

# Lead is Poisoning Your Children

Fact Sheet for the 5<sup>th</sup> Council District



45%

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

1/5

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

62%

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

## Aisha Stafford, 5<sup>th</sup> District **Parent**

Aisha Stafford's twin boys tested positive for lead poisoning when they were two years old. The source, the deteriorated lead paint in their Brewerytown rental. Lead poisoning caused her children to suffer from anemia and stunted verbal and cognitive development. At 4 years old, the boys struggle to write or spell their own names.



## Jennifer Thompson, a **Model Landlord** in the 5<sup>th</sup> District

Jennifer complies with the certification process for her rental properties. She believes in making her properties safe for children, and her advocacy for child safety stems not only from being a property renter but also from being a mom.

## Lead Safe Technicians, a 5<sup>th</sup> District **Expert Business**

Lead Safe Technicians, LLC, at 1508 W. Seybert St., is an EPA-certified lead inspection company with two years of experience conducting lead dust and water sampling as well as educating the public about lead poisoning through workshops and seminars.



*“It’s an epidemic”*

*“I’ve tested hundreds of properties, and have seen a lot of situations where landlords don’t know how important it is to cover chipping, flaking and cracking paing, and [how] to actually eliminate it. Testing is really important to actually know what’s in your property, and it helps with prevention.”*

—Darryl Shine, owner and senior technician of Lead Safe Technicians

## 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 5th 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 5 City Council member, President Darrell Clarke, and ask him to make sure every rental unit is lead-safe for babies, at 215-686-3442.

A young girl with dark hair is looking out a window. She is wearing a colorful striped shirt. Her hand is resting on the windowsill. The background shows a green landscape.

**“There are so many children with a high level of lead in their system and parents don’t even know it. Lead can cause so many problems physically and mentally.”**

**—Aisha Stafford, 5th District Parent**

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