



Children's
Environmental
Health
Network



Working Toward a Healthier, Equitable Future: Cancer Prevention

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Executive Director

Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)

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Our Mission and Work

Our Mission:

To protect the developing child from environmental hazards and promote a healthy environment.

Our Work:

- Promote preventive research
- Translate, educate, and train
- Child protective policies

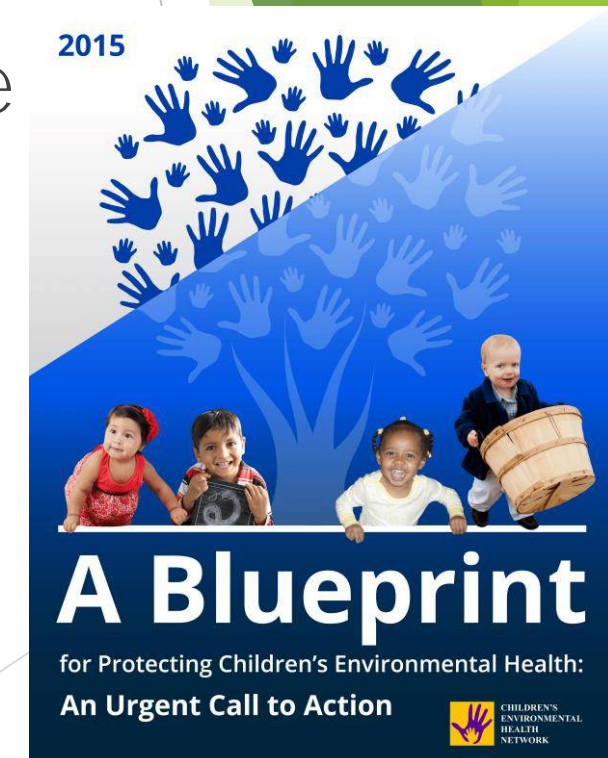
Celebrating 29 years!





Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action

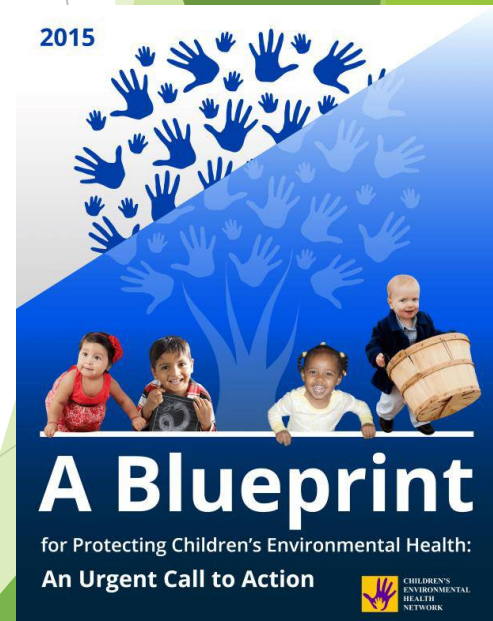
- Blueprint and vision used to assist in making the economic, public health, and policy case for children.
 - Social determinants of health
 - Justice and equity





Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action

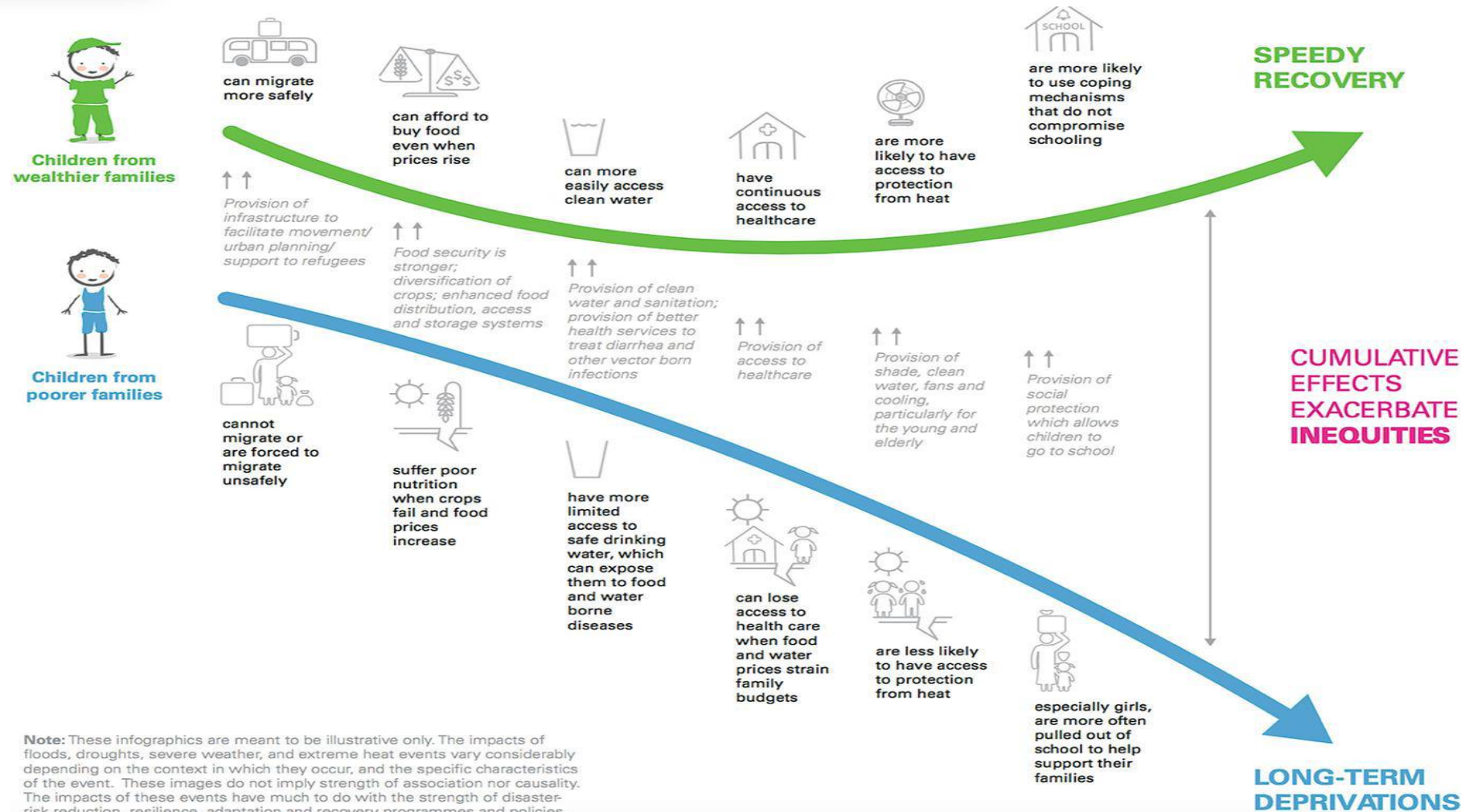
- **Mobilizing society to take action on children's environmental health**
-- placing a strong priority on children and families;
- Creating knowledge essential for effective action and making use of the knowledge we have;
- Marshaling the engine of the economy to achieve environments in which children can thrive and enjoy abundant opportunity for building a sustainable, economically secure future; and
- Building the political will in our institutions of government for child-centered policies.





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Inequities Need to Lead Solutions



Sanson A.V., Burke S.E.L.
(2020) Climate Change and
Children: An Issue of
Intergenerational Justice.



Traditional Approach to Environmental Health Laws/Regulations

- ▶ Harm to children's health must be proven before we can enact measures to protect **children's health.**
- ▶ Waiting for evidence of harm means placing children at risk of life-long, irreversible -- yet preventable -- damage.





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Cancer Free Economy Network



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR
EQUITABLE SYSTEMS CHANGE**

COME LEARN WITH US!

<https://www.cancerfreeeconomy.org/>



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Our Guiding Star

*WITHIN OUR GENERATION,
WE WILL LIFT THE BURDEN OF
CANCERS AND OTHER DISEASES
BY DRIVING A DRAMATIC AND
EQUITABLE TRANSITION FROM
TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN OUR
LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND
ECONOMY TO SAFE AND
HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES
FOR ALL.*



CANCER FREE ECONOMY
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Connecting Teams Across the System



BUILDING POWER
Mobilize
vulnerable, expos



COMMUNICATIONS
Building public awareness
and demand for change



HEALTH SCIENCE
Multidisciplinary research
agenda, Evidence of impacts
on health



SHIFTING MARKETS
Creating demand for
and supply of healthy alternatives



POLICY & LEGAL
Promote policies and
legal strategies to protect
everyone's health



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Reinforcing Actions Across Network

Impact the public narrative & acceptance of toxic chemicals = cancer, demand for upstream prevention.

Build more champions & mobilize communities, from **“chemists to community organizers to cancer charities”**

Coordinate Supply and Demand strategies to reinforce progress on healthy alternatives



Design inter-disciplinary research to accelerate solutions, upstream prevention



CANCER FREE ECONOMY
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Advancing a Policy Agenda that Puts Those Most Impacted by Toxic Chemicals at the Front of the Line



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Build Back Better: A Cancer Free Economy

- ▶ **“THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO FIX THE DAMAGE DONE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. BUT THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER NEED TO GO BEYOND REPAIRS AND BUILD A REGULATORY STRUCTURE THAT FREES ALL PEOPLE FROM THE BURDEN OF TOXIC EXPOSURES THAT INCREASE CANCER RISKS.”**
- ▶ — Kathryn Alcantar, Co-**Lead of CFE’s Policy and Legal** group; Policy Director at the Center for Environmental Health



► THE SAME GENERATIONS OF SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED IN BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY SUFFERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ARE ALSO DRIVING THE STARK RACIAL INEQUITIES IN SEVERAL TYPES OF CANCER.



CHILDHOOD CANCER PREVENTION INITIATIVE

#PREVENTCHILDHOODCANCER





Aim of the Childhood Cancer Prevention Initiative

- Solidifies organizations both within the childhood cancer community advocates, health professionals, faith leaders, business investors, and researchers to create awareness of the environmental connection within the diagnosis of some forms of childhood cancer
- To make the business, economic case, and public health case
- To create actions including advocating for public policy to advance solutions



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2021 CHILDHOOD CANCER PREVENTION INITIATIVE LEADING COLLABORATORS



CANCER FREE ECONOMY
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AMERICAN
SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS
COUNCIL



CHILDREN'S
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CLEAN &
HEALTHY
NEW YORK



CLEAN
PRODUCTION
ACTION



Lowell Center for
Sustainable Production
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS



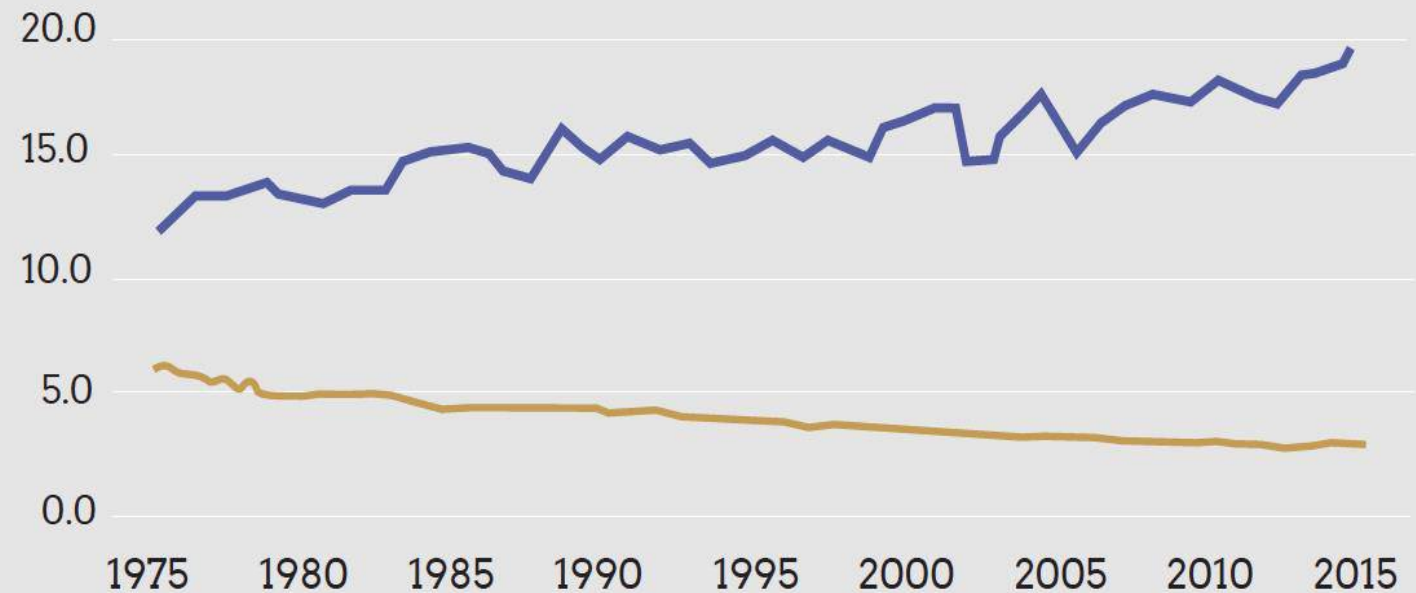
PREP4Gold
PREP4Gold.org

Cancer Rates Rising Since 1975



Trends in Childhood Cancer Incidence and Mortality

Declining childhood cancer deaths, but rising childhood cancer incidence



■ Age-adjusted incidence rate per 100,000
■ Age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000

Source: National Cancer Institute, Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Program, 1975–2016



Exposures where there is compelling evidence of increased risk of childhood cancers



Pesticides



Near Traffic Air Pollution



Paints and Solvents

CHILDREN FROM DEVELOPING CHILDHOOD CANCERS

Through Changes in Business and
Government Policy & Practices



Produce and purchase
safer chemicals and
products



Invest in
prevention
research



Advance public policy to
incentivize safer
chemicals and products



Support and expand
regulations to reduce
known causes



CHILDHOOD CANCER
PREVENTION INITIATIVE

#PREVENTCHILDHOODCANCER

DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT AT
[CHILDHOODCANCERPREVENTION.ORG](https://childhoodcancerprevention.org)

Engagement of:

- Business organizations and companies
- Pediatric Cancer Foundations
- Legislators to advance policy
- Health & Science community
- Ongoing education of parents, communities and others

THE POLICY CASE

Systemic Change for Prevention





Public Policy Works

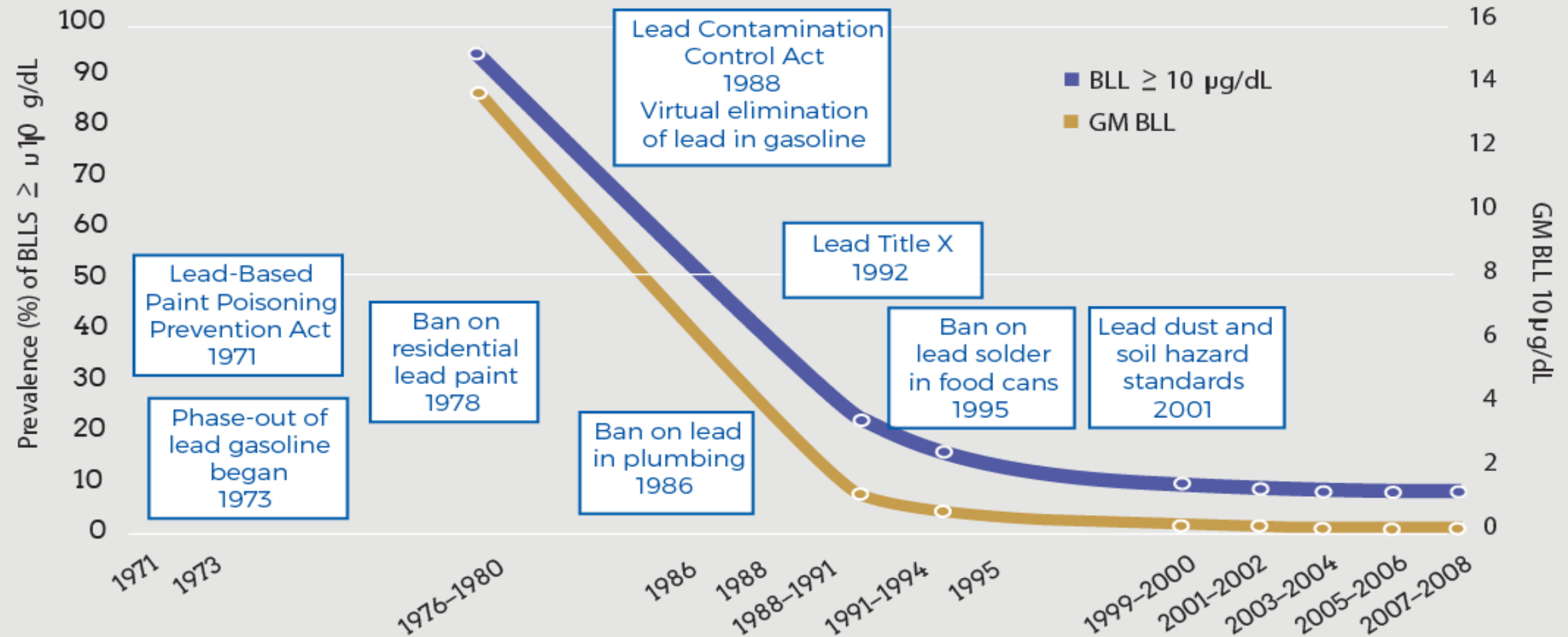


- Ideas once controversial, now expected, changed by laws:
 - Kids stuffed animals are made with fresh, clean fill instead of oily rags
 - Products made for babies and toddlers **don't include parts small enough to choke on**
 - **NYC doesn't get smog like this photo**
 - Car seat belt laws



Government Regulation Instrumental in Improving Children's Blood Lead Levels

Following laws requiring removal of lead from paint, gasoline, and other products



Source:

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/138/1/e20161493/F1.large.jpg?width=800&height=600&carousel=1>



Exiting Progress is at Risk



ROLLBACKS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS 2017-2019

| | 58 Rollbacks completed | 37 Rollbacks in progress | 95 Total Rollbacks |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  Air pollution and emissions | 16 | 9 | 25 |
|  Drilling and extraction | 10 | 9 | 19 |
|  Infrastructure and planning | 11 | 1 | 12 |
|  Toxic substances and safety | 5 | 3 | 8 |
|  Water pollution | 4 | 6 | 10 |
|  Other | 12 | 9 | 21 |



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Governments Must Fulfill Their Obligation: To Prevent Cancers of Environmental Origin



This obligation to protect public health includes:

- Protecting existing and recent federal laws from rollbacks
- Holding the US Environmental Protection Agency accountable for enforcing existing regulations
- Expanding air quality and water protections
- Requiring the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- **Require use of safer materials in children's products and our built environment - and eliminate toxics**



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Governments Must Fulfill Their Obligation: To Prevent Cancers of Environmental Origin



This obligation to protect public health includes:

- Using government and institutional dollars to purchase nontoxic options
- **Ensure children's spaces are sited safely**
- **Require transparent disclosure of chemicals of concern in children's products and in areas intended for use by children, i.e. artificial turf**
- Increase funding for research on cancer prevention





Bottom Line



- Government has a fundamental obligation to provide for the general well-being of the public and our shared environment, both of which are profoundly at risk due to the ways in which chemicals are manufactured, used, and released.
- Policies that restrict harmful chemicals and drive our economy toward safer solutions are essential if we are serious about preventing debilitating, deadly diseases like cancers.





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Join the CEH Movement!

OCTOBER 14, 2021 IS:
**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH DAY**

www.cehday.org



Write your representatives



Get outside with a child



Join a virtual event

How will you celebrate?



Contact Information

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Visit:

www.cehn.org

www.cehday.org

www.cancerfreeeconomy.org



**CHILDREN'S
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Thank you!!

