



TOXIC LEAD

PA LAWMAKERS MUST ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lead poisoning can cause permanent brain damage to children – especially babies and kids six and under. Lead can cause learning, behavior, hearing and speech problems, sometimes requiring special education services, and is a risk factor for criminal behavior.ⁱⁱⁱ
- For every dollar spent on removing lead paint-based hazards in children's homes and apartments, \$17-\$221 would be returned in health benefits, increased IQ, higher lifetime earnings, tax revenue, reduced spending on special education and reduced criminal activity.ⁱⁱⁱ

WHAT DOES THE LEAD POISONING CRISIS LOOK LIKE IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY?

- Northumberland County has the **17TH HIGHEST NUMBER OF CHILDREN POISONED** of all PA counties.^{iv}
- NEARLY 100 CHILDREN ARE POISONED EVERY YEAR**^v - enough to fill 5 pre-school classrooms.
- With **ONLY 17% OF CHILDREN SCREENED** for lead, more are likely to be poisoned.^{vi}
- Northumberland County children are **POISONED AT A RATE 3 TIMES HIGHER THAN CHILDREN POISONED IN FLINT, MICHIGAN** at the peak of the city's crisis.^{vii viii}
- LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS IN CHILDREN'S HOMES ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF LEAD POISONING.** Lead-based paint was not banned for residential use until 1978, and 77% of residential properties in Northumberland County were built before 1980.^{ix}
- Black and Hispanic children are disproportionately poisoned because they are more likely to live in older properties with deteriorated lead-based paint. Race and ethnicity data is not available for the county, but across Pennsylvania, **4 TIMES MORE BLACK CHILDREN AND 2 TIMES MORE HISPANIC CHILDREN ARE POISONED THAN WHITE CHILDREN.**^x

CALL TO ACTION

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING IS 100% PREVENTABLE

primarily by removing lead paint-based hazards in their homes. Northumberland County babies need protection from toxic lead.

URGE YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR TO:

- FUND REMOVAL OF LEAD PAINT FROM CHILDREN'S HOMES.**
- GUARANTEE EVERY PA CHILD IS APPROPRIATELY TESTED FOR LEAD AS PER CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.**

