

# Lead's Pervasive Impact on Children and Society

## Children and Educational Attainment

Every year hundreds of thousands of children across the US enter the classroom unable to read and reason at the same level of their peers due to brain damage and cognitive impairment caused by the ingestion of lead into their systems. They have a higher rate of violent and aggressive behavior, are 6 times more likely to become engaged with the juvenile justice system and are 7 times more likely to drop out of school. Over a lifetime they will earn over \$1.5 million less than their peers.

## Housing Stability and Economy

Lead itself destabilizes neighborhoods and deeply depresses housing values. And lead-based paint exposure is the primary cause of 86% of all lead poisoning cases resulting in a cost of \$43 billion to federal, state, and local government agencies.

## Pregnant Women and Adults

For pregnant women, lead poses a high risk of miscarriages, still-births, and low-birth weight babies. And for adults exposed to lead, they are 8 times more likely to suffer from hypertension and have a 16% higher likelihood of cardiac arrest.



## The Benefits of Prevention Far Outweigh the Cost

GHHI analysis shows that a **\$100 million investment** in over **6,500 homes** creates a present value of **\$438 million** in individual and societal benefits across the following areas:

