

# Lead Poisoning Prevention and Environmental Justice



Robin Brown, Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead  
Oceanna Fair, Families for Lead Freedom Now





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## Schedule

- Introductions
  - Tracy Gregoire, LDA's Healthy Children Project
- Presenters
  - Rebecca Meuninck, Ph.D., Ecology Center
  - Robin Brown, CEO, Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead
  - Oceanna Fair, Families for Lead Freedom Now
- Resources
- Q&A




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## LDA'S Healthy Children Project

**Our Healthy Children Project** works to prevent exposures to harmful chemicals and substances linked to learning, attention, behavior and developmental disabilities, and protect the health of all families from unnecessary toxic chemicals in our products, food, water and air.

*Reducing and eliminating the **preventable** causes of neurological harm and reduce learning and other disabilities in future generations.*





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## Ecology Center

We work at the local, state, regional, and national level for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet.

On lead poisoning, we empower lead-impacted families to advocate for public policy, serve on Michigan's Childhood Lead Exposure Elimination Commission and the Michigan Alliance for Lead Safe Homes, and founded and lead the Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network.

Our offices are in Ann Arbor and Detroit, Michigan.




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## Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network

The Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network (GLEN) is network of local and state-based organizations located in Great Lakes states working on ending childhood lead poisoning through public education and advocacy to support best practices and policies to reduce exposure to lead in our homes, schools, and communities.

Co-hosting partners for this webinar: [Learning Disabilities Association of America Healthy Children Project](#), [Ecology Center](#), [ClearCorps Detroit](#), [Coalition on Lead Emergency](#), [Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead](#), [Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan](#), [Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition](#), [Clean and Healthy](#), [Women for a Healthy Environment](#), [Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network](#), [Sierra Club IL Chapter](#), [Clean Water Action Minnesota](#), [DLEAD - Detroit Lead Parents Advocacy Group](#), and the [Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University](#)



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## Robin Brown, CEO, Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead

Robin is the CEO of Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead (CCOAL) in Cleveland, OH. Robin has been directly impacted by lead poisoning and so has her family. Robin is the Founder, CEO and Parent Advocate of Healthy Homes for CCOAL. She is the parent of two children, her youngest was severely lead poisoned in 1999. Robin serves as the President/Executive Director and board member of CCOAL. She helps organizations and agencies with developing programs to meet the community needs for lead poison intervention. She has successfully developed collaborative partnerships and relationships with various stakeholders throughout Cleveland and Nationally.

<https://www.facebook.com/CCOALinfo>



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### Oceanna Fair, Families for Lead Freedom Now

Oceanna is the *South Branch Leader of Families for Lead Freedom Now* in Syracuse, NY. Oceanna and her family have been impacted by lead poisoning. Oceanna is a mother, grandmother, and a person whose family has been directly affected by lead. Oceanna is also a retired nurse. She lives on the southside of Syracuse, NY. As a civic leader, she seeks to be a fierce advocate in the fight to end childhood lead poisoning. Recently, she provided testimony about her perspective to lawmakers in Albany during a New York State Senate Public Hearing on Childhood Lead Poisoning (November 30, 2021), the first of its kind since 1994. <https://www.leadfreedomny.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/families4freedom/>

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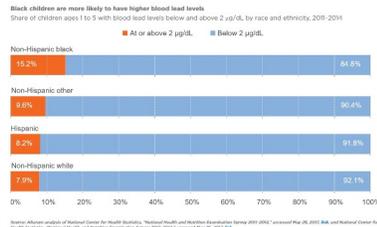
### Rebecca Meuninck, Ph.D., Ecology Center

Rebecca has worked for over 20 years in the environmental health field, providing educational activities on health and environment connections to families and health professionals across Michigan. She coordinates environmental health policy, education, and outreach campaigns for the Ecology Center. She was appointed to Michigan's Childhood Lead Elimination Commission in 2017 and founded the Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network in 2018. She works with lead-impacted families across Michigan to empower them to share their stories about lead's impacts on their lives and works with health professionals to engage them in lead poisoning prevention. Rebecca leads the Filter First campaign in Michigan to ensure that school and child care drinking water is free of lead by using filtered drinking water stations and is a leader in the state-wide network the Michigan Alliance for Lead Safe Homes which aims to reduce children's exposure to lead in paint, soil, and water across the state.

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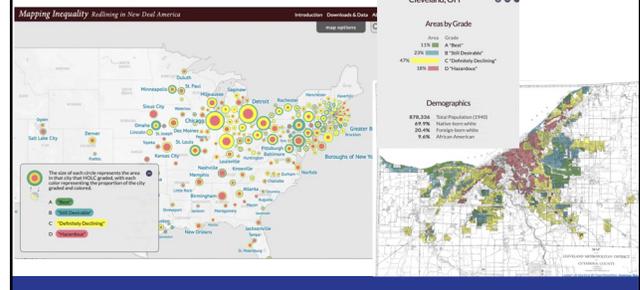
### Disproportionate Impact of Lead in Communities of Color

- Highest rates of lead poisoning found in majority black and non-white hispanic or latino populations across US (Dissell & Zeltner, 2015)
- A three-year study citing a 2 to 6 times marginal increase in EBLLs risk for black children (Yeter et al, 2020)



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### Red Lining



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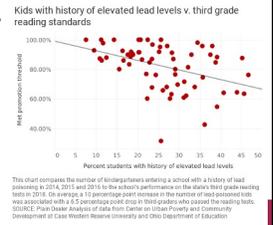
### Housing

- EBLLs higher in children that spend more time in poor housing conditions, low market value housing, poverty.
- Black residents have, on average, \$46,000 less in household income than white households.
- However, even when controlling for socioeconomic issues, black children and adults still suffer from higher rates of EBLLs (Yeter, Banks, & Aschner, 2020)
- Black Children living in buildings built through 1950s to 70s were 6 times more likely to have EBLLs compared to white children in homes of similar age (Yetes et al, 2020)

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### Education

- Elevated blood lead levels affect developmentally, cognitively, academically
  - Assessments show children with EBLLs are 50% less likely to be on track in language and literacy (Anthony, Steh, Salas Atwell, & Fischer, 2009)
  - Sequential - those less ready for kindergarten are less likely to pass proficiency tests in grade school and more likely to repeat grades (Couton, Garcia Cobian Richter, Cho, Park, & Fischer, 2020)
- Impacts public systems with long-term costs to society
  - Such as, lower lifetime earnings, neuropsychiatric disorders, special education needs, lower tax contributions, and crime involvement (Couton, Garcia Cobian Richter, Cho, Park, & Fischer, 2020)



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### Judicial System

- Elevated blood lead levels are disproportionately higher in black and latino students, which can lead to higher chances of delinquency, incarceration, and trouble with the law (Coulton, Garcia Cobián Richter, Cho, Park, & Fischer, 2020)
- In one study, 6,063 students in Cleveland, Ohio were tested for EBLLs, and then followed from ages 5 to 23...
  - 87% of black students and 72% of Hispanic/Latino students tested had EBLLs
  - Students with EBLLs had a
    - 16% higher chance of any type of juvenile court filings
    - 27% higher chance of violent incidents tied to the court filings, and
    - 35% higher chance of becoming incarcerated as adults than students in the non-exposed group

[https://case.edu/socialwork/povertycenter/sites/case.edu.povertycenter/files/2020-07/Downstream\\_06182020\\_rev07062020.pdf](https://case.edu/socialwork/povertycenter/sites/case.edu.povertycenter/files/2020-07/Downstream_06182020_rev07062020.pdf)

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### Question & Answer Session



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### Resources

Ecology Center Resources about lead: [www.ecocenter.org/training-materials](http://www.ecocenter.org/training-materials)

Healthy Children Project website: <https://healthychildrenproject.org/lead>

Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead <https://www.facebook.com/CCOALinfo>

Families for Lead Freedom Now <https://www.leadfreedomcny.org/>

### Stay Connected

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### Appendix

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Blood lead levels in children aged 1-5 years-United States, 1999-2010 MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 62 (13) (2013), pp. 245-248. Retrieved August 5, 2022, from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6213a3.htm>

Coulton, C. J., Richter, F., Kim, S.-J., Fischer, R., & Cho, Y. (2016). Temporal effects of distressed housing on early childhood risk factors and kindergarten readiness. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 68, 59-72. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chy.2016.06.014>

Coulton, C., Garcia Cobián Richter, F., Cho, Y., Park, J., & Fischer, R. (2020, June). Downstream consequences of childhood lead poisoning: A Longitudinal Study of Cleveland Children from Birth to Early Adulthood. Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development. Retrieved August 4, 2022, from [https://case.edu/socialwork/povertycenter/sites/case.edu.povertycenter/files/2020-07/Downstream\\_06182020\\_rev07062020.pdf](https://case.edu/socialwork/povertycenter/sites/case.edu.povertycenter/files/2020-07/Downstream_06182020_rev07062020.pdf)

Dissell, R., & Zeltner, B. (2015, October 22). *Race, racism and lead poisoning: Toxic neglect*. Cleveland. Retrieved August 4, 2022, from [http://www.cleveland.com/health/2015-10/race\\_racism\\_and\\_lead\\_poisoning.html](http://www.cleveland.com/health/2015-10/race_racism_and_lead_poisoning.html)

Mapping inequality. Digital Scholarship Lab. (n.d.). Retrieved November 16, 2022, <https://richmond.edu/povertycenter/files/2014/11/713110349284b3c9e0-1d8b7>

Yeter, D., Banks, E. C., & Ashner, M. (2020). Disparity in risk factor severity for early childhood blood lead among predominantly African-American black children: The 1999 to 2010 US NHANES. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(6), 8466. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17068466>

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