



## Overview

The crisis in Flint, Michigan created a national effort to reduce lead contamination. The majority of lead contamination comes from lead paint and dust, but contaminated water and soil also pose significant risks. Lead's impacts on the brain and nervous system can lead to a host of health effects ranging from anemia to low birth weight, and can also reduce lifetime earnings while increasing the need for special education.

In Michigan alone, the cost of lead poisoning is estimated at \$270 million dollars per year prior to the Flint Water Crisis. New efforts seek to expand lead testing and reevaluate the level of lead in water that requires action.

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## Legislation

Several states have introduced policies to test and remediate lead exposure in high impact areas.

- Enacted legislation in New York ([S.8158/A.10740](#)) and Illinois (SB0550) requires testing for lead in public schools.
- A 2016 law in Ohio ([HB 512](#)) shortens the deadline for utility companies for notifying residents of lead in drinking water and increases penalties for lead contamination
- Legislation previously introduced in Michigan would provide financing on water supply bills to replace residential lead pipe service lines ([HB 5423](#)). Meanwhile, [HB 5459](#) would require specific procedures for testing lead and copper in drinking water.

## KEY POINTS

- Lead exposure can come from lead paint and associated dust, contaminated soil and water, food and other consumer products
- The annual costs of lead exposure in Michigan, prior to the Flint Water Crisis, are estimated to be more than \$270 million.
- The current action level for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb) in more than 10% of water systems (EPA)

## Other Resources

- Roadmap from MI Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board: <http://bit.ly/LeadRoadmap>
- Ecology Center Lead Cost report available: <http://bit.ly/2016LeadReport>
- American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on the prevention of childhood lead toxicity: <https://goo.gl/ELlwQW>

