



Penn Medicine
Lancaster General Health



Healthcare Funding/Engagement for Healthier Homes

Lead Free Families Program: **Transformative Impacts through Lead Safe and** **Healthier Housing Investments**

August 5, 2025

Where did the initiative start?

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Results

1. Basic conditions that support health, including:
 - Access to care
 - Family-sustaining incomes
 - Accessible transportation
 - Affordable, safe and quality housing
 - Safety from violence and adverse childhood experiences
2. Supporting active living and healthy eating to reduce obesity
3. Improving mental health and reducing and treating substance use
4. Improving the county's physical environment, emphasizing air and water quality

LGH Board of Directors Engagement

Lead by the Numbers

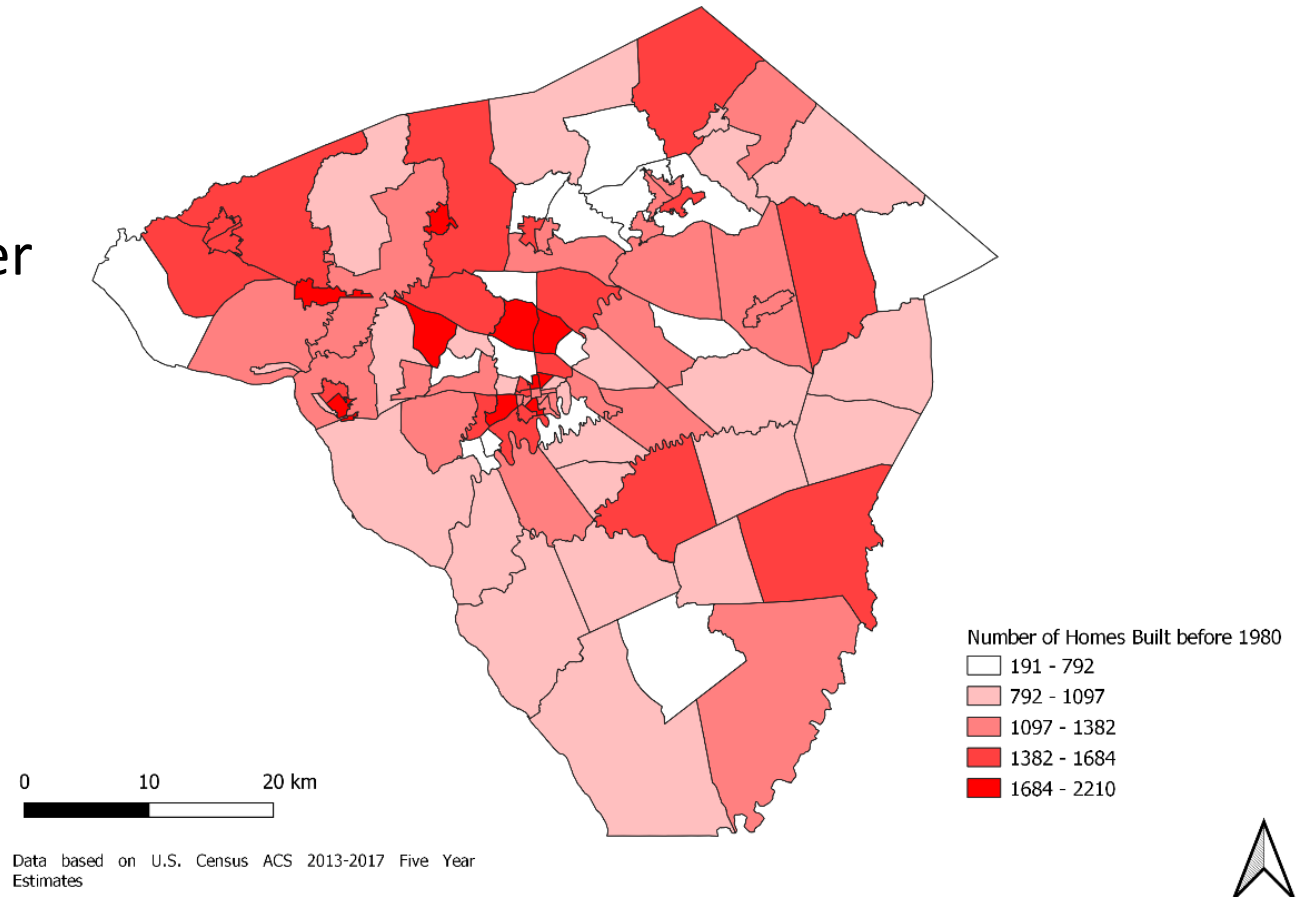


- Childhood lead poisoning is still one of the most important health issues in the United States today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates, 890,000 US children age 1-5 have elevated blood lead levels that may harm their health and development.
- 19.9% of the PA population have their lead levels tested by age 7 compared to only, 9.8% of children in Lancaster .
 - Lancaster County has very high prevalence (13.4%) of lead poisoning compared to the state average (3.46%)

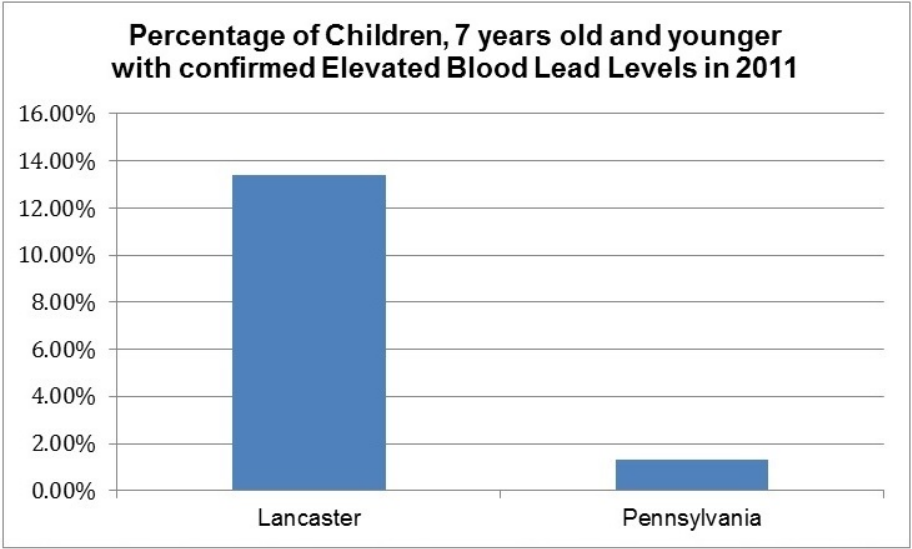
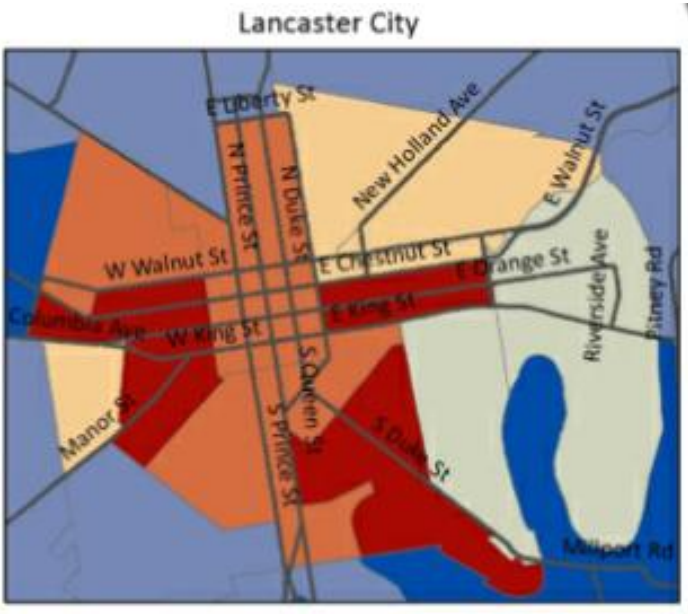
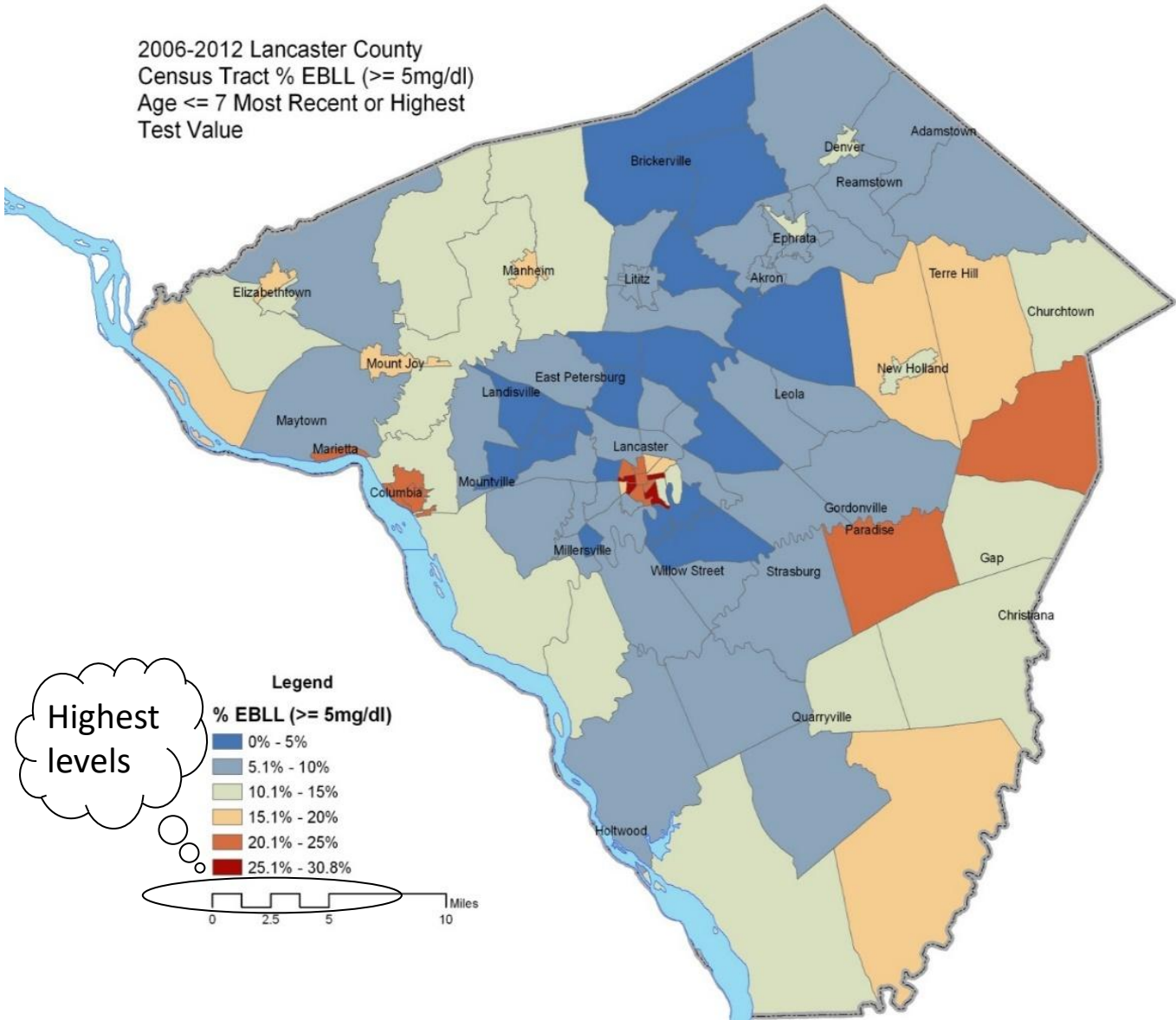
Housing at Risk

Lancaster County Housing Units Built Before 1980 by Census Tract

- Lead-based paint was banned in residential properties in 1978
- More than half of the housing in Lancaster County (56%) was built while lead-based paint was still in use
- Lancaster County is estimated to have 90,931 units with lead-based paint



Lead Levels in Lancaster County



Historic Anchor Institution Investment by Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital



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- Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital committed investment of **\$50 million** over 10 years to remediate lead hazards in 2,800 homes in Lancaster County, PA
- GHHL worked with LGH to design, develop and implement this groundbreaking project
- Over **708 homes** have received lead remediation interventions in less than four years (Using higher level lead abatement strategy for key leaded components)
- Demonstrating the role and impact that anchor institutions can have in partnership with community-based non-profit service providers

Lead-Free Families Services: 5 Key Components



Education &
Marketing



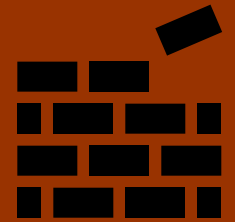
Screening



Case
Management



Lead Remediation
and Healthy Homes



Workforce
Development

Effective Partnerships



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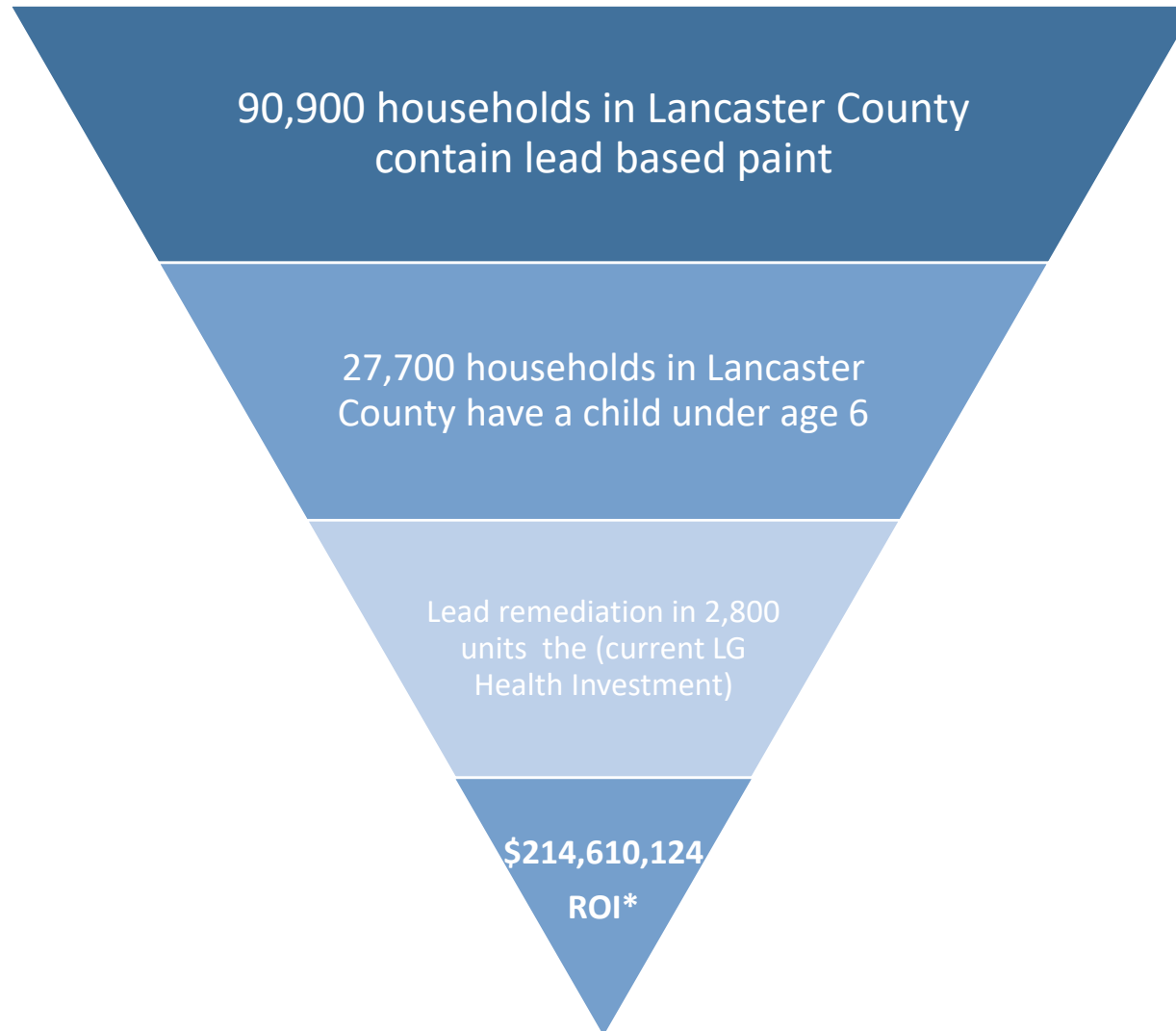
Lancaster General Hospital (LGH)

- Oversees client resident education, blood lead testing, medical case management, client intake and marketing/outreach

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

- Manages lead inspection coordination, scope of work development and cost estimating, private contractor lead hazard remediation, and quality control of housing interventions
- Efficient and high unit production private sector program model
- Building and maintaining strong lead contractor capacity and training local residents to meet aggressive annual unit production goals

Making a Transformative Impact In Lancaster County





LEAD POISONING PREVENTION THEORY OF CHANGE

PHILOSOPHY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



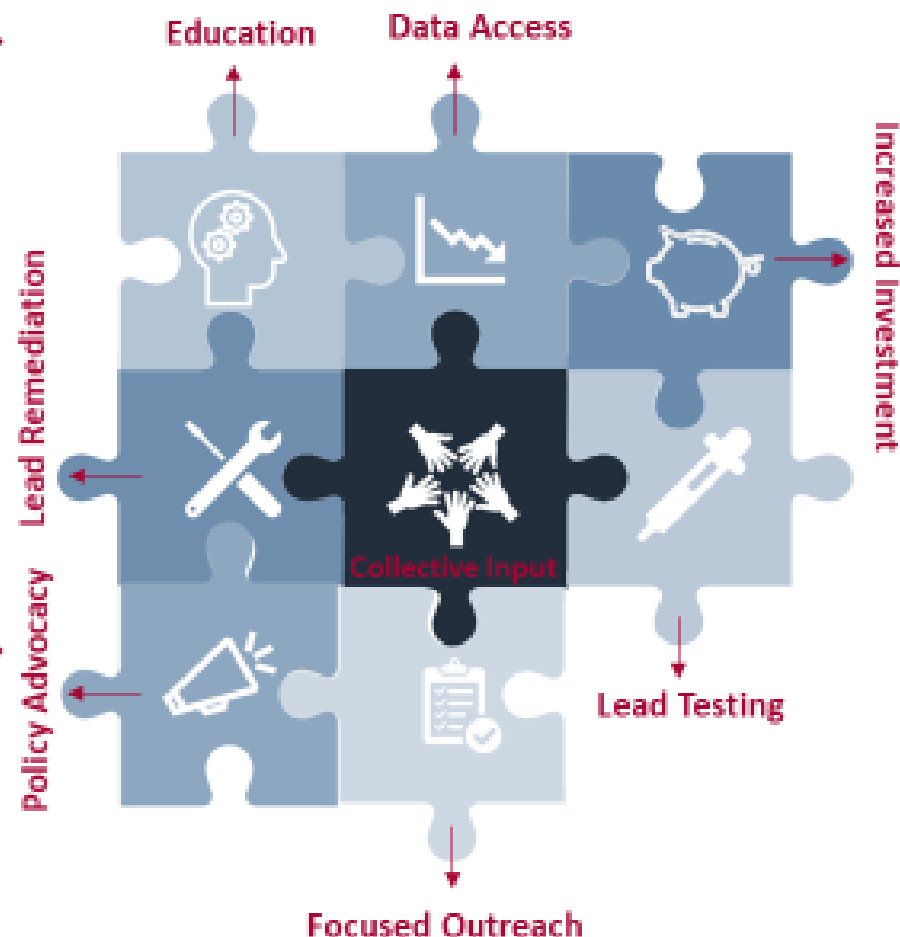
POPULATION OF FOCUS

- Children with EBLL
- At risk pregnant women
- County residents
- At risk for lead exposure
- Housing built before 1978
- Children in low-income families (400% FPL)
- Communities of color

• The "population of focus" has been created to ensure that more vulnerable individuals are adequately represented from the larger pool of eligible individuals

POPULATION
SERVED

INTERVENTION

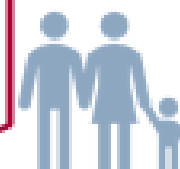


STRATEGIES

OUTCOMES

- Reduced incidents of lead poisoning among children and pregnant women in Lancaster County
- Increased lead-free housing stock in Lancaster County
- Increased economic mobility for residents of Lancaster County
- Lower BLL among program participants
- Increased # of certified firms
- Increase in # of MBG, DBE, WBE's in LC doing lead remediation or lead inspection work
- Strengthened lead ordinances
- Improved access to lead testing among participants and LC residents
- Improved lead hazard knowledge/awareness among participants and LC residents

IMPACT



- Reduction in elevated blood lead levels among children
- Improved social and educational outcomes for children throughout the lifespan
- Economic mobility for Lancaster County

Expanding Program Services



- LGH secured \$3,999,935 through two HUD Healthy Homes Production Grants to address other home-based environmental health hazards
- LGH and GHHI have managed the completion of 126 HUD funded healthy homes interventions

Research and Evaluation



- Lead Free Families seeks to make and measure the transformative impact of preventing lead poisoning at the community and individual family levels, looking at indicators of health, housing stability and economic advancement.
- Created a robust ETO data system to support project management, impact evaluation and broader research over the life of the project.

Thank you!

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<https://www.pennmedicine.org/supporting-our-communities/healthy-living-environments/lead-free-families>

