

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

INFORMATION & PREVENTION

Lead poisoning in children is a serious public health issue in MA – with the 4th oldest housing stock in the country, lead paint proves to be the greatest source of lead exposure in MA.



TAUNTON #16

Taunton is ranked #16 on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's 2023 **list of high-risk communities** for childhood lead poisoning.

WHAT IS "HIGH-RISK"

To be considered high-risk, a community must have **15+ cases** of lead poisoning in the past 5 years. Age of housing stock and average income levels are also considered when assessing risk.



FACTS

Children in high-risk communities were **2.7x more likely** to experience an unsafe elevated blood lead level compared to non-high-risk communities.

Low-income children are **3.3x more likely** to have elevated blood lead levels than high-income children.



ACTIONS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE

1. Keep the home clean & **dust free**
2. Eat a diet high in **Iron, Calcium, & Vit C**
3. **Wash** hands regularly
4. **Wash** toys, pacifiers, & bottles daily
5. Use **cold water** for cooking or drinking, and run your water to flush the pipes before you do
6. Get your child **tested** – no amount of lead in the blood is safe!
7. Never try to remove lead-based paint yourself – use a **certified lead-safe contractor**.

