

Healthy Housing and Reducing Lead Poisoning in Oakland

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Healthy Housing concerns

- While Oakland is rich with diversity and culture, it has an aging housing stock which puts vulnerable families at risk
- Aging housing stock can lead to health concerns such as asthma triggers, pests, safety hazards and lead poisoning.

Healthy Housing concerns

- Over 60,000 code enforcement complaints were made in Oakland between 2003 and 2013.
- Oakland Survey 2003: 30% of housing in Oakland is in need of repair ranging from deferred maintenance to substantial rehabilitation.
- For many low-income families, the only housing option is to move into substandard housing with structural, environmental and other hazards that jeopardize their health and well-being.

Lead exposure in Oakland/Fruitvale

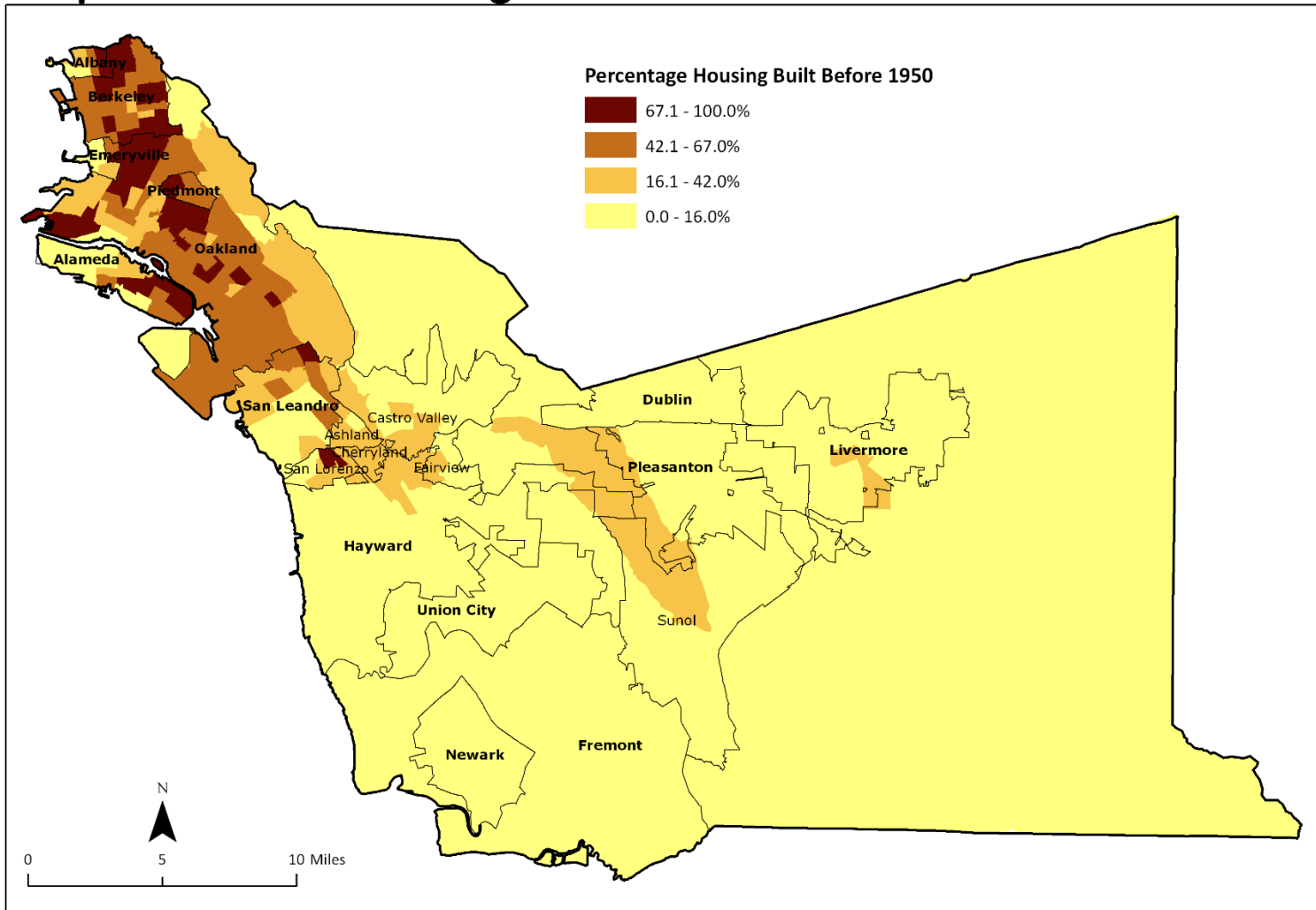
- Oakland's aging housing stock and in particular homes built prior to 1978 very likely contain lead in the paint putting very young children of becoming lead poisoned and having lifelong detrimental impacts to their health.
- The following is a compilation of data to understand the scope of the lead exposure in Oakland/Fruitvale.

Lead Risk Factors – Age of Home

- Homes built prior to 1978 very likely have lead in the paint. Homes built prior to 1950s have lead in the paint unless it was remediated.
- Oakland has some of the oldest housing stock in Alameda County:
 - 61% of all of Oakland's stock was built prior to 1960 with very low vacancy rate (9%)
 - Fruitvale (94601): 13,957 (85% of 94601 housing)
 - A little less than half of that older housing stock is rental (49%)

Lead Risk Factors - Age of Home

Map 3. Pre-1950 Housing



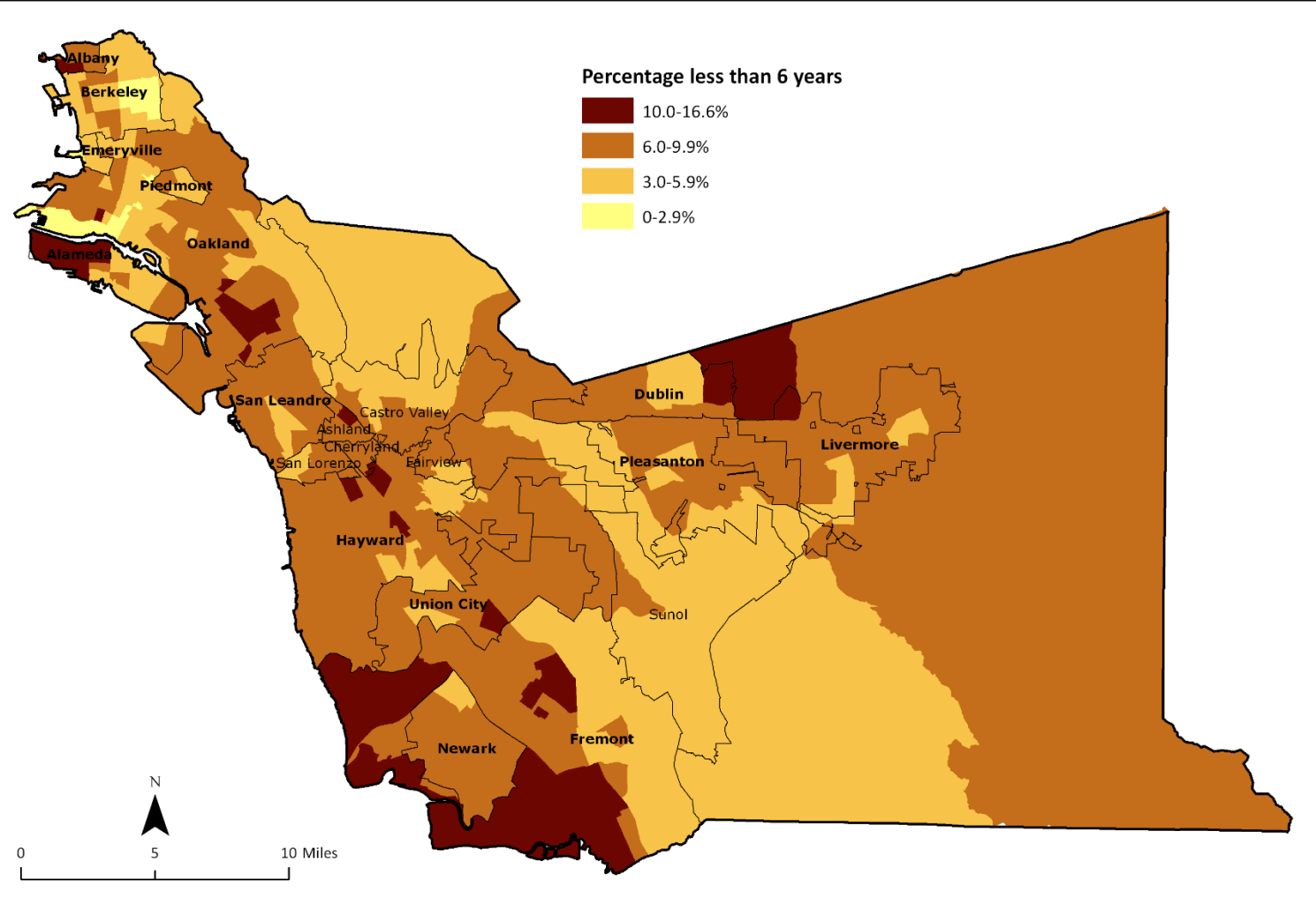
Source: CAPE, with data from American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010.

Lead Risk Factors – # of Children

- Children younger than 6 years of age, with rapidly developing brains, are most at risk of lead poisoning.
- Oakland has one of the highest concentration of young children:
 - 30,659 children are under 6 years of age
 - 94601: 4,959 (2014)
 - 61% of all children in Oakland are on Medi-Cal and 40% receive CalFresh

Lead Risk Factors - # of Children

Map 5. Population under 6 years



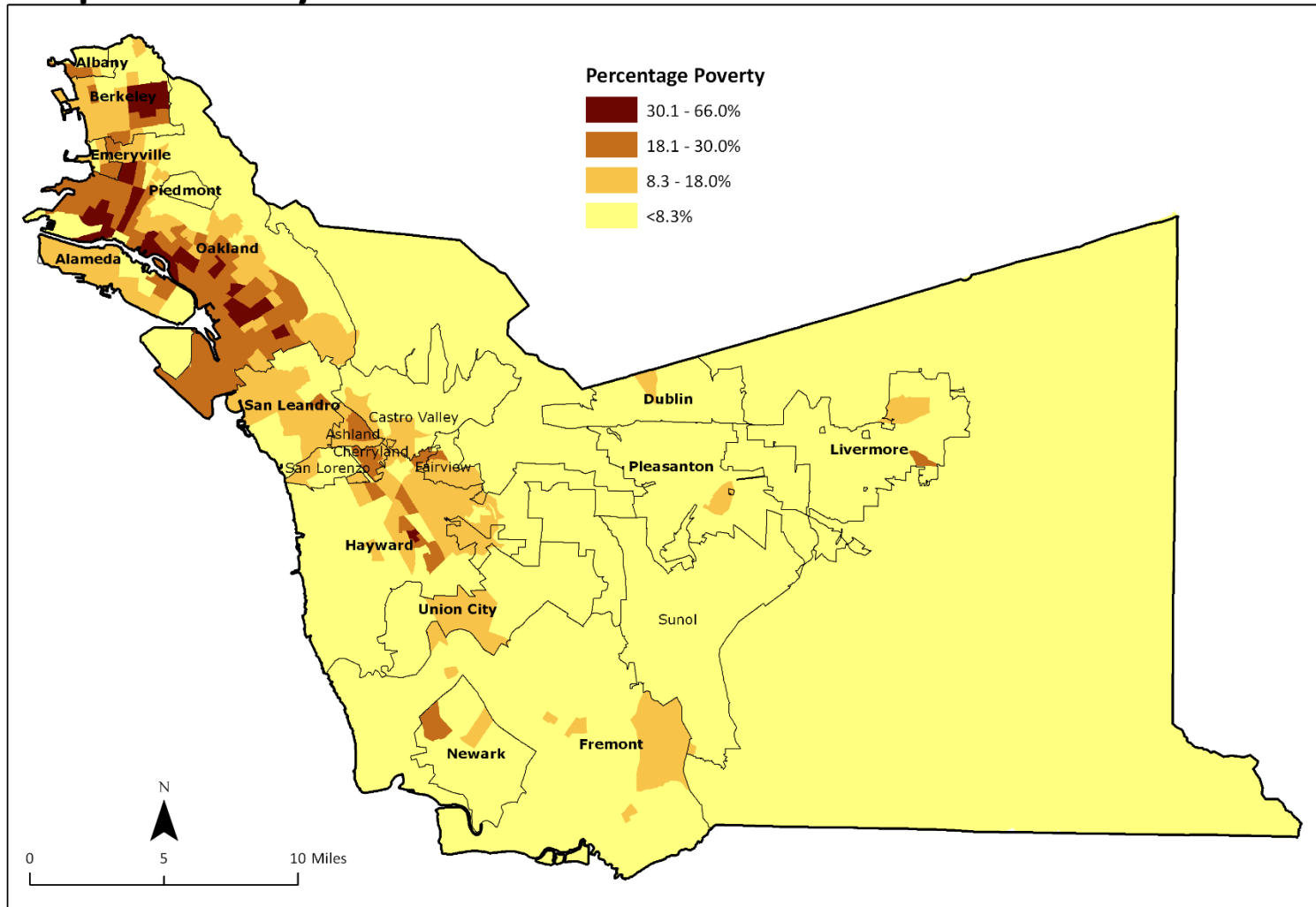
Source: CAPE, with data from Census 2010.

Lead Risk Factors – Poverty

- Children living in poverty tend to live in older, substandard rental housing, with less access to healthy nutritious food. For young children with diets low in iron and calcium there is an increase in the uptake and absorption of lead.
- The flatlands of Oakland has some of the highest concentration of poverty in Alameda County.
 - The median household income is \$52,962, and the unemployment is nearly 11%
 - Fruitvale: \$36,685

Lead Risk Factors - Poverty

Map 8. Poverty



Source: CAPE, with data from American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010.

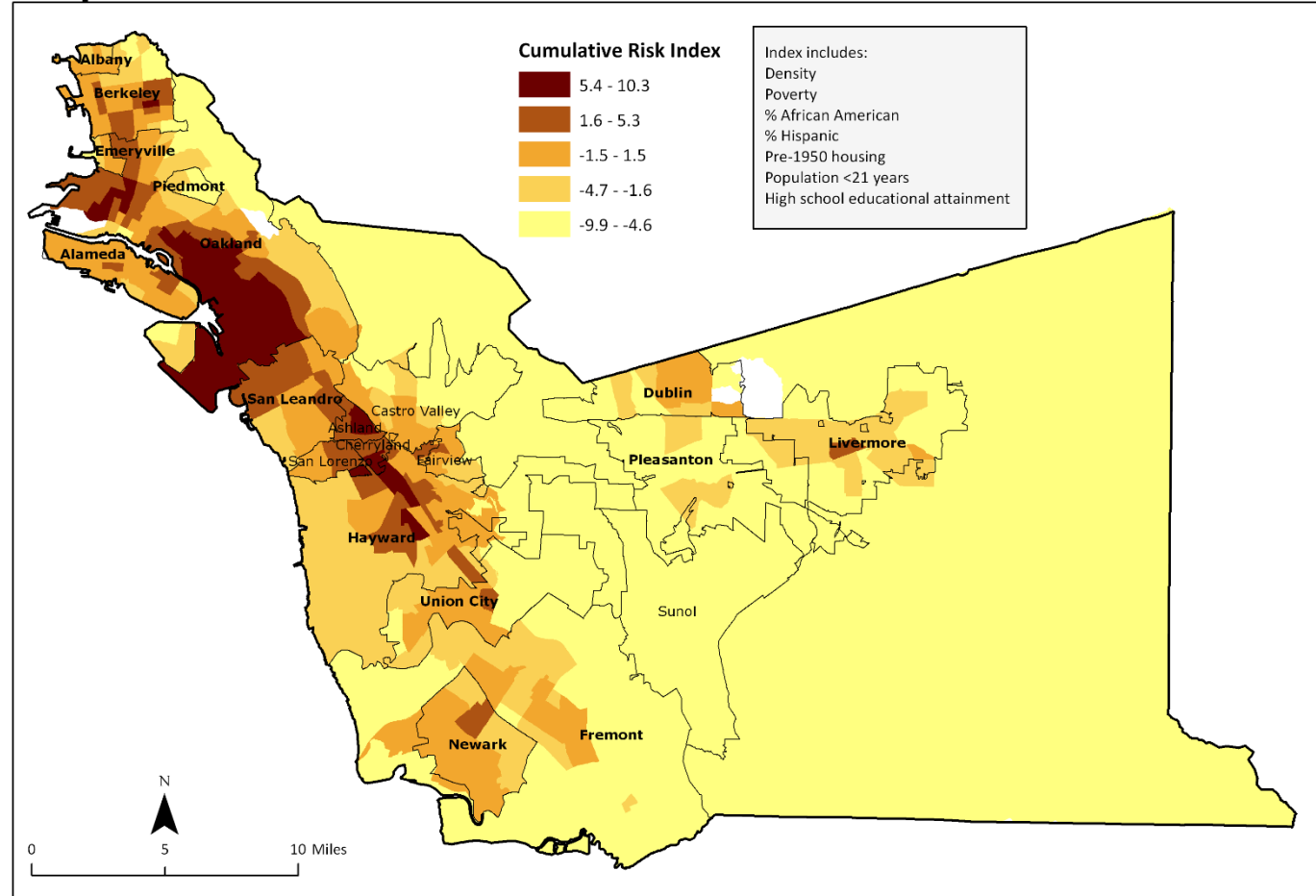
Lead Risk Factors – Other Factors

- Race/Ethnicity: African Americans and Latinos are over represented statistically in lead poisonings.
 - Oakland African American population: 28% (18% Fruitvale)
 - Oakland Hispanic population: 25% (54% Fruitvale)
- High School Education attainment
- Observed elevated lead blood levels

Cumulative risks

- The higher the accumulation of risks the darker the color

Map 11. Areas of Cumulative Risk



Source: CAPE, with data from Census 2010 and American Community Survey 2006-2010.

Elevated Blood Lead Level Data

Alameda County Data

How many children in Alameda County are exposed to lead?

According to the 2010 U.S. Census over 100,000 children under the age of five live in Alameda County. Yet only 23,617 children were screened for lead during 2010. Many more need to be screened especially those at risk of lead poisoning. The data below reflects only those children who were tested for lead.

Blood Lead Levels among Children under 21 Years Old Screened in Alameda County, by Year

Year	Number of children screened for lead	Number of children with blood lead levels 4.5 - 9.4 µg/dL		Number of children with blood lead levels > 9.5 µg/dL		Total number of lead exposed children	
2007	16,717	581	3.5%	164	1.0%	745	4.5%
2008	17,659	432	2.4%	126	0.7%	558	3.2%
2009	18,858	547	2.9%	104	0.6%	651	3.5%
2010	23,617	408	1.7%	58	0.2%	466	2.0%
2011	21,454	391	1.8%	72	0.3%	463	2.2%
2012*	20,443	519	2.5%	88	0.4%	607	3.0%
2013*	21,110	449	2.1%	78	0.4%	527	2.5%
Total since 2007	139,858	3327	2.4%	690	0.5%	4017	2.9%

Data Source: Response and Surveillance System for Childhood Lead Exposures (RASSCLE II) from the State of California, Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch.

*Preliminary data from the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program RASSCLE II. Does not include Berkeley.

- In 2012 3,335 children from Oakland were screened, 255 were lead exposed (6.5%)

The Cost of Treatment vs. Prevention

- Housing crisis as a public health issue: It is more cost effective to prevent housing-related health problems, than to treat them.
- Average cost for asthma related hospitalizations for children and adults now stand at \$33,749 per hospitalization in California

Time to Act: Bridging the Gap between Health and Housing

- Fund programs that offer financial and technical rehabilitation, energy efficiency, weatherization, lead hazard reduction, asthma trigger reduction, and safety upgrades for existing housing stock for low-income owner occupants & small rental property owners.
- Home-based interventions and health education averaging less than \$2500 per home has quantitative potential to create healthy housing.

Time to Act: Bridging the Gap between Health and Housing

- Develop partnerships, share data, and incorporate key healthy housing concepts and skills training into housing programs including city housing rehabilitation programs, housing authorities, non-profit housing developers, childcare facilities, rental property owner groups, and tenant organizations.

Time to Act: Bridging the Gap between Health and Housing

- Pass pro-active rental inspection ordinances so that properties are routinely inspected and hazardous conditions prevented instead of depending solely on reactive complaints from vulnerable tenants.
- Mentioned in “A Roadmap Toward Equity: Housing Solutions for Oakland, California,” piloted in Safe Housing Inspection Program

Time to Act: Bridging the Gap between Health and Housing

- Implement mandatory lead screening for children entering Pre-K and Kindergarten classes in Oakland.
- Targeted screening is the current requirement for pediatricians but without screening all children, it is more difficult to identify problem areas.

Time to Act: Bridging the Gap between Health and Housing

- Increase awareness and funding of lead hazard remediation funds available to stop the impact of legacy lead impacting vulnerable families.
- Lead Paint Repair Funds are available at no cost to pre-1978 home or apartment building owners where low-income families with children under 6 reside or regularly visit AND where lead hazards exist. (Assessments provided)