10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure

An assessment of the risks communities face and key federal, state, and local solutions
The Methods

Qualitative Research
- 50 interviews
- 700 research articles
- 22 case studies (NCHH and TFAH)
- 5 national listening sessions
- 16 Focus Groups:

Quantitative
- Child Trends & Urban Institute, Social Genome Model
- Altarum Institute, Value of Prevention Tool

Project Oversight
- Subject matter experts
- Advisory committee
- Pew & RWJF

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Key Findings & Recommendations
QUANTITATIVE FINDING:
Removing leaded drinking water service lines from the homes of children born in 2018 would protect more than 350,000 children and yield $2.7 billion in future benefits, or about $1.33 per dollar invested.

FOCUS GROUP FINDING:
Reduce lead in drinking water in homes built before 1986 and other places children frequent.
QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS:
Eradicating lead paint hazards from older homes of children from low-income families would provide $3.5 billion in future benefits, or approximately $1.39 per dollar invested, and protect more than 311,000 children.

FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS:
Parents and property owners cited lack of funding to make and keep housing lead safe as the major barrier.
QUANTITATIVE FINDING:
Ensuring that contractors comply with the Environmental Protection Agency’s rule that requires lead-safe renovation, repair, and painting practices would protect about 211,000 children born in 2018 and provide future benefits of $4.5 billion, or about $3.10 per dollar spent.

FOCUS GROUP FINDING:
Parents of children with high blood lead levels often cited renovations activities as the lead source for their children.
QUANTITATIVE FINDING:
Eliminating lead from airplane fuel would protect more than 226,000 children born in 2018 who live near airports, generate $262 million in future benefits, and remove roughly 450 tons of lead from the environment every year.

FOCUS GROUP FINDING:
People in Los Angeles were concerned about Av gas, those living near other point sources that contaminate air were concerned about those sources of lead.
Hypothetical “all blood lead levels below zero”

- Most gains are for children with blood lead levels under 2 ug/dL
- Benefits are mainly derived from increased earnings, resulting from higher IQs
FINDING:
Providing targeted evidence-based academic and behavioral interventions to the roughly 1.8 million children with a history of lead exposure could increase their lifetime family incomes and likelihood of graduating from high school and college and decrease their potential for teen parenthood and criminal conviction.

RECOMMENDATION:
Ensure access to developmental and neuropsychological assessments and appropriate high-quality programs for children with elevated blood lead levels.
Other Recommendations

- Reduce lead in food and consumer products
- Clean up contaminated soil
- Improve blood lead testing among children at high risk of exposure and find and remediate the sources of their exposure.
- Improve public access to local data.
- Fill gaps in research to better target state and local prevention and response efforts
Read the report at www.pewtrusts.org/lead