



Safe Homes/Safe Kids

Michigan Alliance for Lead Safe Homes

Lead poisoning is still a problem in Michigan

Why? About 70% of the housing stock in Michigan was built before 1978, the year in which lead paint was banned. Because of these high numbers, in 2015, over 627 Michigan children under 6 years old were diagnosed with lead poisoning while another 3,996 children were found to have blood lead levels of 5 to 9 ug/dL. It is difficult to gauge the full extent of lead poisoning because only half of the kids who should be are tested each year. We expect the number of lead poisoned kids to be higher.

Conservative estimates show that childhood **lead poisoning costs Michigan at least \$3.2 – \$4.85 billion** for just the annual costs of lifetime earnings for children with lead poisoning. This estimate does not include the cost of medical treatment, special education, increased encounters with the juvenile system, or reduced high school completion. This loss of tax dollars hurts schools, roads, and other state priorities.



Michigan Alliance
for
Lead Safe Homes

602 W. Ionia Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Tina Reynolds, MIALSH Coalition Manager & Michigan
Environmental Council Environmental Health Program Director
tina@environmentalcouncil.org | 517-999-0415

www.mileadsafehomes.org

Thousands of children learn less due to lead poisoning

Complications from lead poisoning include behavioral problems such as aggressiveness, hyperactivity, and lethargy, all of which can result in learning struggles, organ damage, hearing deterioration, slowed growth, appetite and weight loss, digestive problems, headache, and fatigue. These complications are not reversible and hamper IQ and school performance and can lead to a higher rate of incarceration for lead-poisoned individuals.

Coalition forms to end lead poisoning in Michigan

To help unify and strengthen regional and statewide entities working to end lead poisoning, the Safe Homes/Safe Kids: Michigan Alliance for Lead Safe Homes (MIALSH) coalition formed in 2010. We are a group of concerned health, housing and environmental professionals, local business owners, community and child advocates, parents and others. We are committed to reducing and eliminating childhood lead poisoning in Michigan by identifying a stable and renewable source of funding to provide education, testing of children, and abatement of lead hazards in homes.

To learn more about lead poisoning, please check out our coalition website, www.mileadsafehomes.org. You can also sign up for our e-news to stay up to date on MIALSH coalition activities.