Ohio Healthy Homes Network





Fred Strahorn Executive Director OHHN

What is the Ohio Healthy Homes Network

- The Ohio Healthy Homes Network (OHHN) began in 1992 as Help End Lead Poisoning (HELP) Coalition.
- Today, OHHN is a small non-profit 501c(3) organization that engages in public policy advocacy on issues of indoor environmental quality, with an emphasis on lead poisoning prevention.
- OHHN's Board members possess a variety of backgrounds, including public health, housing, healthcare, community action, government and more.

OHHN Board of Trustees

- Phillip Bouton, Columbus Health Department
- Barry Strahorn, Miami Valley Community Action Partnership
- Gina Wilt, Coalition On Homelessness & Housing In Ohio (COHHIO)
- George Mattei, Consultant
- Cari Stork, Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Aaron Grant, People Working Cooperatively
- Megan Riddlebarger, Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)
- John Sarver, CHN Housing Partners
- Lindsey Loman, Parent
- Brittany Boulton, Ohio Groundworks
- Monica Smith, City of Toledo

Ohio's Lead Problem



Ohio Has a Big Lead Problem

- Most of Ohio's housing stock (over 66%) was built before 1980 and is likely to have lead hazards.
- It is estimated that roughly 3.5 million houses exist with some type of lead contamination.
- It is estimated that 425,000 of those homes are occupied by children under the age of 6 years old and 200,000 of those homes are low-income families.
- Ohio ranks as the 2nd worst city in the United States with regard to lead poisoning.
- In the City of Cleveland, as much as 80% of the housing stock was constructed before 1950.

What's the Big Picture?

- Childhood exposure comes at a high price—both personally and financially.
- According to The Pew Center on the States, "for every dollar spent controlling lead hazards, at least \$17 would be returned in health benefits, increased IQ, higher lifetime earnings, tax revenues, lower special education costs and reduced criminal activity.
- Lead remediation investments will also create jobs and an opportunity to build career pathways out of poverty into lead-remediation work for residents of the most impacted communities.
- The cost-benefit of invest in prevention is compelling.

Ohio Lead-Free Kids Coalition, Action Plan for Lead-Free Children by 2030

- Help Homeowners & Landlords Eliminate Lead Hazards
- Make Rental Housing Lead-Safe
- Protect Children from Lead During Renovation & Demolition
- Disclose Lead Hazards & Engage Ohioans
- Empower Schools & Early Learning Programs to keep Children Lead Safe
- Remove Lead from Drinking Water
- Build a Strong Lead Workforce
- Research New Ways to Protect Children from Lead
- Improve Supports for Children Exposed to Lead

Ohio Healthy Homes Network Regular Activity

- Legislative Advocacy Day
- Annual Spring Conference
- > Fall Webinar Series
- National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Event
- Engaged in Lead Safe Collaborative Building
- Make recommendations to the Governor's administration on the implementation of lead-safe policy
- Serve on the Ohio Lead Advisory Council



Now is the Time for Action

- A primary prevention approach to lead hazard reduction is the top priority. Properties should be maintained in good repair. It is important to prevent children from being led poisoned and not waiting until they are poisoned before there is action.
- Replacement of lead service lines should also be prioritized to ensure drinking water is safe from lead hazards.
- New funding streams for lead hazard control must be created, including capitalizing the state's Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund.
- Parents of lead-exposed children must be engaged as active participants in lead hazard reduction.

