for medical bills and other lead-exposure related expenses and damages.

Lead Based Paint Disclosure Act S.2353 (Kavanagh) / A.6608 (2022, JD.Rivera)

Requires sellers or lessors of pre-1978 housing to disclose to buyers or renters any knowledge of lead-based paint in residence. It will require the NYS Department of Health to track and address homes that have lead present.

Lead Pipe Right to Know Act S.5512 (Rivera) / Pending

Another pathway to lead exposure is through drinking water. This bill requires each water utility to determine which service lines in its system are made of lead. It also requires the NYS Department of Health to make an inventory publicly available and create interactive maps.

The Renovation, Repair and Painting Act S.2191 (Bailey) / A.434 (Bronson)

This legislation would enable the State to administrate and enforce RRP rules. A report estimated this bill would protect about 140,000 children under age 6 from lead exposure in some 483,000 homes undergoing RRP work each year.



WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1854 Amsterdam Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10031 | 212-961-1000

50 F Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20001 | 202-495-3036

Web: weact.org | Facebook: [weactforej](https://www.facebook.com/weactforej) | Twitter: [weact4ej](https://twitter.com/weact4ej) | Instagram: [weact4ej](https://www.instagram.com/weact4ej)

Questions? Email Briana Carbajal
at briana.carbajal@weact.org

Last updated: 1/31/2023