

Preventing  
Lead Poisoning  
101



Lowell Health Department  
978-970-4010 x 9-1074

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Why is Lead Poisoning Prevention Important?

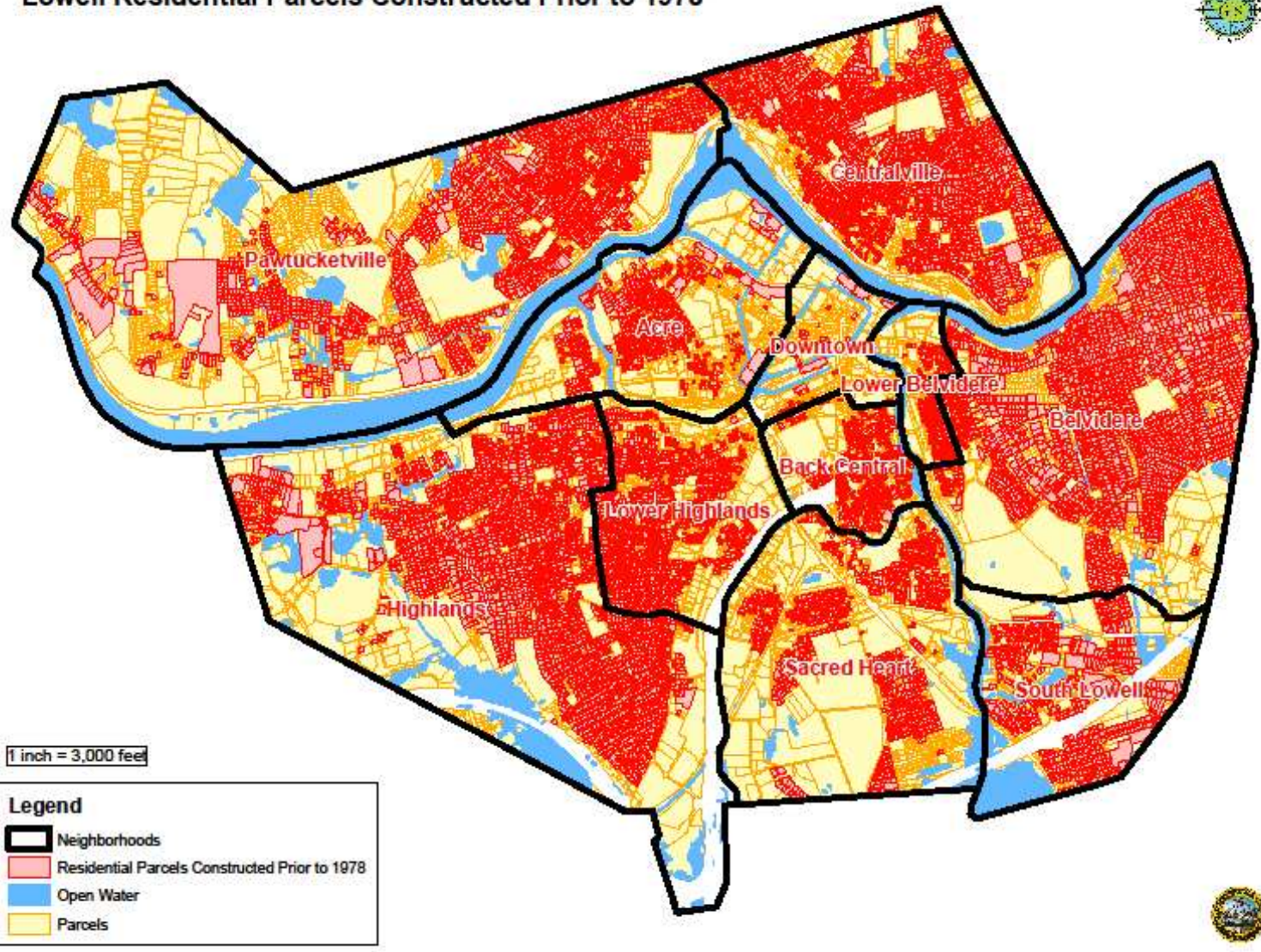
82.5% of Lowell's housing was  
constructed prior to 1978.

Many families in Lowell are living  
in homes that might have lead  
paint.

There is no safe level of lead in the blood of children !

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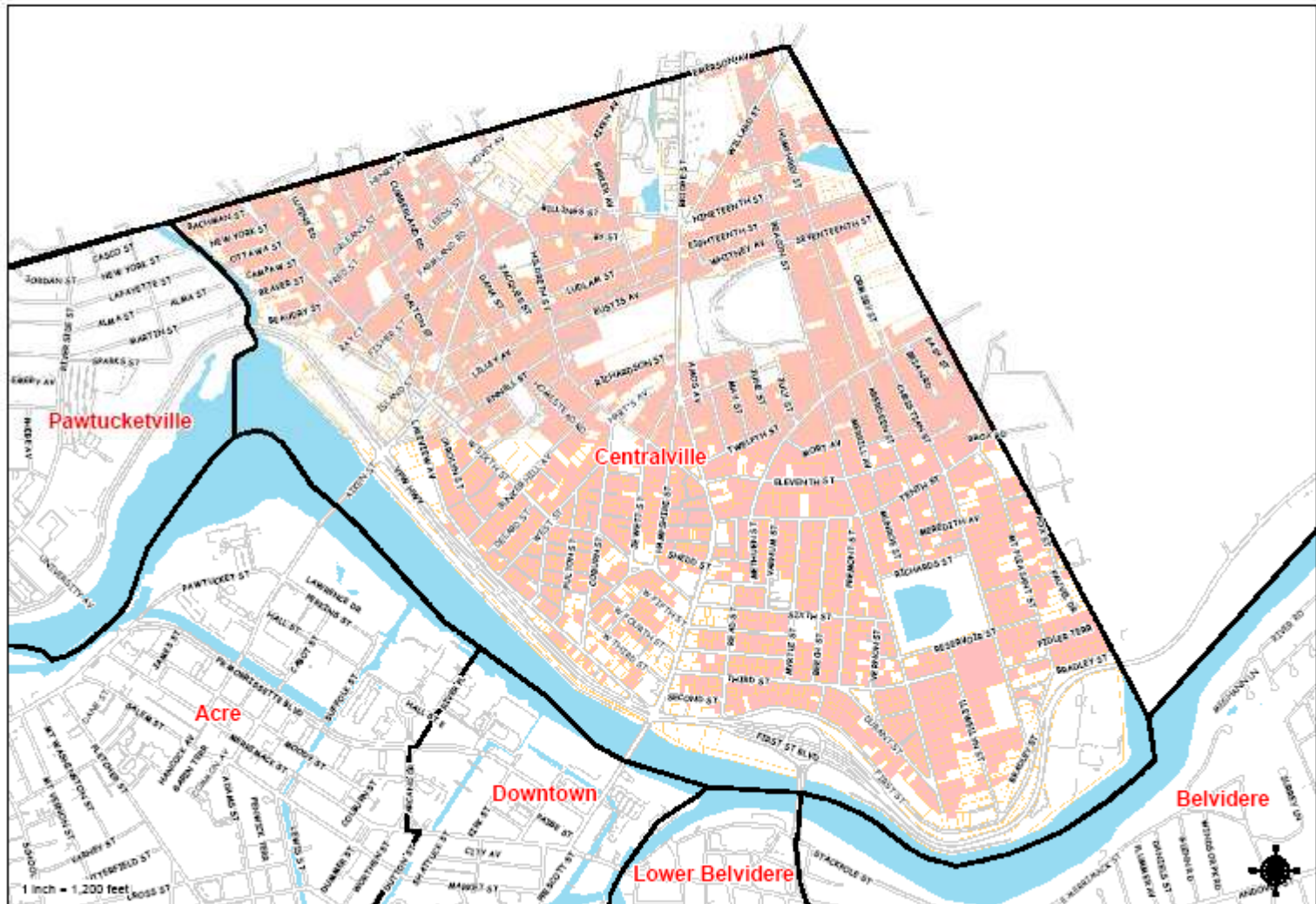
# Lowell Residential Parcels Constructed Prior to 1978



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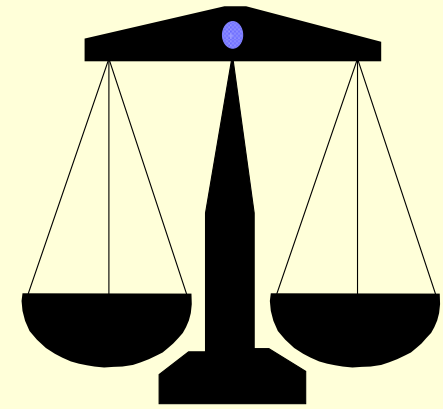
## Centralville Residential Parcels Constructed Prior to 1978



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## The Massachusetts Lead Law

The Lead Law requires the removal or covering of lead paint hazards in *homes built before 1978 where a child under the age of six lives*. Home owners and owners of rental property are responsible for complying with the law.



## Complying With The Lead Law

- Owners: Hire a Massachusetts licensed Lead Inspector to test for lead and record all lead hazards
- Tenants: Ask your landlord to have the inspection done – it is their responsibility. If they refuse, call your local board of health or GLCAC to make a “Parental Request” for a free inspection. **978-681-4940**

## How Do Children Get Lead In Their Bodies?



- Lead dust gets on hands and toys when children play.
- Children put their hands and toys in their mouths.
- Children can breathe in lead.
- Lead can pass from a mother to her unborn child.

## Where Is Lead Found?



- ***Primary Source - Lead dust and chips from lead paint***
  - ***Most cases of lead poisoning comes from a child's exposure to lead DUST from deteriorating lead paint***

## Where Is Lead Found?

- **Soil-** often found near old painted buildings, near roads, and vacant lots.
- **Water-** lead can get into the water from lead pipes, lead solder and some brass faucets.
- **Other Sources-** ceramic dishes, folk medicine, fishing sinkers, bullets, cosmetics from other countries, brass containers or lead on the job.

These sources are rarely the primary cause of poisoning!

## Primary Cause of elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL)?

- Exposure to deteriorated paint in housing built before 1978
- Federal ban on lead paint since 1978
- Ban on lead in plumbing in 1986





Even at low levels,  
lead can make it  
hard for children  
to learn, pay  
attention, and  
behave



## When should I be concerned?

- According to Massachusetts regulations, the blood lead level (BLL) of concern is anything greater than 10.
- A BLL greater than 25 means your child is lead poisoned
- Your child's risk level will determine if he/she needs more frequent lead screenings.

## Massachusetts Lead Law

- Every child in Massachusetts must be tested at ages **1, 2 and 3** (may start at 6-9 months old depending on activity of child).
- Children who live in a CLPPP-designated high-risk community must also be tested at age **4**.
- Every child must have ***at least one*** lead screening before entering kindergarten.

## Is financial assistance available?

- Grants are available to delead homes through the City of Lowell.
- If you would like more information about the grant, please contact me at 978-970-4010 x 9-1074.
- If you are interested in more presentations, please inform Ms. Hunt.



## Important contacts

Mass Department of Public Health

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/clppp>

Consumer Product Safety Commission

(CPSC) <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

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# Understanding Lead Screening and Treatment



Under 10mcg/dL	Most children in MA have levels in this range	Follow screening regulations
10-14 mcg/dL	<b>“A level of concern”</b> CLPPP can help w/education. If <1978, home should be inspected	Venous test within 3 months
15-19 mcg/dL	<b>Elevated level</b> CLPPP offer education Home should be inspected	Venous test within 2 months
20-24 mcg/dL	<b>High level</b> CLPPP offer education/lead inspection. Will <b>recommend</b> that home be inspected	Venous test within one month

## Understanding Lead Screening and Treatment

→ 25 mcg/dL and above	<b>Lead poisoned</b> May show effects of exposure, Will receive medical Care, CLPPP <u>must</u> inspect home, if lead found...property owner will be required to delead home. CLPPP will teach hazard reduction techniques. Parents should learn how to protect from lead until home is delead.	Venous within one month or less
→ Over 45 mcg/dL	<b>Medical Emergency</b> May have seizures, vomit, be very tired. CLPPP lead inspection immediately. Delead. CLPPP education, help parents care for the child.	Needs to be seen by MD. May be admitted to hospital

## Treatment

- Find and Remove the source of lead exposure
- Provide a healthy diet high in Iron, Calcium and Vitamin C
- In some cases medical treatment will be prescribed by the physician (i.e. chelation)

*There is no safe level of lead in the blood of children!*