Special Section: Childhood Lead Exposure in Newark

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Newark Kids Count 2018
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Short Background on Lead Poisoning

- Lead: a toxic metal with lifelong consequences
  - Learning
  - Impulse control
  - Other health outcomes (cardiovascular, kidney, etc.)
- Three sugar grains worth of lead is all it takes
- Kids under age 3 most at risk
- Key factors in impact of lead exposure:
  - Age of housing (key year: 1978)
  - Child poverty rates
Newark’s Lead Success Story

Percentage of Children >6 Tested with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

2005

2015
Higher levels are also down

Percentage of tested Newark children 6-26 months with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL)

- Percentage of Children with > 10 micrograms per deciliter of lead in blood
- Percentage of Children with > 5 micrograms per deciliter of lead in blood
Lead exposure varies by location
Recent lead events

- **March 2016**: Newark Public Schools announces elevated lead in schools
- **October 2016**: Gov. Christie creates $10M lead remediation pilot
- **February 2017**: Action level lowered from 10 micrograms to 5 micrograms per deciliter of lead in a child’s blood
- **March 2017**: Newark Public Schools announces repairs completed to drinking water system
Any Questions???

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