

# Lead is Poisoning Your Children

Fact Sheet for the **1st Council District**



# 45%

of all children **have been appropriately screened for lead poisoning.**

# 1/9

children in some parts of the District **suffer from lead poisoning\*.**

# 62%

of Philadelphia children **are exposed to toxic lead in rental housing.**

## Ms. V.C., Parent

Ms. V.C.'s boys tested positive for lead poisoning when one was five and the other six months old. Her sons were poisoned by deteriorated lead paint in two different rentals in the same neighborhood. Lead poisoning caused her children to suffer speech delays and her older son is hyperactive and receiving behavioral health services.



## Arthur Meckler, a **Model Landlord**

Arthur Meckler is a landlord in Fishtown. The safety of his tenants, and most importantly their young children, are of great concern to him. He is willing to undertake whatever testing or remediation is necessary to keep children safe.

## Lead Safe Resources LLC, an **Expert Business**

Lead Safe Resources, LLC at 901 N. Penn St., is an EPA-certified lead inspection company working with business owners to keep properties safe from lead hazards.



*“Lead poisoning is devastating”*

**“I’ve tested hundreds of homes and worked directly with families whose young children have suffered the disastrous effects of lead poisoning. For landlords, it is pretty simple: keep it clean and keep it painted.”**

—Anthony Galasso, owner of Lead Safe Resources

\* All data is from the 2017 Philadelphia Department of Health’s Lead Surveillance Report [https://www.phila.gov/media/20181214115738/Lead-Surveillance-2017\\_9.7.2018-final.pdf](https://www.phila.gov/media/20181214115738/Lead-Surveillance-2017_9.7.2018-final.pdf) and Philadelphia Inquirer article, Toxic City 2016: <https://www.inquirer.com/news/inq/philly-ignores-thousands-kids-poisoned-by-lead-paint-20161029.html>.

## Lead Hazard Remediation Can Yield \$3 for Every \$1 Spent

Beyond direct protection of children, experts estimate that each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control provides significant returns to taxpayers by avoiding government spending on healthcare and special education and boosts the lifetime earnings of children who otherwise would have stunted potential due to lead poisoning.

## The Current Lead Law Is Unenforceable

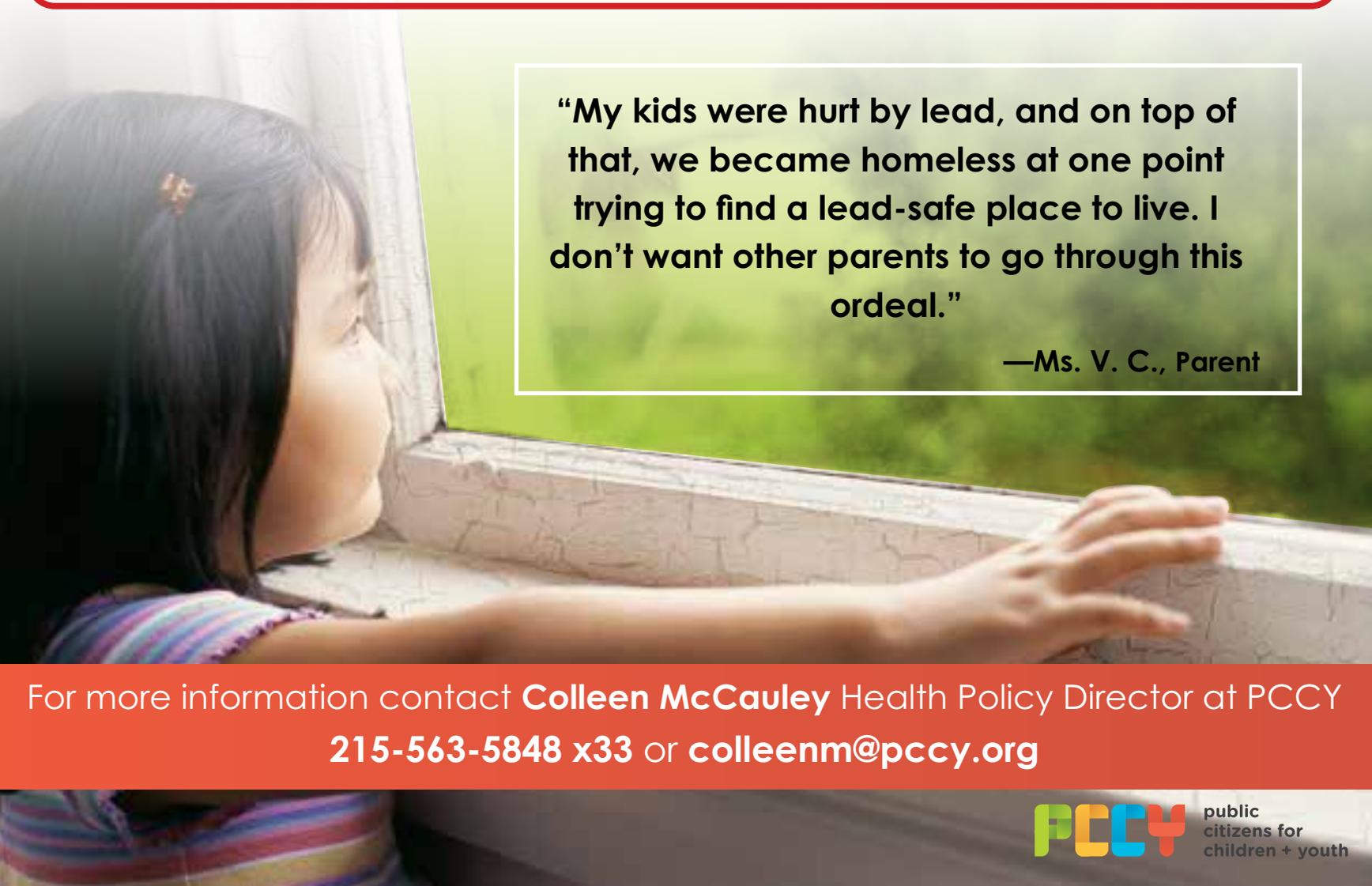
Too many landlords are not complying with the current law. Only a quarter of all rental units in the City covered by the current law are in compliance. That's because the law is largely unenforceable since there is no record of tenants' ages at the time of new occupancy to identify which pre-1978 rental properties need to be in compliance with the law.

## Making the Lead Law Universal Will Protect 1st District Babies

To address the law's shortcomings, the Mayor's advisory group on lead poisoning recommended requiring all pre-1978 rental properties to comply, including Section 8 and Philadelphia Housing Authority units. Bill #180936, passed out of Council's Health Committee on March 19, includes this requirement.

## Call Your Council Member

Please call your District 1 City Council member, Mark Squilla, and ask him to make sure every rental unit is lead-safe for babies, at 215-686-3458.



**“My kids were hurt by lead, and on top of that, we became homeless at one point trying to find a lead-safe place to live. I don't want other parents to go through this ordeal.”**

**—Ms. V. C., Parent**

For more information contact **Colleen McCauley** Health Policy Director at PCCY  
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