

Lead Ordinances around the country serve to protect children from the effects of lead toxicity as they proactively screen houses for potential lead hazards before a child ingests lead dust and suffers the irreparable harms associated with lead poisoning. In other municipalities, Lead Ordinances have unequivocally reduced the lead burden facing the children living in those communities. The combination of old housing stock in Manheim (89% of the houses built prior to 1978 when lead was banned from paint) and where over 500 children, age 5 or less live, is a dangerous combination that will unfortunately lead to lead poisoning and its devastating consequences.

Since 2022 and the inception of Lead Free Families (LFF), 8 children living in Manheim Borough have tested positive for Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) as represented by the red dots on the map. During that period, about 15 properties with identified lead hazards have been remediated through LFF. This represents about 60% of all the cases in Manheim with EBLLs over the past 2 years as we can only see data for children cared for by PennMedicine/Lancaster General Health providers. **Additionally, screening rates in Manheim Borough run around 30% so undoubtedly many more children go unidentified who have lead poisoning.**

As mentioned during the council meeting, once a child has an elevated lead level, the neurotoxic effects (including lower IQ, risk of dropping out of school, lower math and reading skills, potential for future criminal justice system involvement and increased risk of behavioral health diagnoses) rises at a dramatic rate. We do not have medical interventions that can reverse the effects of lead poisoning once that poisoning occurs underpinning the argument that primary prevention, by testing properties, is the best intervention. In short, Lead Ordinances are proactive in protecting the health and well-being of children living in your municipality. In fact, for every dollar spent on remediation, \$3 dollars are saved from the down-stream consequences of lost wages, criminal justice system costs, special education services, etc. For your review, a report of the burden of lead poisoning in Pennsylvania and the anticipated cost saving through remediation efforts produced by the Council for a Strong America and Fight Crime: Invest in Kids organizations has been enclosed.

Sincerely,

The Lancaster Lead Coalition (members including but not limited to, listed below)

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