

**Lead Paint Hurts: Discrimination  
and Health Effects  
Great Hall Codman Square  
6:00-8:00 PM**



Thomas Plant  
Environmental Health Office  
October 20, 2014

# Overview

- What is Lead?
- What health risks and health effects are related to lead exposure?
- Why is lead paint and lead-contaminated dust a problem?
- Who should be protected?
- Who are most adversely impacted?
- Where is the high risk housing?
- What you can do?

# What is Lead?



- A metal naturally occurring in the earth.
- It is a neurotoxin- it inhibits the neurons and cells in the nervous system.
- Has been used since ancient times before 6500 BC for smelting and metallurgy.
- Massachusetts passed a the Lead Law in 1971 as amended.
- Previously used in paint before being banned by the Consumer Safety Product Commission in 1978.
- In gasoline before being banned by the EPA 1986,
- Congress amended Safe Water Drinking Act in 1986 to ban lead in public water systems
- In 1990 the EPA passes Clean Air Act lowers lead air emissions
- In 1991 Lead and Copper Rule to 15 ppb lead in drinking water.
- In January 2012 the CDC and Prevention said low levels of lead 5 micrograms or greater is the new reference value for lead poisoning and children should be have medical intervention and environmental investigation.

# What is Lead?

## Where can lead-based paint be found?

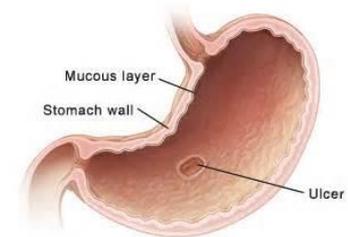
- In household paint in pre-1978 built houses
- In soil contaminated with lead-based paint dust or debris
- Water pipes in home and lead solder
- In batteries, bullets, tire and fish weights (sinkers)
- Imported glazed pottery, leaded crystal and cooking pans
- Imported Cosmetics
- Imported toys and jewelry.



# Health Effects of Lead

What are the Effects and Symptoms of Lead on Young Children less than six years of age?

- Can cause Brain Damage
- Effect Kidneys and Liver
- Cause Nerve Damage
- Learning Disabilities
- Cause hearing and speech problems
- Stomach aches and nausea
- Vomiting
- Headaches and irritability
- Joint and muscle pains
- Attention Span Disorders
- Sleeping Disorders
- Antisocial Behavior and Violence
- Children less than six years of age are the most vulnerable population.
- Harmful to everyone, no safe level in the your body
- Can cause coma or death at high lead levels
- Sometimes there are no symptoms



## For Adults

- High blood Pressure
- Memory Loss
- Muscle Fatigue
- Reproductive problems (low sperm count in males and miscarriages in females)
- Symptoms are Insomnia, fatigue, abdominal pain, and irritability.

# Why is Lead-Based Paint and Dust a Problem?

- Boston has some of the oldest housing stock in the nation.
- 90% of Boston Housing was built before 1978 when lead-based paint was banned.
- Houses with lead paint hazards-chipping flaking or peeling lead paint are a hazard for families with young children.
- Renovation Activities that disturb lead-based paint in pre-1978 housing can create lead dust and debris. Lead debris can become lead dust.
- Very small amounts of lead dust can poison children, adults, and companion animals.
- Children swallow(ingest) and or inhale lead dust during normal playing activities.
- Adults inhale or ingest lead dust during work or renovation activities by hand scraping, power sanding, or grinding activities, etc.
- Workers can bring lead-contaminated dust home and poison their families.

# Who Should Be Protected from Lead?

- Children under six years of age
- Pregnant Women
- Adolescents and Adults
- Painters, Construction and Demolition Workers, Welders, Paint Strippers, Stain Glass Workers, Police, Cable and Wire Workers, Auto-body Shop workers, etc
- Companion Animals
- Only way to know for sure if you have been lead poisoned is **GET A BLOOD TEST!** Call your primary care provider or call us 617-534-5965.

# Who are most adversely impacted?

## Who are most adversely impacted?

1. African Americans
2. Latino
3. Recent Immigrants and new Refugee Children
4. Caucasian children living in Pre-1978 Housing.

# Why Are Children Most Vulnerable?

- Young Children who are less than six years of age's Brain (Cognitive) and Nervous Systems is still developing and are significantly impacted by Lead-based paint and leaded dust.
- Children are usually exposed to lead through the inhalation of leaded dust or ingestion of lead paint chips.
- Research has shown that the frontal lobe of the brain that control inhibitions is affected by lead (shrinkage), can make children more susceptible to antisocial behavior-violence.

# Where is this Housing Located?

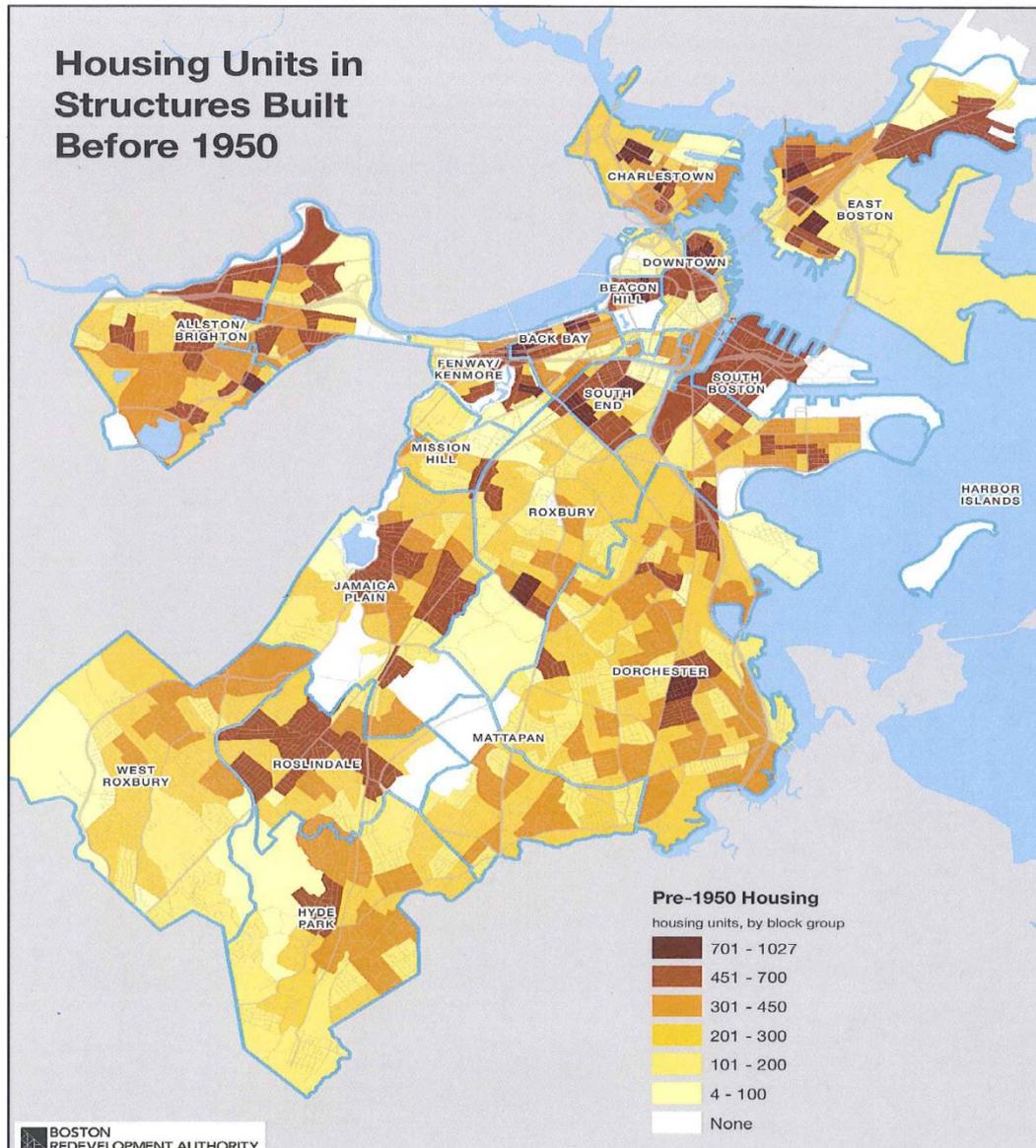
- Housing that was built before 1978 is at highest risk to have lead based paint on the exterior and interior surfaces and is located in these neighborhoods:
- North Dorchester
- South Dorchester
- East Boston
- Roxbury
- Mattapan
- Hyde Park
- Roslindale
- Allston Brighton

This does not mean you cannot be lead poisoned in other Neighborhoods such as Back Bay, Beacon Hill or, Fenway the North End, South Boston, South End or West Roxbury, **You Can!**

However, these are the neighborhoods which are at the highest risk for lead-based paint poisoning due to the age of houses, the condition of the house, and whether the home has been inspected and delead.



# Pre 1950s Housing in Boston Neighborhoods



## ■ What are the highest risk neighborhoods in

### Boston:

- North Dorchester
- South Dorchester
- Mattapan
- Hyde Park
- East Boston
- Roxbury
- Allston/Brighton
- Jamaica Plain
- Roslindale

# What Can Property Owners Do?

- Take advantage of Moderate Risk Deleading Training and Renovation, Repair, and Painting Training Programs
- Use available Financial Assistance from the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development
- Ensure that you bring your properties into compliance with the Massachusetts Lead Law.
- Use and hire only trained and licensed contractors to remove lead-based paint
  - Deleading Contractors
  - Moderate Risk Deleading Trained agents or contractors
  - Renovation, Repair, and Painting Supervisor Contractors
- Use lead safe worker practices to contain lead-based paint, dust, and debris. Dispose of all the waste properly.

# How Do I find Licensed Contractors?

## There are five reasons you need a license RRP Contractor

1. You'll protect children's health
  2. You'll protect your own health
  3. You'll maintain the safety of your home
  4. A contractor who is licensed has shown responsibility with the 454 CMR 22.00
  5. It's the law.
- Use Department of Labor Standards List of trained and certified contractors (i.e. Deleading Contractors, Moderate Risk Deleading Option Agents, and Renovation, Repair and Painting Contractors
  - <http://www.mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/lead-program/license-lists/>