

Proactive Lead Inspections

An Evidence-based Best Practice

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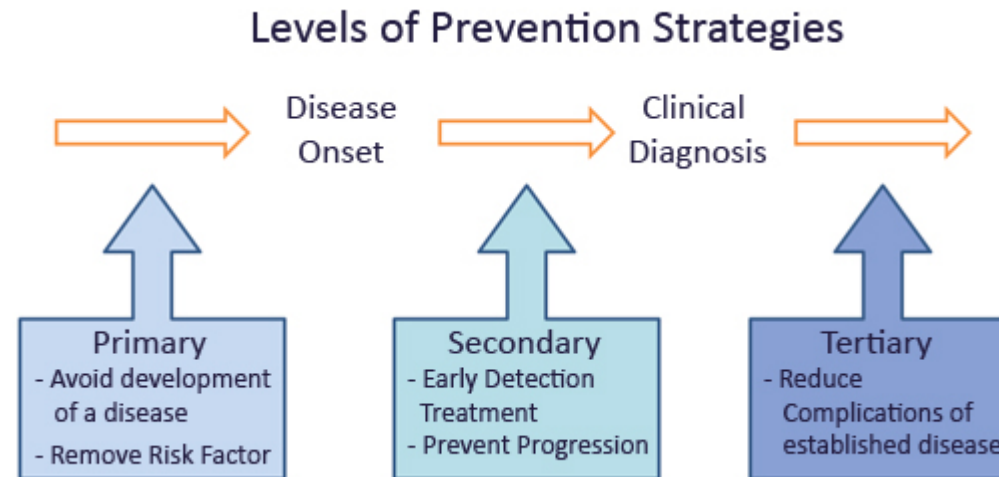


DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS**



Louisville's Current Tools are Insufficient

- Louisville's current lead safety tools are **reactive**.
- Designed to trigger only after lead poisoning has already occurred.



HEALTH OUTCOMES

The diagram features a large green tree with a thick brown trunk and a wide, spreading canopy. The canopy is composed of numerous rounded, overlapping green shapes representing leaves. The trunk is positioned on the left side of the image. Below the ground line, the roots of the tree are visible, spreading out across the brown soil. The ground is depicted with a layer of green grass on top and a layer of brown soil with circular patterns below. Two black arrows point upwards: one from the 'ROOT CAUSES' level to the 'HEALTH OUTCOMES' level, and another from the 'SYSTEMS OF POWER' level to the 'ROOT CAUSES' level. The text 'HEALTH OUTCOMES' is written in bold black letters inside a white rectangular box at the top of the tree's canopy. The text 'ROOT CAUSES' is written in bold black letters in the middle of the image, between the ground and the canopy. The text 'SYSTEMS OF POWER' is written in bold black letters inside a white rectangular box at the bottom of the image, within the soil area.

ROOT CAUSES

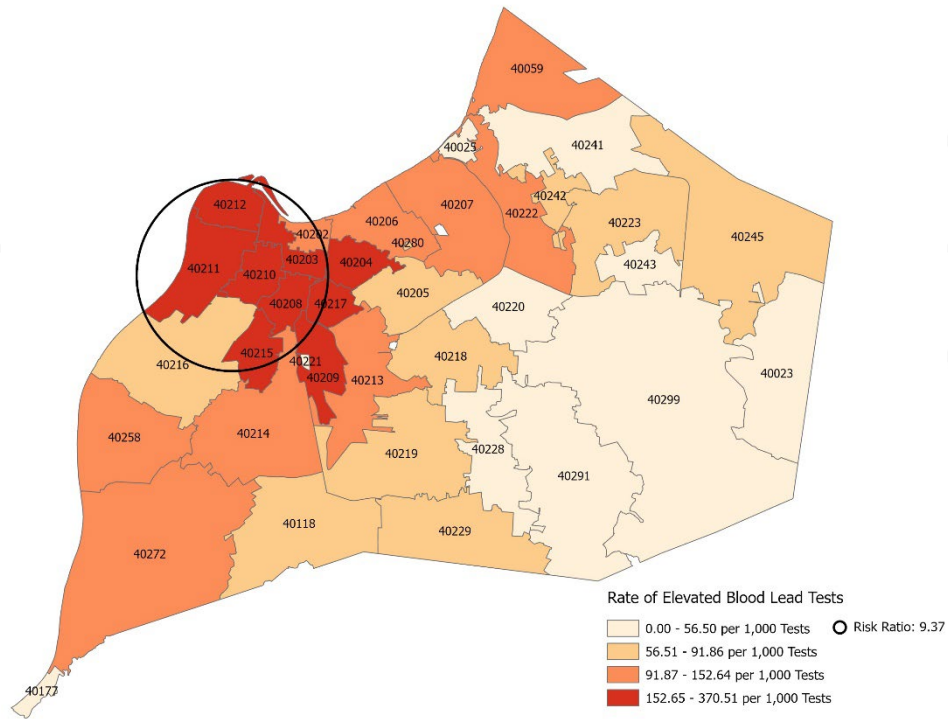
SYSTEMS OF POWER

Lead exposure cannot be cured, but it can be prevented.

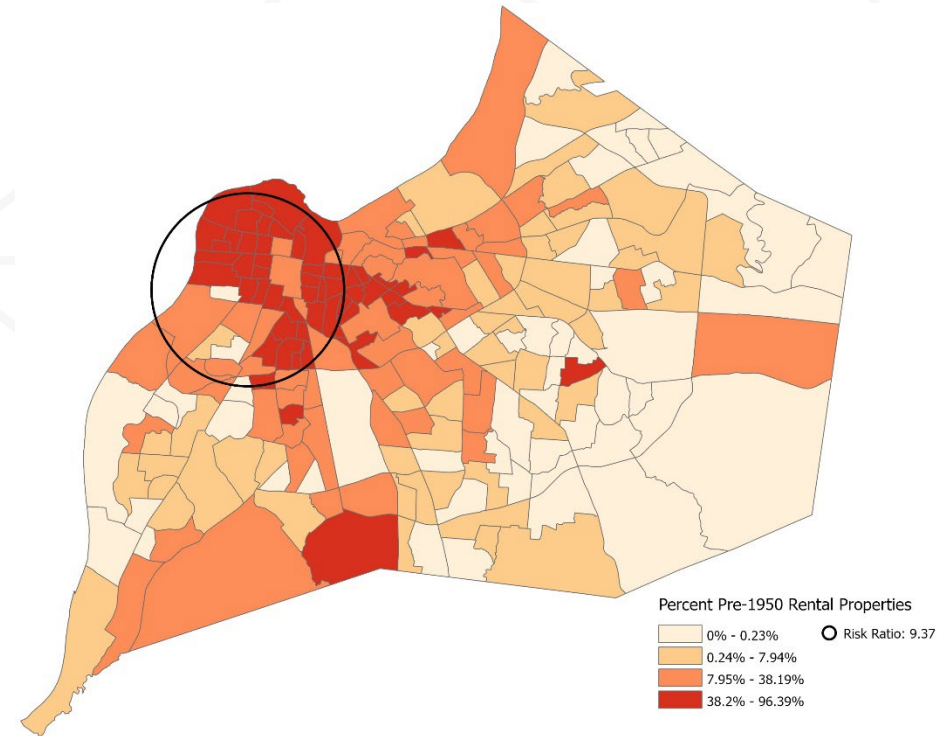
- Reacting **after** a child is diagnosed with lead poisoning is **too late**.
 - There is no known safe level of lead.
 - Damages from lead are known to last a lifetime.
 - Damages are largely irreversible.
 - One study calculates a \$50,000 lifetime social cost of lead
 - Our cost for the 9,823 confirmed cases of lead poisoning in Louisville from 2005-2021 could be up to \$491 million.

Lead poisoning

Rates of EBLL



% of pre-1950s rental housing



Pro-active Lead Inspections: The Evidence Base

- **Rochester, NY**

- Studies show after 5 years, child lead poisoning dropped 2x as fast in Rochester as in the rest of New York.
- 13.4% to 1.1%, compared to the state decline in rate from 6.6% to 1.0%

- **Detroit, MI**

- After 2010 inspection ordinance, percent of children under 6 testing positive for EBLL fell from 19% to 9% in 5 years, more than double the rate of Michigan as a whole.

Where else are pro-active inspections practiced?

- Philadelphia, PA
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Rochester, NY
- New York, NY
- Cleveland, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Washington, DC
- San Diego, CA
- State of New Jersey
- State of Maryland
- State of Rhode Island

Organizations endorsing pro-active lead safety inspections as best practice

- National Center for Healthy Housing
- Change-lab Solutions / City Health [endorsing pro-active rental inspections, including for lead]
- New York City Coalition to End Lead Poisoning
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Health Justice Advocacy Clinic, Columbia University Law School