

# Lead is Poisoning Your Children

Fact Sheet for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Avril Absolum, 4<sup>th</sup> District **Parent**

Avril Absolum's son tested positive for lead poisoning when he was two years old. Lead paint hazards in the home she rented in District 4 from Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge Paul Panepinto was the source. At nine years old, her son reads at a kindergarten level, is very impulsive, cannot read emotion on people's faces and receives special education services.



## Hayworth Properties, LLC a **Model Landlord** in the 4<sup>th</sup> District

Hayworth Properties LLC fully supports the lead paint disclosure ordinance and complies with the lead-safe certification process for all their properties. They believe in making their properties safe for children.

## F & L Lead Dust Inspectors, an **Expert Business**

F & L Lead Dust Inspectors at 929 N 68th Street, is an EPA-certified lead inspection company in business for over seven years helping rental property owners run their businesses better by keeping kids safe from lead-based paint hazards.



*2,000 children poisoned every year is too many”*

“I work with a landlord who owns over 100 units who has me test all of them for lead no matter what – because he doesn't always know who will be living in a unit, so he believes it's better to be safe than sorry.”

—Francho Robinson, owner of F & L Lead Dust Inspectors

## 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

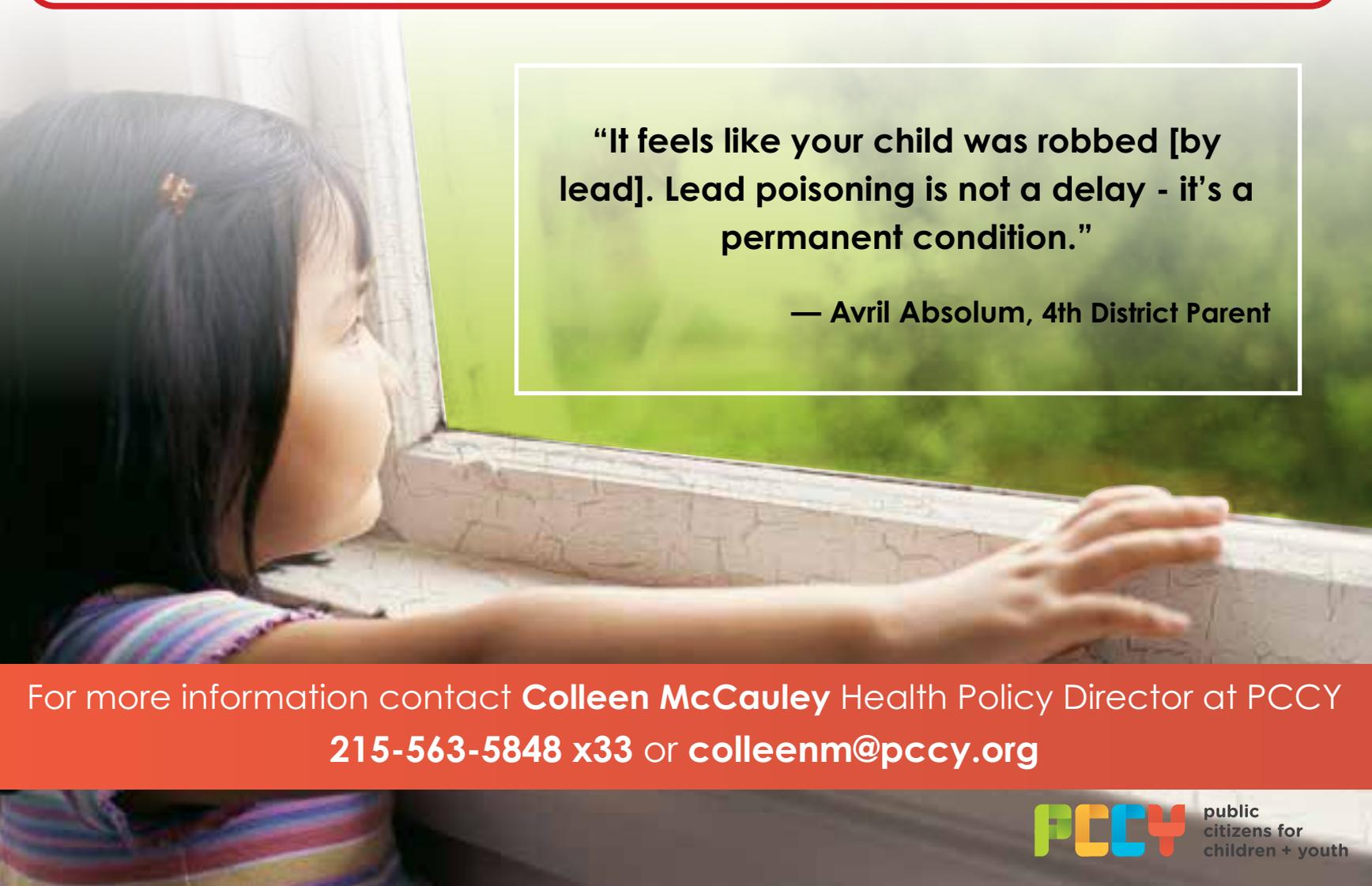
Too many landlords are not complying with the current law. Only a quarter of all rental units in the City covered by the current law are in compliance. That's because the law is largely unenforceable since there is no record of tenants' ages at the time of new occupancy to identify which pre-1978 rental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

## Making the Lead Law Universal Will Protect 4th 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 4 City Council member, Curtis Jones, and ask him to make sure every rental unit is lead-safe for babies, at 215-686-3416.



**“It feels like your child was robbed [by lead]. Lead poisoning is not a delay - it's a permanent condition.”**

**— Avril Absolum, 4th District Parent**

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