

NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK



October 19th-25th

2025

Education & outreach efforts by the City of Battle Creek and partners during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclaiming October 19th–25th, 2025 as Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

City of Battle Creek Commission Meeting – October 7th, 2025

Calhoun County Commission Meeting – October 16th, 2025

Proclamation

WHEREAS, lead poisoning remains a health hazard for children in Battle Creek where in 2024, 37 children in Battle Creek had venous elevated blood levels of lead. Unlike in Flint where the water was contaminated, the main sources of lead for Battle Creek children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978 and 90% of Battle Creek's housing stock was built before 1979; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 6 years are at greatest risk of lead poisoning due to proximity to lead dust and hand-to-mouth behaviors. Children from all social and economic levels can be affected by lead poisoning, although children living at or below the poverty line who live in older housing are at greatest risk; and

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning is preventable by stopping children from coming into contact with lead and treating children who have been poisoned by lead. Lead hazards in a child's environment can be identified and removed safely. Parents, health care professionals, educators, and the public need education about lead poisoning and how to prevent it. Children who are at risk for lead poisoning need to be tested and, if necessary, treated; and

WHEREAS, since January 2016, the Battle Creek's Community Development Division and the Calhoun County Public Health Department have partnered together on the Calhoun County Lead Poisoning Prevention Task Force to increase the number of children being tested for lead poisoning, create greater public awareness about the risks of lead poisoning, and coordinate resources for remediating lead in homes and the environment; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, 127 housing units have been abated in Battle Creek creating safer and healthier living environments for children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark A. Behnke, Mayor of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, do hereby proclaim October 19-25, 2025, as

"LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK"

in the Greater Battle Creek Area and urge all neighbors to be aware of the risk of lead poisoning and look to the Calhoun County Lead Poisoning Prevention Task Force for testing options and available resources and services related to lead poisoning prevention and remediation efforts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Logo of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, to be affixed this 7th day of October 2025.



Mark A. Behnke, Mayor



NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 2025

WHEREAS, lead poisoning remains a health hazard for children in Calhoun County where in 2024, seventy-two children had elevated blood levels of lead. Unlike in Flint where the water was contaminated, the main sources of lead for Calhoun County children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978 and 75% of Calhoun County's housing stock was built before 1979; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 6 years are at greatest risk of lead poisoning due to proximity to lead dust and hand-to-mouth behaviors. Children from all social and economic levels can be affected by lead poisoning, although children living at or below the poverty line who live in older housing are at greatest risk; and

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning is preventable by stopping children from coming into contact with lead and treating children who have been poisoned by lead. Lead hazards in a child's environment can be identified and removed safely. Parents, health care professionals, educators, and the public need education about lead poisoning and how to prevent it; and

WHEREAS, since January 2016, the Battle Creek's Community Development Division and the Calhoun County Public Health Department have partnered together on the Calhoun County Lead Poisoning Prevention Task Force to increase the number of children being tested for lead poisoning, create greater public awareness about the risks of lead poisoning, and coordinate resources for remediating lead in homes and the environment; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, 203 housing units have been abated in Calhoun County in partnership with the City of Battle Creek and Community Action creating safer and healthier living environments for children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of October 19-25, 2025, as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, in Calhoun County, Michigan, and encourage all families to learn about lead poisoning prevention.

Dated: October 16, 2025

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Logo of Calhoun County, Michigan, to be affixed this 16th day of October 2025.


Derek King, Chair
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATIONS, CONT.

Proclaiming October 19th–25th, 2025 as Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

City of Battle Creek Commission Meeting – October 7th, 2025
Calhoun County Commission Meeting – October 16th, 2025



EVENT ATTENDANCE

Head Start Home Visitors Meeting – October 17th, 2025

- Emily Arntz, Lead Grant Coordinator, with the help of Sara Espinoza, Intake Specialist, presented to Head Start Home Visitors about lead and its hazards, what to look for when visiting homes, how to reduce lead poisoning, and what resources are available.

Ribbon Cutting of 20 Chestnut St – October 20th, 2025

- The City of Battle Creek, Community Action, and Calhoun County Public Health Department on behalf of the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce, shared a ribbon cutting for the finished historical lead abatement job.

Doris Hale Head Start Family Meeting – October 21st, 2025

- Emily Arntz, Lead Grant Coordinator, presented to Head Start families about lead and its hazards, what to look for in their homes, how to reduce lead poisoning, and what resources are available.

Coburn Head Start Family Meeting – October 22nd, 2025

- Emily Arntz, Lead Grant Coordinator, and Sara Espinoza Intake Specialist, tabled at a Head Start Family Meeting handing out brochures, Lead Safety Squad coloring books, and information about Universal Testing.

EVENT ATTENDANCE, CONT.

Battle Creek Police Department Trunk-or-Treat - October 30th, 2025

- Helen Guzzo, Community Development Manager, Emily Arntz, Lead Grant Coordinator, and Sara Espinoza, Intake Specialist hosted a lead hazard trunk handing out candy and Lead Safety Squad coloring books.



Building Lead-Safe Communities Together

A group of approximately 15 people of various ages are standing on the steps of a house with a white porch. They are dressed in casual attire, including jackets and shirts. In front of them is a large sign that reads "Building Lead-Safe Communities Together" with a house icon and the text "For More Information: 269-966-3315". The sign also features the logos for Calhoun County, the City of Battle Creek, and the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees.

Celebrating National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week
October 19-25

Calhoun County
City of Battle Creek
Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce
ca

SPOKEN MEDIA

BC City Connection Podcast - September 23rd, 2025 *Grant Allows Battle Creek to Continue Assisting Families with Lead Abatement*

- Emily Arntz, Lead Grant Coordinator, spoke with Richard Piet, of Battle Creek Podcast, about ongoing lead education awareness and renewed CHIP LHCCD grant.

Be Scene on Air - October 20th, 2025

Lead Safe Program

- Helen Guzzo, Community Development Manager, and Emily Arntz, Lead Grant Coordinator, spoke with Sherii Sherban of Access Vision, about ongoing lead education awareness and renewed CHIP LHCCD grant.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



DIGITAL MEDIA

Did You Know? posts - Throughout the month of October

Various topics about lead: lead health impacts, water intake & risk of lead pipes, size of lead dust, links of lead exposure to violent crimes & school dropout

Digital Billboards - Throughout the month of October

Recruiting contractors for lead-safe program, celebrating National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Building Lead Safe Communities Together, and dangers of lead dust.

National Children's Health Day - October 6th, 2025

Recognizing importance of keeping community's children healthy and strong.

Lead Paint Hazards During Renovations - October 15th, 2025

Safe renovation practices, lead abatement professionals, and wet cleaning methods.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Kickoff - October 19th, 2025

Helpful tips to prevent childhood lead poisoning including washing hands and toys, modifying diet, wet cleaning, and awareness and action.

Understanding the Signs of Lead Poisoning - October 20th, 2025

Symptoms in newborns, children, and adults.

DIGITAL MEDIA, CONT.

Ribbon Cutting at 20 Chestnut – October 20th, 2025

Sharing the impact of Building Lead-Safe Communities Together and kicking off \$1.3 Million CHIP Grant.

Exposure to Lead in Children – October 21st, 2025

Developmental issues in children after prolonged exposure and blood lead testing efforts.

Calhoun County Lead Data – October 22nd, 2025

High-risk areas in Calhoun County.

Lead Contamination in Soil – October 24th, 2025

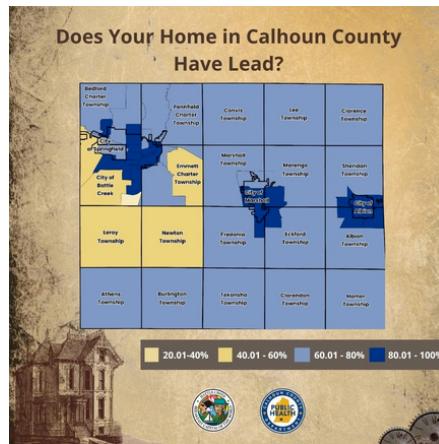
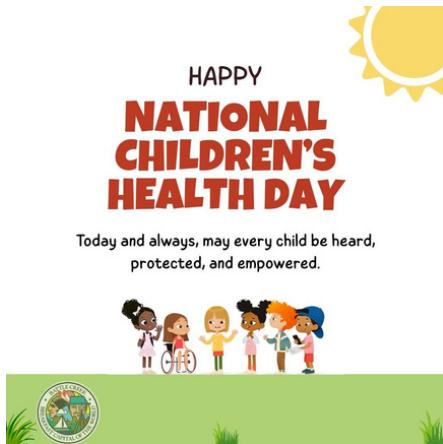
Why lead is found in soil & why it matters.

Halloween Post – October 29th, 2025

Halloween is scary, but childhood lead poisoning doesn't have to be. Lead poisoning is preventable.

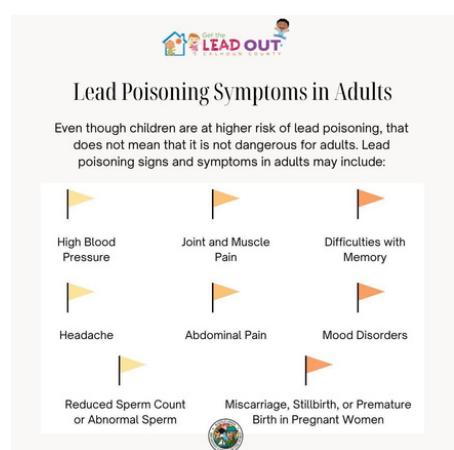
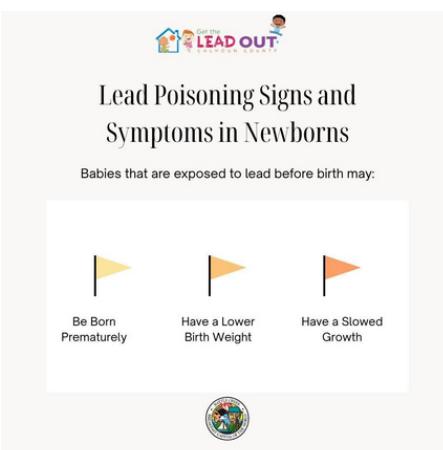


DIGITAL MEDIA, CONT.



FOUR HELPFUL TIPS TO PREVENTING CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

- 1 WASH HANDS AND TOYS**
Frequent handwashing and regular toy cleaning are crucial to preventing the ingestion of lead dust or soil.
- 2 DIET**
A diet full of iron, calcium, and vitamin C can help the body absorb less lead.
- 3 CLEANING**
Clean your floors and window sills regularly with a wet mop or cloth to remove any lead dust.
- 4 AWARENESS AND ACTION**
Be aware of potential lead around your child's environment. Home built before 1978? Old, lead-painted water pipes? Better get a blood test!



MEDIA CAMPAIGN ANALYTICS

All social media posts were created by Brianna Wertz, a Master of Public Health (MPH) student from Western Michigan University.

Facebook

- Total Posts: 16
- Total Reactions: 107
- Total Users Reached: 24,853. Avg.: 1,553
- Total Post Engagement: 1,973. Avg: 123
- Total Shares: 60
- Best Performing Post: Calhoun County Lead Data
 - The post reached 9,270 users.

Instagram

- Total Posts: 12
- Total Likes: 46
- Total Users Reached: 1,431. Avg.: 119
- Total Post Engagement: 70. Avg.: 6
- Total Shares: 15
- Best Performing Post: Calhoun County Lead Data
 - The post reached 443 users.



MEDIA CAMPAIGN ANALYTICS

BEST PERFORMING POST ON BOTH PLATFORMS

Lead exposure remains a serious concern for families across Calhoun County.

This map highlights neighborhoods where homes are at higher risk for lead. Many older homes—especially those built before 1978—often contain lead-based paint, which can pose serious health risks to children, even at low exposure levels.

If you live in or near one of the areas marked on the map with a higher percentage of lead exposure, consider taking the following steps:

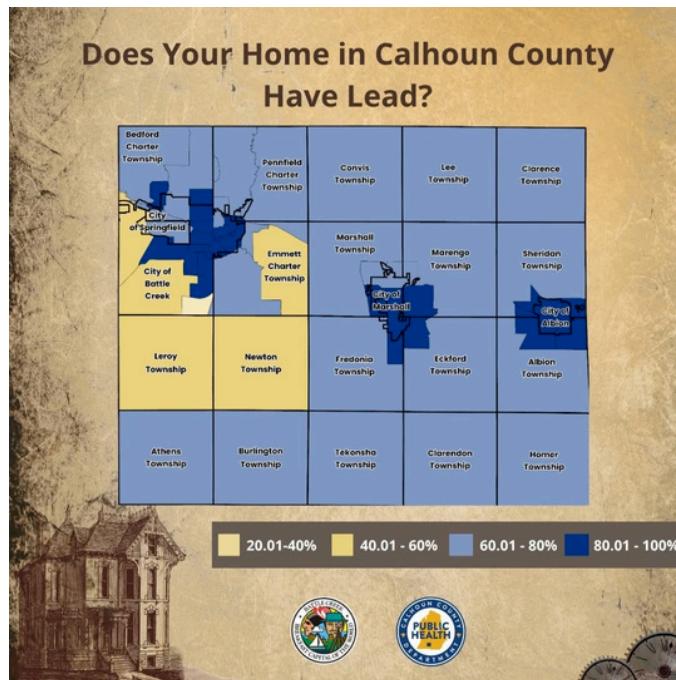
- Have your home tested for lead if it was built before 1978.
- Keep painted surfaces in good condition to prevent deterioration.
- Avoid disturbing old paint without proper safety precautions.
- Get your children tested for lead, especially those under age 6.
- Hire only certified lead-safe contractors for any renovations. Remember: Lead poisoning is preventable!

For local testing resources and tips, visit:

<https://battlecreekmi.gov/670/Lead-Safe-Programs>

#LeadPoisoningAwareness #KnowTheSigns #BattleCreekHealth

#ProtectOurChildren #LeadSafe #GetTheLeadOut



THANK YOU

**The City of Battle Creek Community
Development Division wants to share a
special thank you to all that made Lead
Poisoning Prevention Week happen.**

- Brianna Wertz, MPH Student from WMU
- City of Battle Creek Marketing Team
- Calhoun County Public Health Department
- Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan
- Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- Be Scene Magazine & Be Scene on Air
- Battle Creek Podcast
- Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce
- The Adams Family
- Calhoun County Commissioners
- Battle Creek Commissioners
- State Representative Steve Frisbie
- Calhoun County Community Members

To learn more about our Lead Safe Program, give us a call or visit our website below. Let's make Calhoun County a safe and healthy place to live.



269-966-3315



<https://battlecreekmi.gov/670/Lead-Safe-Programs>