

## Designing the ECLIPS Study

Frank DiTraglia, Ludovica Gazze (and friends!)

# Background on Childhood Lead Exposure

## Lead is a potent neurotoxin

- ▶ Toxic whether inhaled or ingested
- ▶ Most harmful to young children
- ▶ Harm from even low levels of exposure

## Didn't we get rid of the lead?

- ▶ Lead paint and pipes in older homes
- ▶ Soil near major roads still contaminated
- ▶ Industrial pollution, traditional products

## US Policy Landscape

- ▶ EPA regulations for renovation (lead paint)
- ▶ Mandated screening of children on Medicaid
- ▶ Screening for representative sample: NHANES

**The White House**   
@WhiteHouse · Follow  
United States government organization

Even low levels of lead can cause behavior and learning problems in children – impairing their growth. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework will replace our nation's dangerous lead pipes and service lines.

**LEAD SERVICE PIPES IN THE U.S.**  
There are up to **10 million** lead services lines that need to be **replaced** across the country.



Legend:

- 10K - 50K lead service pipes
- 50K - 100K lead service pipes
- 100K - 200K lead service pipes
- 200K - 500K lead service pipes
- more than 500K lead service pipes

12:30 PM · Jun 30, 2021

4.8K Reply Copy link

[Read 449 replies](#)

Economists are allowed to write papers about lead exposure.

Aizer & Currie (2018; AEJ Applied)

Lower BLLs explain 75% of decline in school suspensions from 1994-2015 in RI

Aizer, Currie, Simon & Vivier (2019; ReStat)

Low levels of lead ( $BLL \leq 5$ ) have a discernible negative affect on test scores.

Groenqvist, Nilsson & Robling (2020; JPE)

Long-term effects on human capital and crime from low doses of lead

Billings & Schnepel (2018; AEJ Applied)

Early interventions largely reverse negative effects for lead-exposed children.

Abbasi, DiTraglia, Gazze & Pals (2023; J. Health Econ.)

Estimate geographic distribution of undetected lead poisoning in Illinois; evaluate alternative screening policies.

# Why did I start thinking about this?



World ► Europe US Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality



US news

● This article is more than 1 month old

## Half of US adults were exposed to harmful lead levels as kids, study finds

Researcher calls findings 'infuriating' as team finds significant impact on cognitive development

Associated Press

Tue 8 Mar 2022 00:20 GMT



Over 170 million Americans who were adults in 2015 were exposed to harmful levels of lead as children, a new study estimates.

Researchers used blood-lead level, census and leaded gasoline consumption data to examine how widespread **early childhood lead exposure** was in the country between 1940 and 2015.



World ► Europe US Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality



## America's dirty divide 'We're losing IQ points': the lead poisoning crisis unfolding among US children

The US banned lead 30 years ago. So why are thousands of kids being poisoned every year?

Supported by

OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS

About this content

**Erin McCormick in Rhode Island and Eric Lutz**

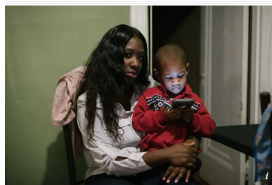
Wed 8 Dec 2021 10:00 GMT



Nine-year-old Turokk Dow loves spelling, airplanes and basketball. He is learning to read and write in his third grade classroom.



Environment ► Climate crisis Wildlife Energy Pollution



Our unequal earth

● This article is more than 2 years old

## 'It was everywhere': how lead is poisoning America's poorest children

The toxin has endangered hundreds of thousands of kids. But parents in the hardest-hit neighborhoods may never be warned of the threat

Supported by



About this content

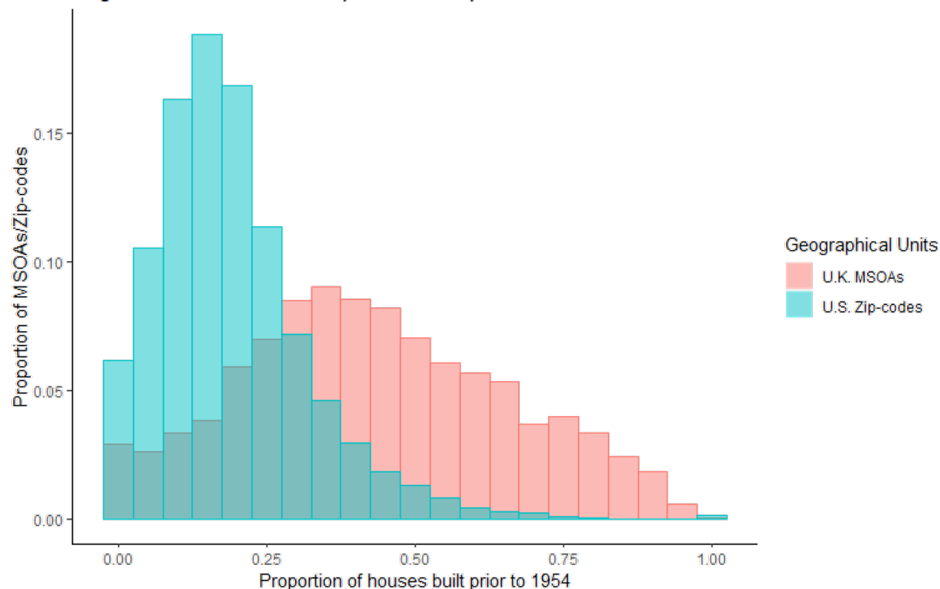
**Nina Lakhani in Philadelphia**

Wed 26 Feb 2020 09:00 GMT



Shanava Ball did everything right during her pregnancy: she <https://www.theguardian.com>, well, and binned out the nappies for her

# England MSOAs and US Zip-codes: Proportion of Houses Built Prior to 1954



There is no lead screening in the UK whatsoever.

### 2018 National Screening Committee Report

*The volume, quality, and direction of evidence published since 2012 does not indicate that screening for elevated BLLs should be recommended in the UK. Several uncertainties remain across key criteria including: lack of evidence that elevated BLLs in children is an important health problem in terms of UK prevalence.*

### 2019 Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System Report

*There are no recent comprehensive survey data estimating how many children in England are exposed to lead.*

### 2021 Public Health England (now HSA)

Public health intervention level for lead halved from 10 to 5 $\mu$ g/dl.

# ECLIPS – Pilot a Childhood Lead Screening Program

## Elevated Childhood Lead Interagency Prevalence Study

- ▶ Jane Entwistle, Lindsay Bramwell, *Northumbria*
- ▶ Frank DiTraglia, *Oxford*
- ▶ Ludovica Gazze, *Warwick*
- ▶ Carys Lippiatt, *Leeds Teaching Hospitals*
- ▶ Priya Mondal, Ovnair Sepai, *UKHSA*
- ▶ Jackie Morton, *Health & Safety Executive*
- ▶ Caroline Taylor, *Bristol*

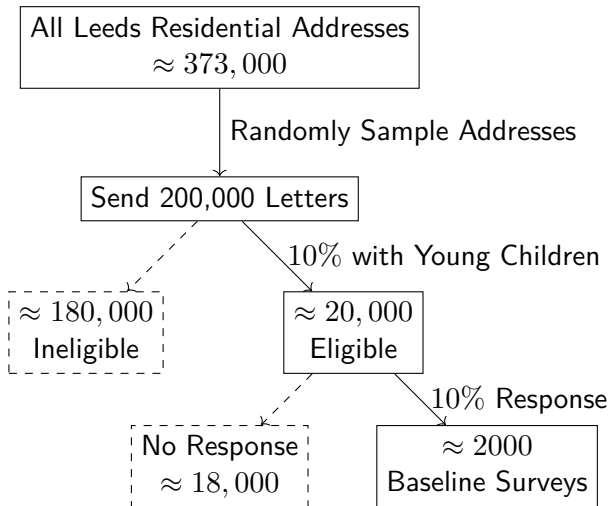
## UKRI Cross Research Council Responsive Mode Scheme

- ▶ Funded from Jan 2025 – Dec 2027
- ▶ Pilot a home test for childhood lead exposure in Leeds
- ▶ Finger-prick test using Capitainer (at right)



# Overview of ECLIPS Study: Phase I

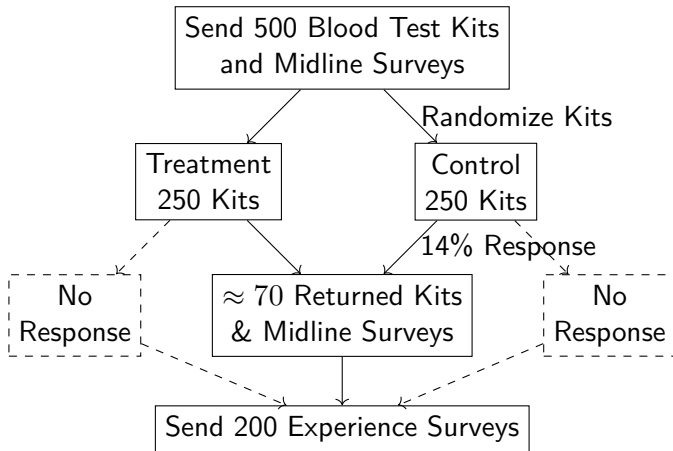
► Add various points here





## Overview of ECLIPS Study: Phase II

► Add various points here



What we'd like feedback on today

## Randomized Messaging