

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

1800 Washington Boulevard · Suite 610 · Baltimore Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3304 · 800-633-6101 · www.mde.maryland.gov



Thursday, May 2, 2024

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting
Lead Commission Distributed Meeting Material**

- Agenda 240502
- Draft Minutes 240404
- Legislative Tracking 2024
- DHCD LHRP Lead Commission
- Lead Commission Presentation 5.2.24

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

May 2, 2024 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – April 2024
- Old & New Business
 - Presentation from White House Environmental Justice Council and Young, Gifted and Green (LeTricia Adams)
 - Educational Programs (Maryland Home Improvement Commission)
 - Legislation Outcomes Next Steps
 - Lead Funding/Unit Production (Baltimore City)
 - Update on Implementation of new Blood Lead Reference Level (MDE/MDH)
- Agency Hot Topics/Current Events
 - **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Tyler Abbott
 - **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Dr. Cliff Mitchell
 - **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Dr. Paul Rogers
 - **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Manjula Paul
 - **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration) Benita Cooper
 - **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Theo Williams
 - **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicole Hart/Katherine Taylor
 - **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): JulieDiGirolamo
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, 06/06/24 , 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:
 - EPA Technical Assistance Center Presentation (University of MD Sacoby Wilson Group)
 - Reminder: Commissioner membership updates and renewals due in September (Wendy Phillips)

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION April 4, 2024 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Draft/Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Benita Cooper	Barbara Moore	Adam Skolnik
Anna Davis	Ruth Ann Norton	Thelonious Williams
Cliff Mitchell	Manjula Paul	
Paula Montgomery	Christina Peusch	

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Senator Jill Carter	Paul Rogers
Jacob Benzaquen	Susan Kleinhammer	

Guests Present:

Fred Banks-MDE	Angela Hall-GHHI	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Jason Harding-BCDHCD	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG/MDE	Cynthia Herrera - GHHI	Nancy Servatius-MDH
Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Steven Homola-BCDHCD	Anastasia Solano-MDE
Julie DiGirolamo-BCHD	Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	Kevin Stanley-MDE
William Doyle-HCHD	Eunice Johnson-GES	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Shamola Dye-MDE	Dawn Joy-AMA	Lori Tantlinger-JHU
Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MDE	Wade McCord-MDE	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
Felicia Graves-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE	Chris White-ARC

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda 240404
- Draft Meeting Minutes 240307

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Norton extended a warm welcome to everyone attending the April 4, 2024 Commission meeting and gave some brief reminders about the National Healthy Homes Month and upcoming events and webinars. Additionally she announced organizational changes within GHHI, including promotions and new hires.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Theo Williams to accept the March 7, 2024 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Legislation/Pending Legislative Outcome & Action Dates

Wes Stewart of GHHI gave an update on the following bills:

- [HB0351/SB0361 - Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023:](#) The bill has passed in the Senate.
- [HB0245 - Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation:](#) The bill passed in the house but has not yet passed the Senate.
- [HB0097/SB0723 - Baby Food - Toxic Heavy Metals - Testing and Labeling:](#) The bill has passed both the House and the Senate.
- [SB0983/HB1473 - Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out:](#) The bill does not look like it will be passing as it has not moved out of the House or Senate.
- [SB0481/HB0693 - Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024:](#) The bill has passed in the House.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Fred Banks, Program Manager of MDE's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, discussed ongoing collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health on adult lead issues as well as the Key Bridge clean up which has sparked inquiries, although lead isn't a primary concern. Dr. Banks also announced a partnership with MICA for a kids' calendar on lead safety. Each month, the calendar will cover a lead safety topic. Additionally, two posters were created for social media to promote lead safety.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell commended Dr. Nancy Servatius for her dedicated work since 2008 coordinating between public health departments and state agencies regarding lead exposure. He also expressed gratitude to Barbara Moore and Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital for their efforts in a complex lead exposure case. Dr. Mitchell acknowledged the increasing lead exposure cases possibly due to COVID-related deferred care and emphasized the ongoing collaborative efforts among agencies to address this issue. Additionally, he mentioned progress in lead poisoning surveillance and discussed plans to enhance information sharing among stakeholders while considering limited resources in health departments.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Commissioner, Manjula Paul from MSDE explained that the Office of Child Care (OCC) is collaborating with healthcare providers whose patients attend childcare in Maryland but were not tested for lead. They inform out-of-state healthcare providers whose patients come to Maryland childcare facilities and provide education on the importance of lead testing. The OCC emphasized the significance of early education and development, advocating for late lead testing for these children and working with interstate healthcare providers to facilitate the process.

- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Commissioner, Theo Williams, provided updates on DHCD initiatives, including an unsuccessful healthy homes production grant application and plans for future rounds. They're developing a revised handout to accurately detail what the lead remediation program covers, focusing on critical repairs rather than general remodeling. They're also examining the program holistically to improve efficiencies and are noticing increased application numbers, especially outside Baltimore city, which they're addressing accordingly.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton reported that May 7th, there will be the annual asthma Summit happening at Bowie State University.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, May 2, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

1. Educational Programs (Maryland Home Improvement Commission)
2. Update on Blood Lead Reference Level (MDE/MDH: Fred Banks/Cliff Mitchell)
3. Lead Funding/Unit Production (Baltimore City: Nicole Hart/Katherine Taylor)
4. Legislation Outcomes Next Steps

Lead Related Legislation During the 2024 Session

13	Bills				
Bill	Cross file	Title	Current Status	Position	Comments
HB0097	SB0723	Baby Food - Toxic Heavy Metals - Testing and Labeling (Rudy's Law)	In the House - Passed Enrolled		02/01/24: This bill would require that all baby food be tested by the manufacturer monthly. This bill would require, beginning January 1, 2025, manufacturers of baby food to conduct certain testing on baby food for toxic heavy metals before packaging individual units of baby food for sale or distribution in the state; and require, beginning January 1, 2026, manufacturers of baby food to make certain information related to the testing and a link to certain guidance and information publicly available on the manufacturer's website and to include the test results or a certain code on the baby food product label.
HB0241	SB0308	Housing and Community Development - Just Community Designation	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 147	Support	02/01/24: This bill would prioritize existing state funding from MD-DHCD going to "Just Communities". This bill would authorize the Governor, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, to designate certain areas as Just Communities based on certain criteria; and provide for the prioritization of State funding for Just Communities to increase racial, economic and health equity in the state. Chair Norton recommended that a letter of support be sent to the House and Senate. Commissioner Moore made a motion to send a letter of support seconded by Christina Peusch, Executive Director of the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) and Commissioner. Abstentions were as follows: Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, Commissioner Montgomery, and Commissioner Williams. All other present Commissioners were in agreement.
HB0245		Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation	In the Senate - Hearing 3/26 at 1:00 p.m.	Support	02/01/24: This bill would double the fees for registration per unit annually from \$30 to \$60. The fee of \$120 would be due every two years. Additionally, the bill would authorize the Department of the Environment to charge a fee for processing and issuing on-site sewage disposal permits and individual well construction permits under certain circumstances; authorize the Department to establish a certain fee for the Responsible Personnel Training Program Certification; require a holder of a license to transfer oil into the state to pay a certain fee when oil owned by the licensee is first transferred into the state; and establish the Private Dam Repair Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc. Chair Norton recommended that a letter of support be sent to the House and Senate. Commissioner Moore made a motion to send a letter of support seconded by Ruth Ann Norton. Abstentions were as follows: Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, Commissioner Montgomery, and Commissioner Williams. All other present Commissioners were in agreement.
HB0351	SB0361	Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023	In the House - First Reading Appropriations		02/01/24: This bill would increase the special loan program to four million dollars.
HB0693	SB0481	Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 124		02/01/24: This bill would limit the security deposit to one month's rent. This would eliminate the first month's and last month's rent practice. This bill increasing maximum surcharges for certain eviction proceedings from \$8 to \$93 and prohibiting the district court from assigning the surcharge against a tenant; altering the priority and criteria in the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program that are followed by the Department of Housing and Community Development and public housing agencies for providing vouchers and housing assistance payments to families; limiting the maximum security deposit required by a residential lease to 1 month's rent; etc.
HB0694	SB0482	Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions,	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 12:30 p.m.		
HB1473	SB0983	Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations		
SB0308	HB0241	Housing and Community Development - Just Community Designation	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 148	Support	02/01/24: This bill would prioritize existing state funding from MD-DHCD going to "Just Communities". This bill would authorize the Governor, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, to designate certain areas as Just Communities based on certain criteria; and provide for the prioritization of State funding for Just Communities to increase racial, economic and health equity in the state. Chair Norton recommended that a letter of support be sent to the House and Senate. Commissioner Moore made a motion to send a letter of support seconded by Christina Peusch, Executive Director of the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) and Commissioner. Abstentions were as follows: Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, Commissioner Montgomery, and Commissioner Williams. All other present Commissioners were in agreement.

Lead Related Legislation During the 2024 Session

13	Bills				
Bill	Cross file	Title	Current Status	Position	Comments
SB0361	HB0351	Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled		02/01/24: This bill would increase the special loan program to four million dollars.
SB0481	HB0693	Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024	In the Senate - Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m. (Judicial Proceedings)		02/01/24: This bill would limit the security deposit to one month's rent. This would eliminate the first month's and last month's rent practice. This bill increasing maximum surcharges for certain eviction proceedings from \$8 to \$93 and prohibiting the district court from assigning the surcharge against a tenant; altering the priority and criteria in the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program that are followed by the Department of Housing and Community Development and public housing agencies for providing vouchers and housing assistance payments to families; limiting the maximum security deposit required by a residential lease to 1 month's rent; etc.
SB0482	HB0694	Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions,	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled		
SB0723	HB0097	Baby Food - Toxic Heavy Metals - Testing and Labeling (Rudy's Law)	In the Senate - Passed Enrolled		02/01/24: This bill would require that all baby food be tested by the manufacturer monthly. This bill would require, beginning January 1, 2025, manufacturers of baby food to conduct certain testing on baby food for toxic heavy metals before packaging individual units of baby food for sale or distribution in the state; and require, beginning January 1, 2026, manufacturers of baby food to make certain information related to the testing and a link to certain guidance and information publicly available on the manufacturer's website and to include the test results or a certain code on the baby food product label.
SB0983	HB1473	Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out	In the Senate - Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m.		



— BALTIMORE CITY —
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lead Hazard Reduction Grants

Nicole Hart, Deputy Commissioner
Katherine Taylor, LHRP Program Director

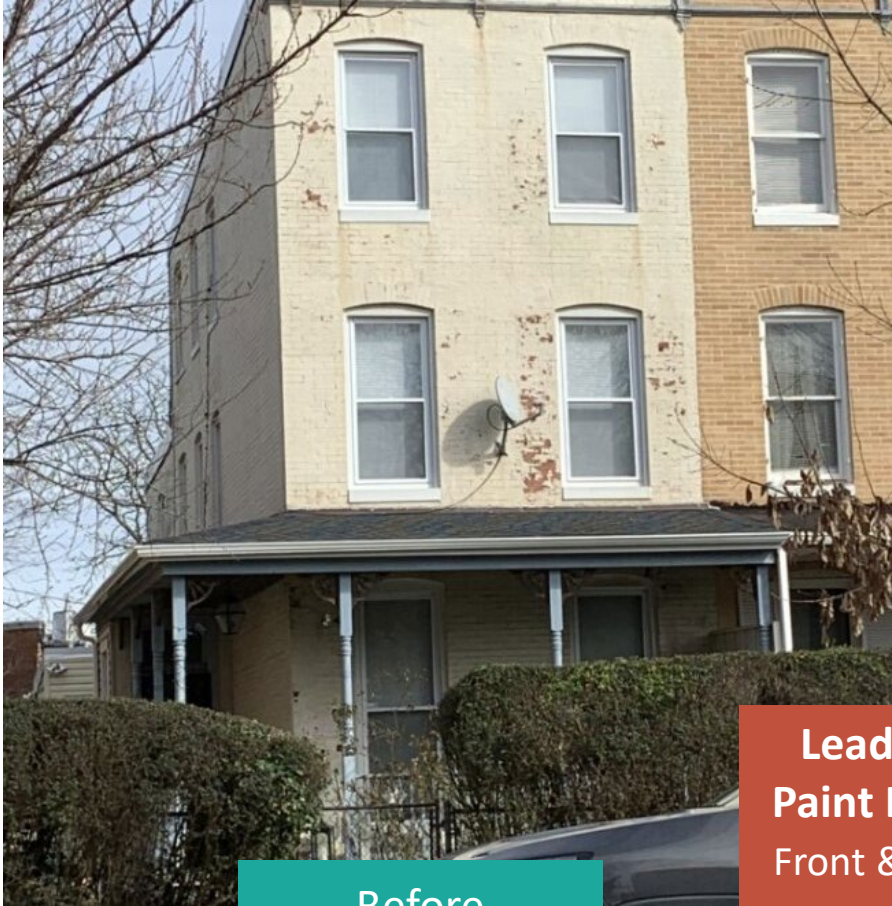
PURPOSE

- Reduce lead-based paint hazards in Baltimore's occupied housing stock
- Identify lead in owner occupied and rental occupied units
- Reduce exposure to lead-based paint hazards to children under 6 years old.
- Educate communities on lead hazards, sources of lead-based paint poisoning, and ways to reduce and eliminate such hazards



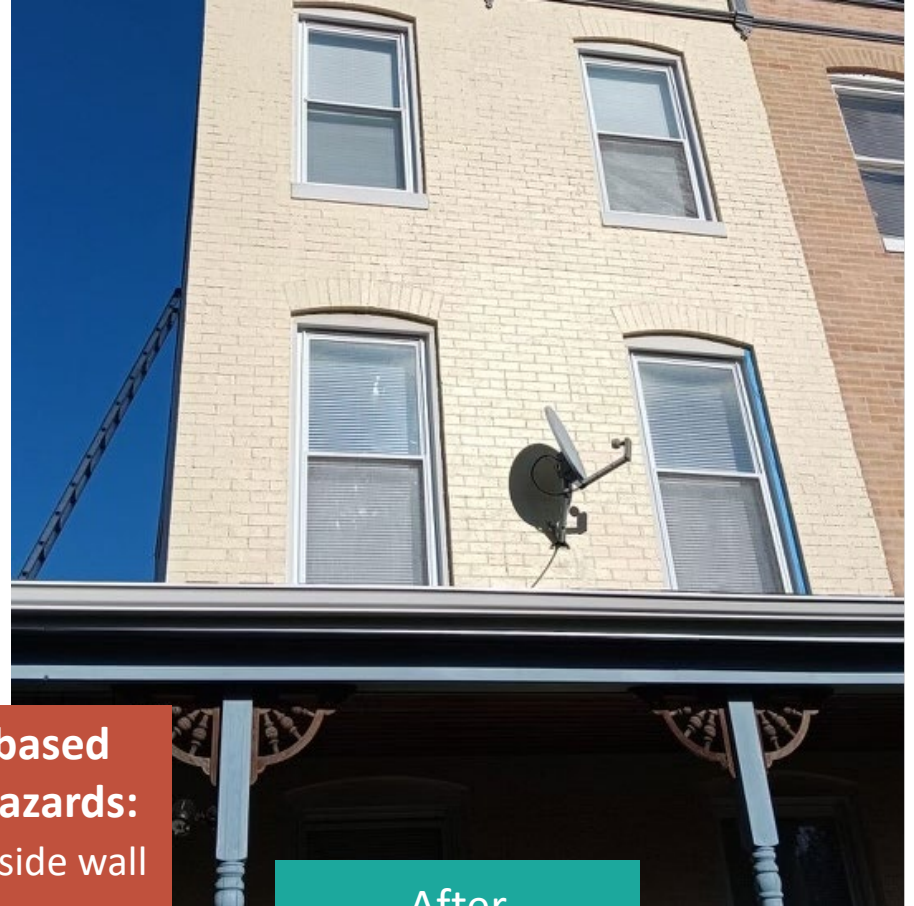
Unit Production Progress

GRANT NAME	Lead Inspections/ Assessments	COMPLETED & CLEARED UNITS	NEXT QUARTER ESTIMATED UNIT PRODUCTION
Lead Abatement Grant	313 Units	63 Units	5 Units
HIN Lead Hazard Reduction Grant	65 Units	32 Units	10 Units
Total	378 Units	95 Units	22 Units

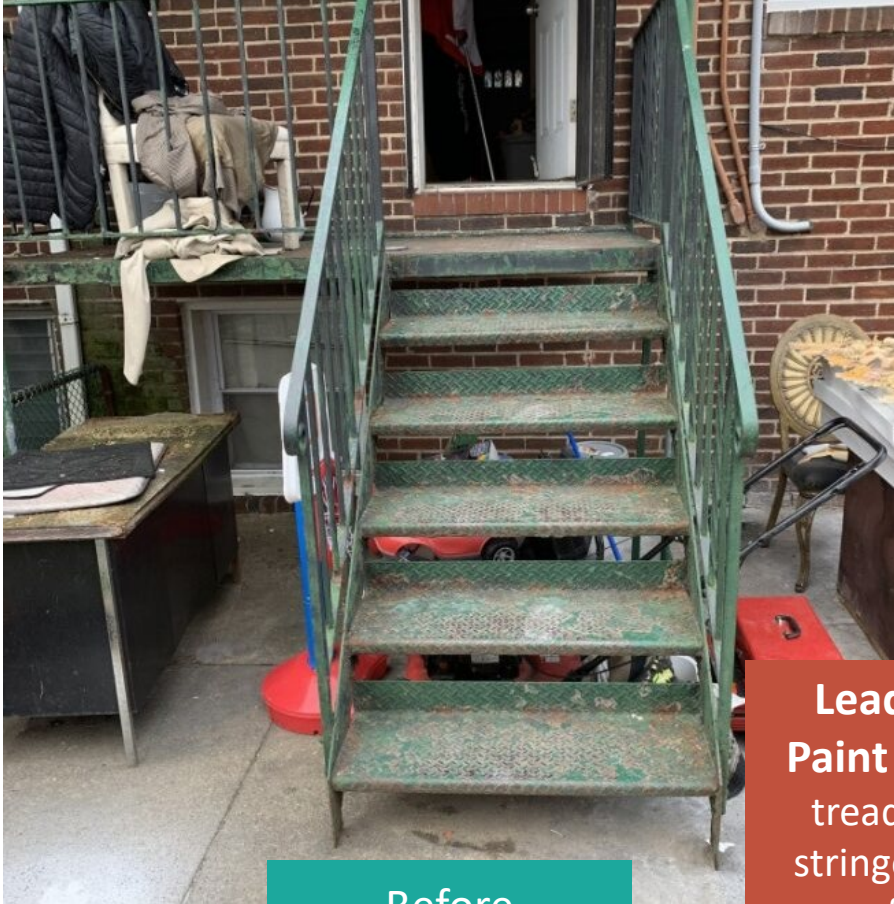


Before

**Lead-based
Paint Hazards:**
Front & side wall
surfaces

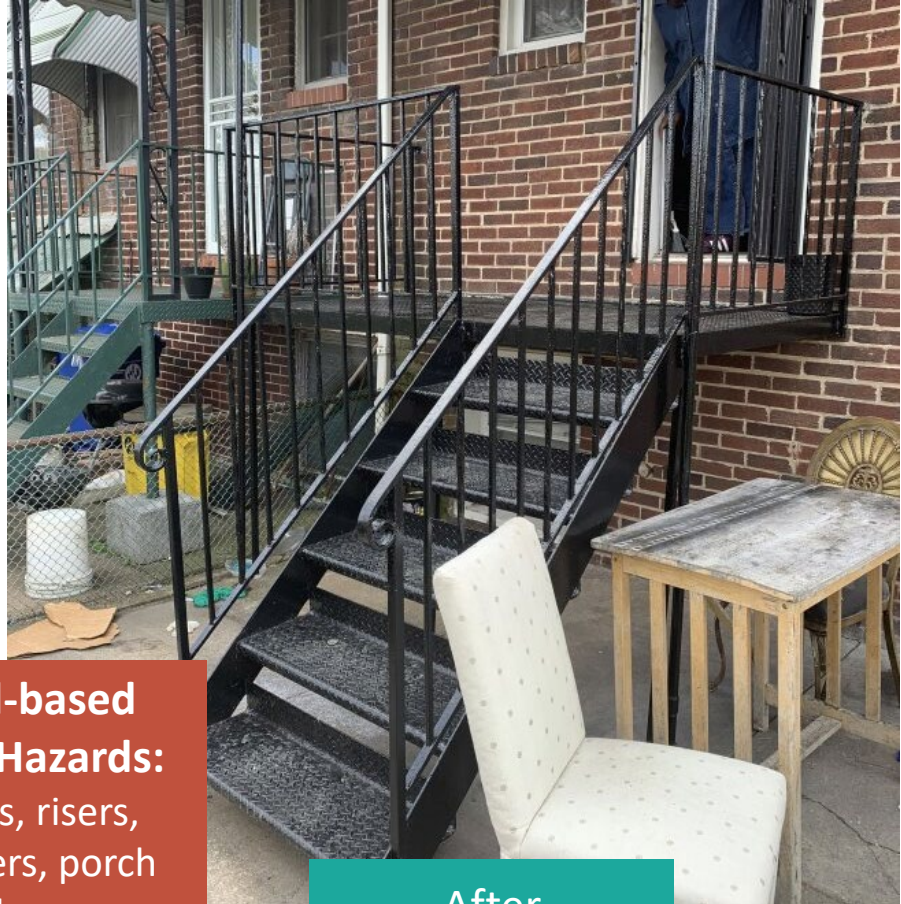


After



Before

**Lead-based
Paint Hazards:**
treads, risers,
stringers, porch
floor



After



Before

**Lead-based
Paint Hazards:**
treads, risers,
stringer, wall
surface



After





Funding

Housing and Urban Development:

Lead Abatement Grant - \$4,100,000

- *Ended on March 15, 2024*
- *Balance: \$2,735,415.13*
- *Lead Interventions Funds Used- \$262,611.76*
- *Healthy Homes Supplement Funds Used- \$90,889*

High Impact Neighborhoods Lead Grant \$9,700,000

- *End Date-May 30, 2025*
- *Balance: \$8,515,400.38*
- *Lead Interventions Funds Used: \$162,921.48*
- *Healthy Homes Supplement Balance: \$56,393.17*



Funding

ARPA Grants:

- *\$434,541.22 leveraged in ARPA healthy homes funding*
- *\$23,750 leveraged in ARPA Impact Investment Area*

Other DHCD Funding:

- *\$881,980.25 leveraged in other DHCD Funding*

Challenges

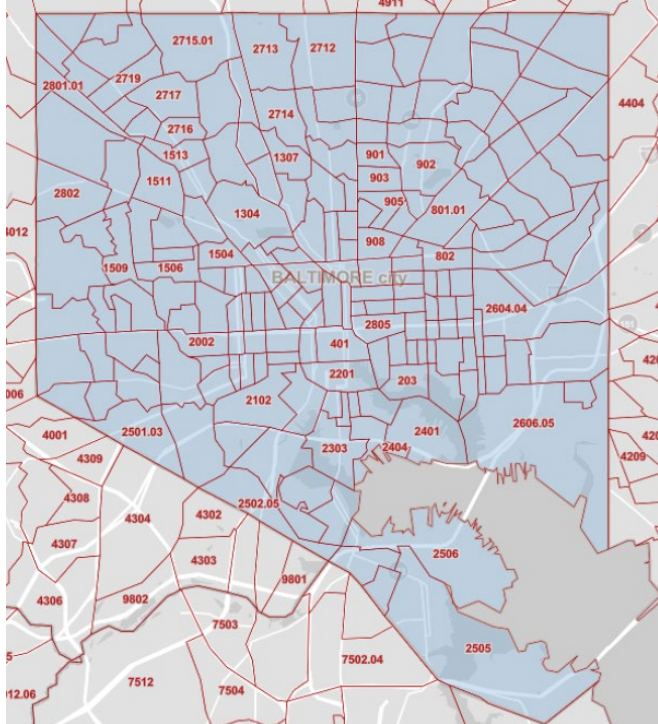
- **Recovering from COVID-19 Pandemic**
 - Halt in unit production from start of grant to March 2022 due to stay-at-home order
 - Clients hesitant to have staff and contractors in home
 - Staff Turnover
- **Procurement Delays**
 - Delayed Contractors RFQ
- **Intake and Enrollment post-pandemic**
 - Clients received during the pandemic were put on hold due to delay of unit production
- **Increased production costs and hazards**

Solutions

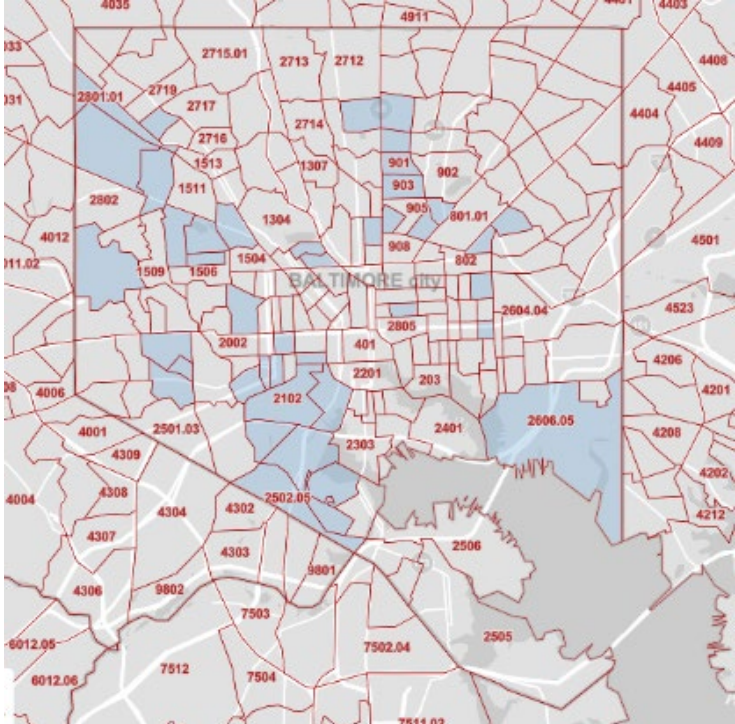
- Unit Production started on March 2022 with the help of an Emergency Contract from the Commissioner, Alice Kennedy. (7 Contractors)
- Expansion of the 2019 Jurisdiction Area- 127 units on waitlist
- Enrolling BCHD referrals to receive services- 606 EBLL referrals received
- Expedited hiring process to fill vacant program staff positions
- Utilizing all forms of E-communications to complete intake process including an online portal called Neighborly
- Increased outreach efforts by attending over 45 community events, hosting 26 presentations for local community organizations, and utilizing MIMA for immigrant communities
- Use of ARPA funding to remediate other housing hazards that usually would disqualify a client

Recent Update: Expansion of the Jurisdiction Area of 2019 Lead Grant

Updated 2019 Grant Area



Previous 2019 Grant Area





Thank you for your support!

**Contact the LHRP Office directly at
(443) 984-1613 or DHCD.LHRP@baltimorecity.gov**

**417 E Fayette St, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21202**

**Nicole Hart, Deputy Commissioner
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**Katherine Taylor, Program Director
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Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Blood Lead Reference Level Update

(MDE/MDH)

May 2024



History of the Blood Lead Reference Value in the US

- 1960 – 60 μ g/dl – undue /increased lead absorption
- 1970 - 40 μ g/dl – undue /increased lead absorption
- 1975 - 30 μ g/dl – undue /increased lead absorption
- 1978 - 30 μ g/dl – elevated blood lead level
- 1985 - 25 μ g/dl – elevated blood lead level
- 1991 - 10 μ g/dl – elevated blood lead level
- 2012 - 5 μ g/dl – elevated blood lead level
- 2021 – 3.5 μ g/dl – elevated blood lead level (Effective date for MDE action 1/1/2024)



Blood lead screening vs testing

- A **finger-prick or heel-prick (capillary) test** is usually the first step to determine if a child has lead in their blood. While finger-prick tests can provide fast results, they also can produce higher results if lead on the skin is captured in the sample. For this reason, a finger-prick test that shows a blood lead level at or above the 3.5 blrv will require a second test to be confirmed.
- A **venous blood draw** takes blood from the child's vein. This type of test can take a few days to receive results and is used to confirm blood lead levels seen in the first capillary test.



Child Lead Registry

- Receive Blood Lead Results from:
 - Providers/Institutions – 26,909
 - Laboratories - 251
 - Total Lead Results (2023) – 121,211
 - Lead Results
 - Electronic File transfer – 93,309
 - USPS – Regular Mail – 10,005
 - E-Fax (Secured Email) - 17,897



MDE Lead Health & Surveillance of EBLLs

- Data Processing and Cleaning
- Identification – Check for existing records / verify lead result and classify
- Notifications (Communication Plan)
- Referrals
- Follow Up



Protocol for Responding to Elevated Blood Lead Level

- Report the test result to the local health department.
- Report the test result and follow up plan to the parent / guardian of the poisoned child.
 - Specific communication according to blood lead result (threshold)
- Refer case to Compliance and Enforcement Division
- Obtain an environmental exposure history to identify potential sources of lead. – Environmental Investigatory Pre-Investigation Interview.



Protocol for Responding to Elevated Blood Lead Level

- Obtain an environmental exposure history to identify potential sources of lead. – Environmental Investigatory Pre-Investigation Interview.
- Arrange for an environmental investigation of the home to identify potential sources of lead, as required.
 - During an environmental investigation, Risk Assessors check the child's environment for possible causes of lead exposure and recommend ways to prevent further lead exposure.
 - BLLs of ≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ will trigger a MDE environmental investigation.
- LHS will work with the LHD & Health Care Facility to receive updates regarding the child's development to ensure appropriate milestones are being met per American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- Provide follow-up BLL testing at recommended intervals.



Protocol for $\geq 20\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$

- MDE Lead Health and Surveillance Section (LHS) provides referral to MDE (LCD) Section Head, or Local Health Department representative (LHD) and the Office of Attorney General (OAG) with copies of lab slips on EBLs $20\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or greater statewide, within 1 business day.
- MDE LCD Section Head or LCD Chief will assign the Fast Track Referral to an MDE LCD inspector in their corresponding region, within 1 business day.
- MDE LCD inspector will investigate referral upon receipt of the confirmed lab slip to determine needed compliance of other owners' affected property, within 1 business day.
- MDE LCD inspector shall make initial attempt to schedule an EI for a confirmed BLL $\geq 20\text{ mg}/\text{dl}$ within 1 day. Baltimore City and Prince Georges County shall initiate an environmental investigation within the time indicated in their respective-approved protocols.



Schedule for Follow-Up Blood Lead Testing

Venous Blood Lead Levels ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$)	Early follow up testing (2-4 tests after initial test above venous BLLs)	Later follow up testing after BLL declining
$\geq 3.5-9$	3 months*	6 – 9months
10 – 19	1 – 3 months*	3 – 6 months
20 – 44	2 weeks – 1 month	1 – 3 months
≥ 45	As soon as possible	As soon as possible

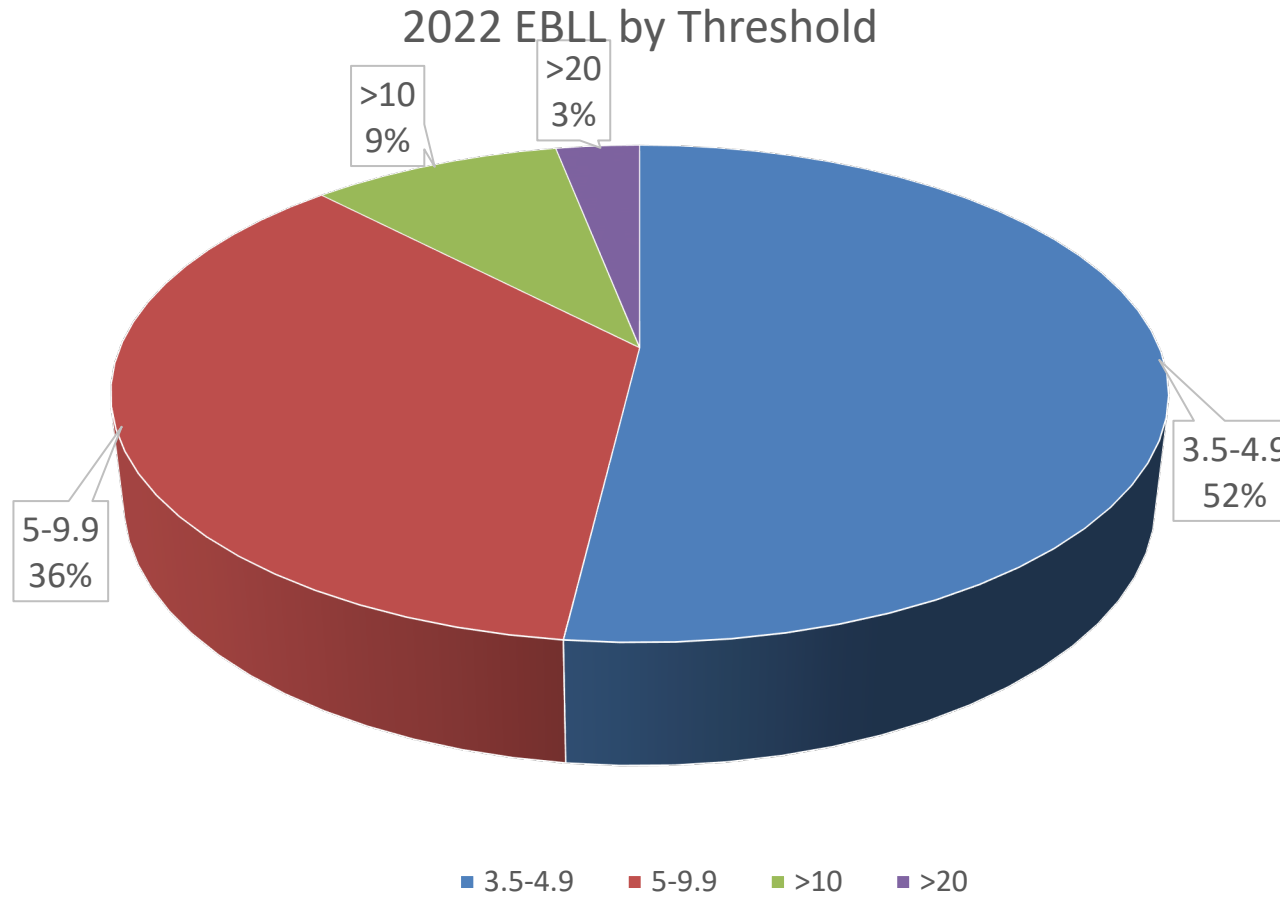


Lead Poisoning Preventing across the US

- [state-health-department-policies-for-children-with-elevated-blood-lead-levels](#)

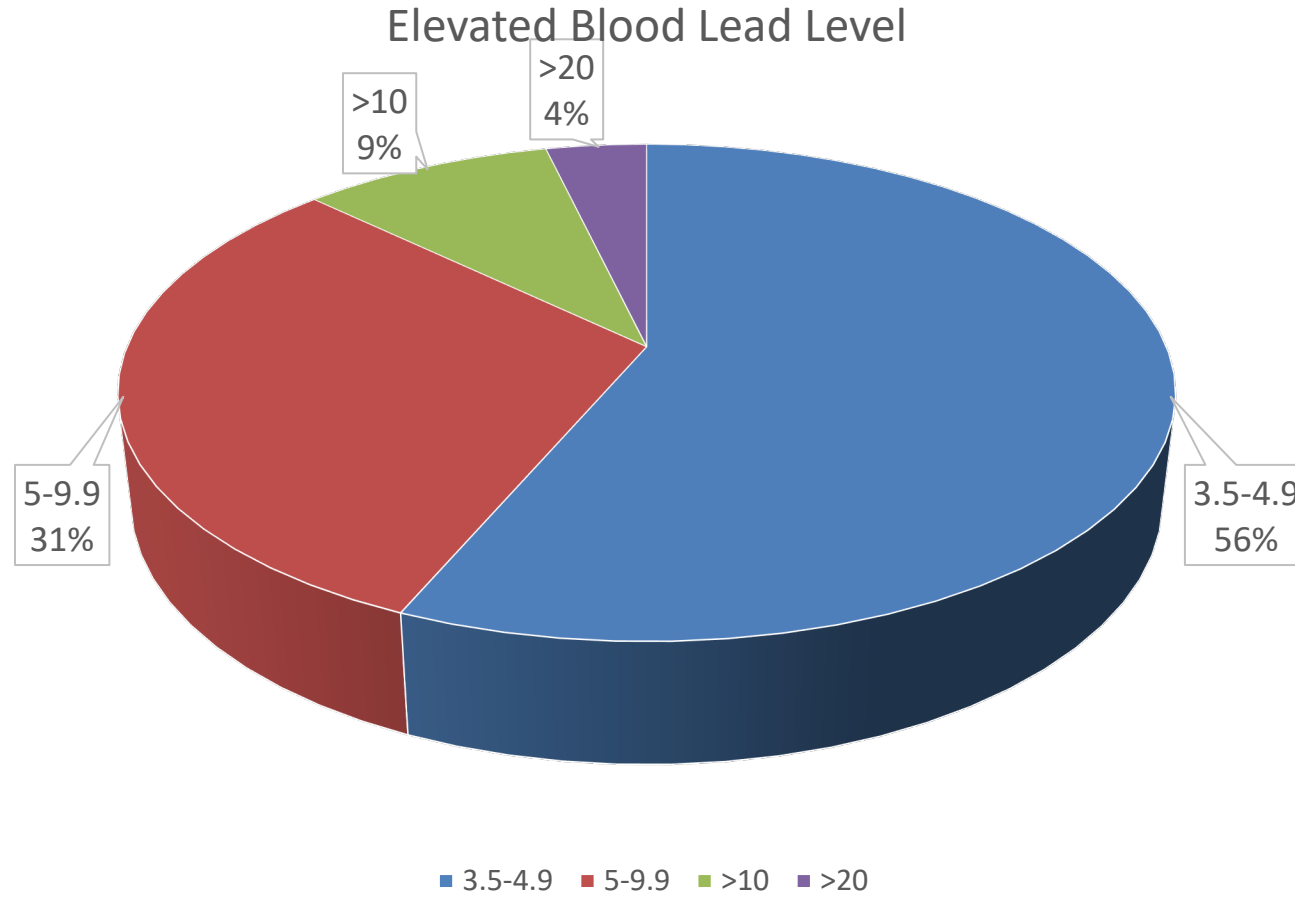


Elevated Blood Lead Levels (2022)





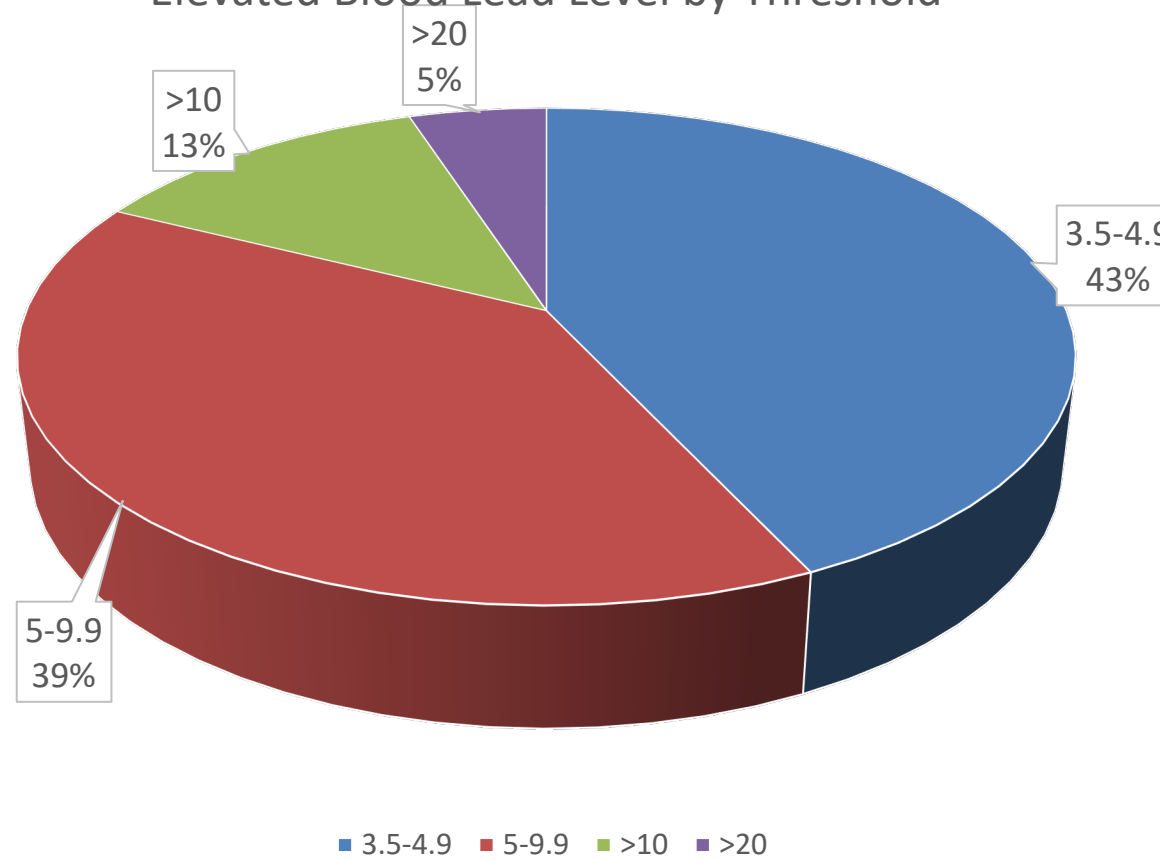
Elevated Blood Lead Levels (2023) as of 1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023





Elevated Blood Lead Levels (2024) as of 1/1/2024 – 3/31/2024

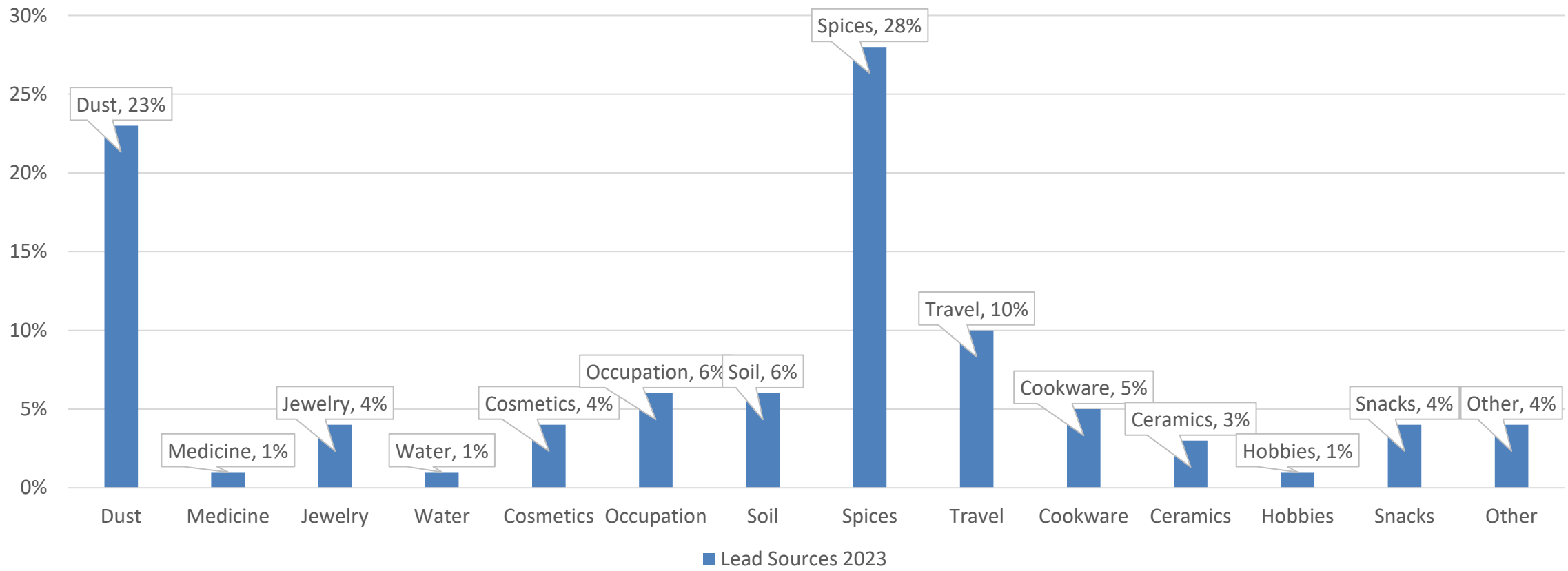
Elevated Blood Lead Level by Threshold





2023 Sources of Lead found in Homes

Lead Sources 2023





Questions
