



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

PUBLIC HEALTH

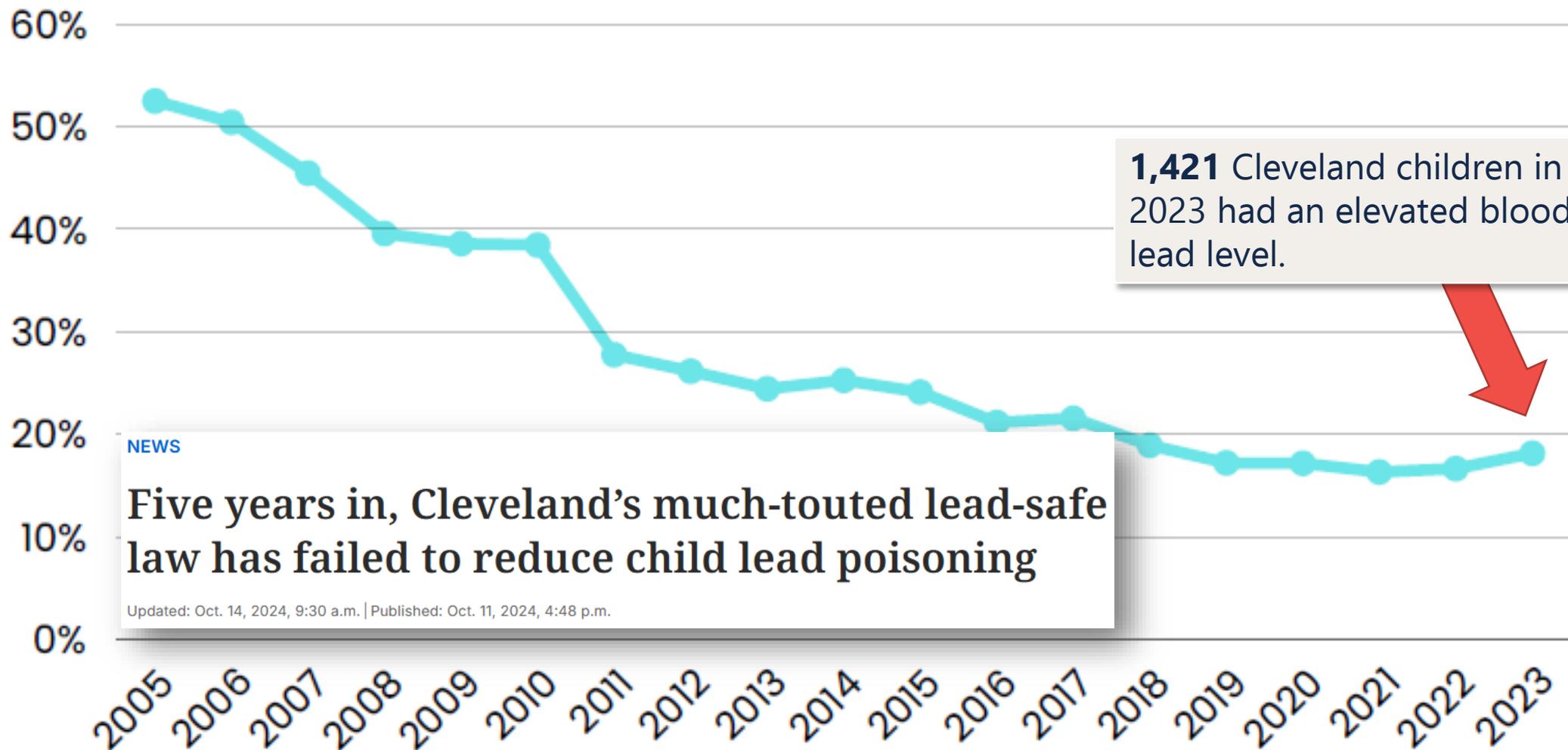
Accelerating Progress Toward Fewer Lead Poisonings

David Margolius, MD

March 9, 2026



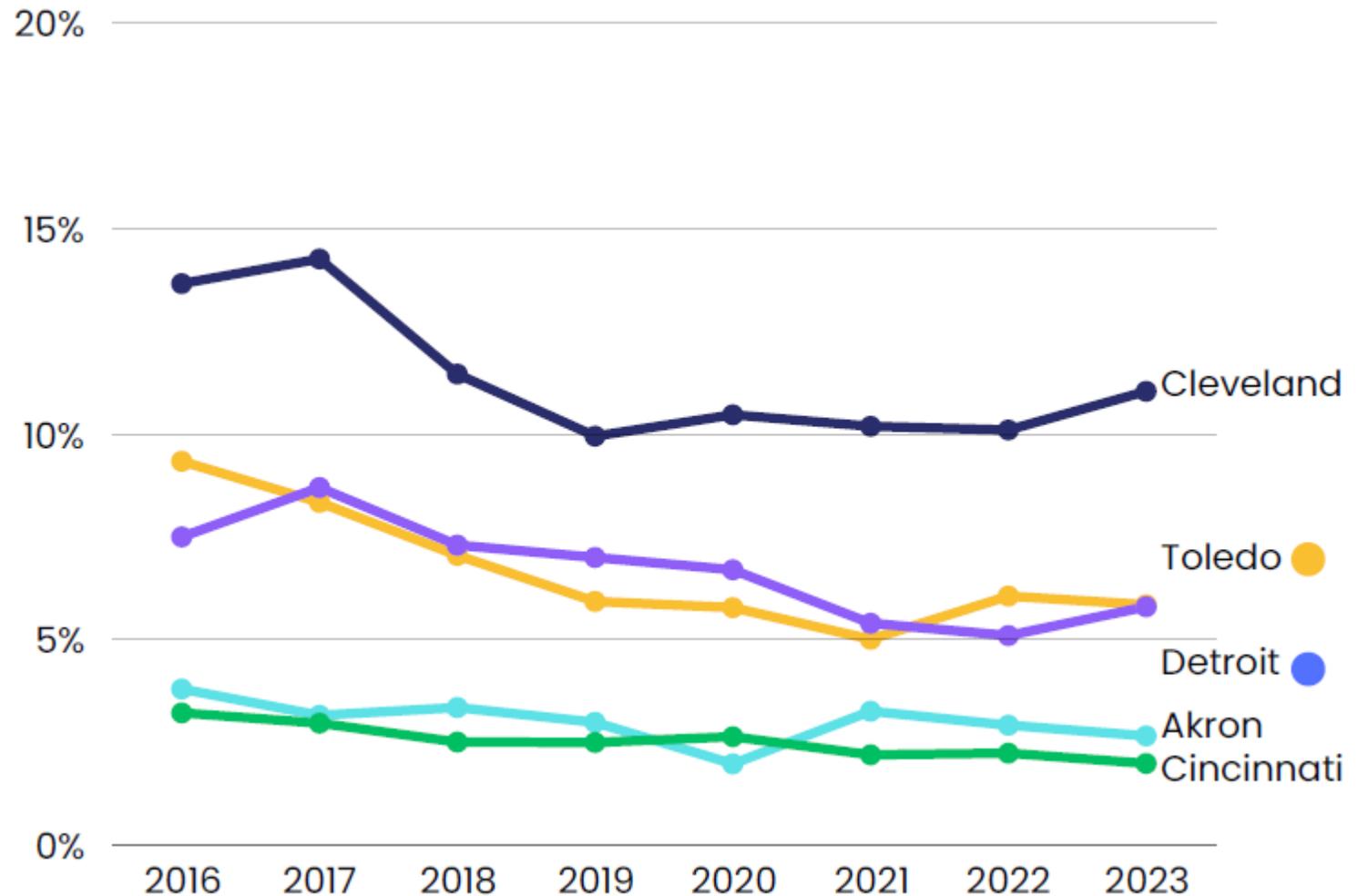
In 2024, we noted: of children in Cleveland <6 yrs old who tested at least once each year, the percentage of tests with results $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ **had not declined since 2019.**



Cleveland's Lead Poisoning rate is more than **double** our peer cities.

Why?
Largely due to Median age of Housing stock:
Cleveland – 65; Toledo – 64; Akron – 63; Detroit – 59; Cincinnati – 46; Columbus – 37; Austin – 8.

Percentage of children <6 yrs old with Blood Lead Levels $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ among those tested shows how we compare to our peer cities.





Increasing the number of Lead Safe Certificates alone was not reducing Lead Poisoning rates.



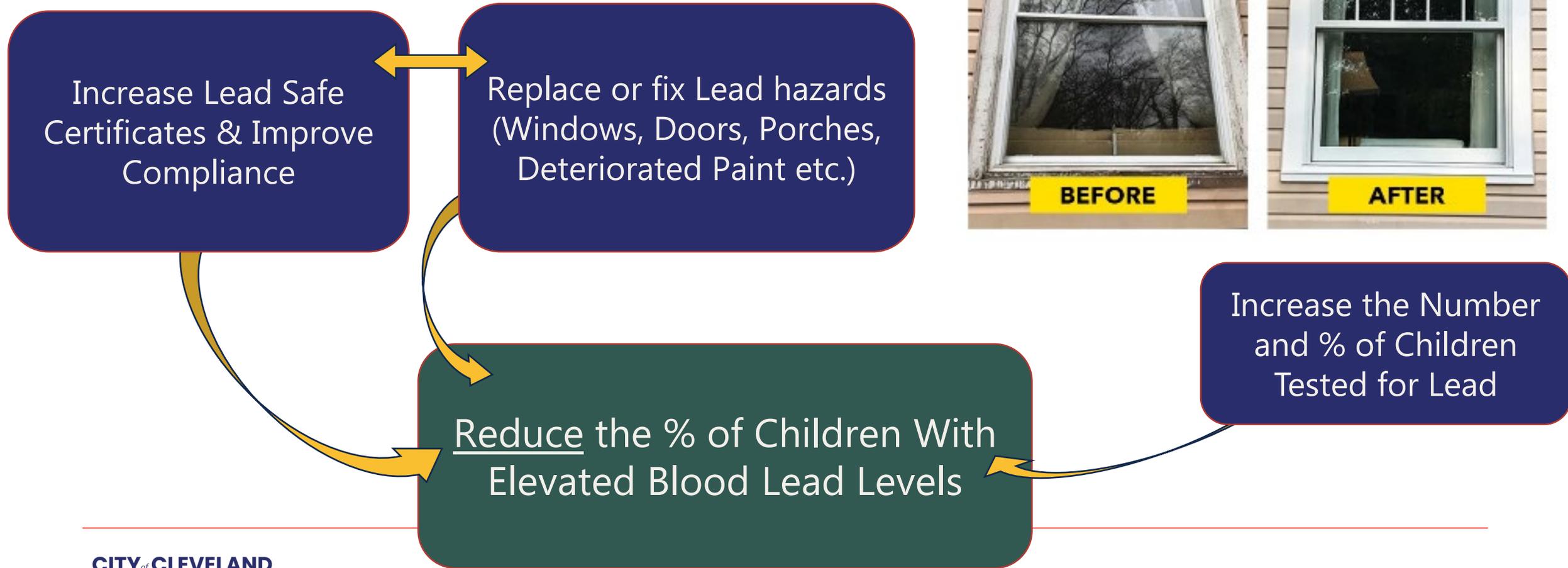
Increase Lead Safe Certificates & Improve Compliance

Increase the Number and % of Children Tested for Lead

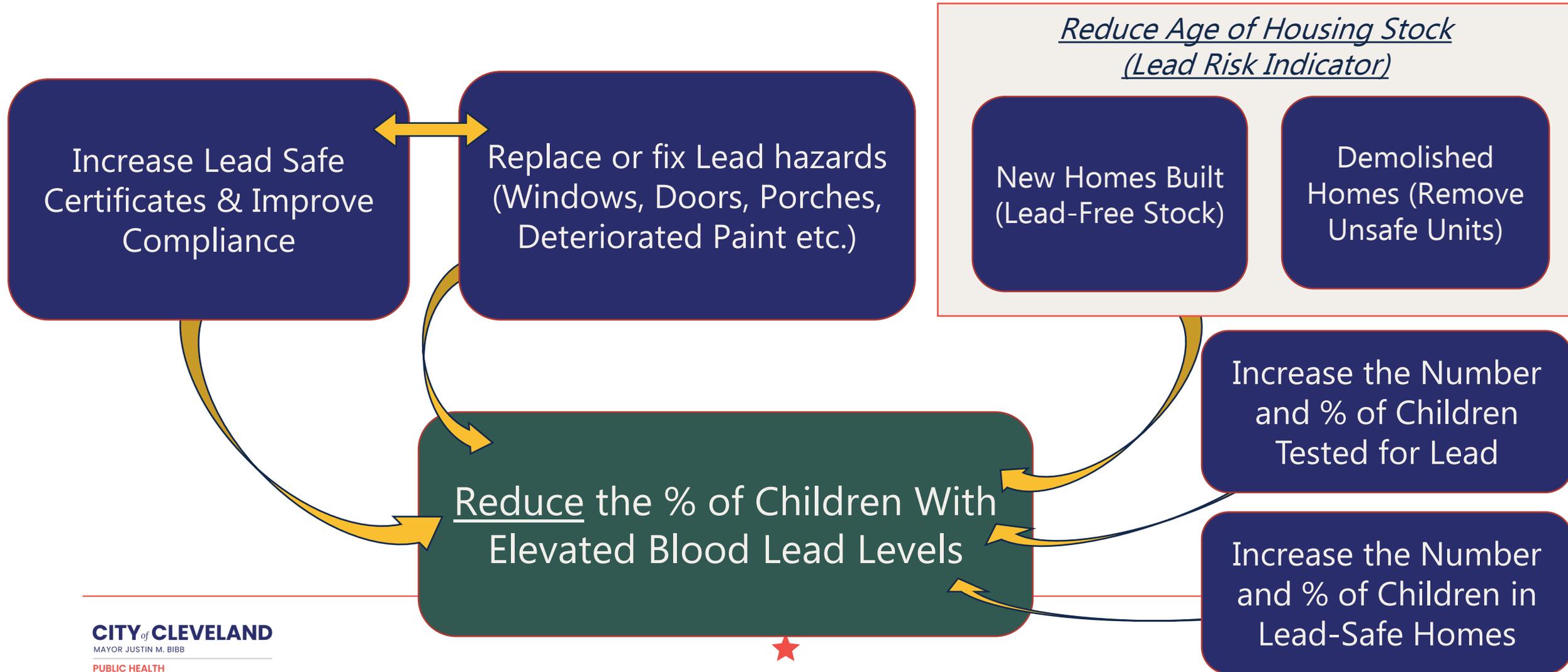
Reduce the % of Children With Elevated Blood Lead Levels



We need more property owners to address Lead Hazards in their homes:



Goal: Ensure every baby grows up in a home free from Lead Paint Hazards.



We are building new homes, tearing down or fixing old homes, training lead workers, ticketing and prosecuting property owners who do not comply, and spreading the word.



Cleveland City Council is building new homes and fixing old homes!



Local Officials, The NRP Group, and University Hospitals, Cut Ribbon on The Davis, an Affordable Housing Community in Cleveland, Ohio

Cleveland City Council is building new homes and fixing old homes!



October 03, 2025 12:45 PM

First home rehabbed for Cleveland’s SES Promise hits market – and sells fast

ZACHARY SMITH ✉



CHN Housing Partners Announces Closing of Parkside Homes

PARKSIDE HOMES WILL PROVIDE A PATH TO HOMEOWNERSHIP FOR 55 CLEVELAND FAMILIES

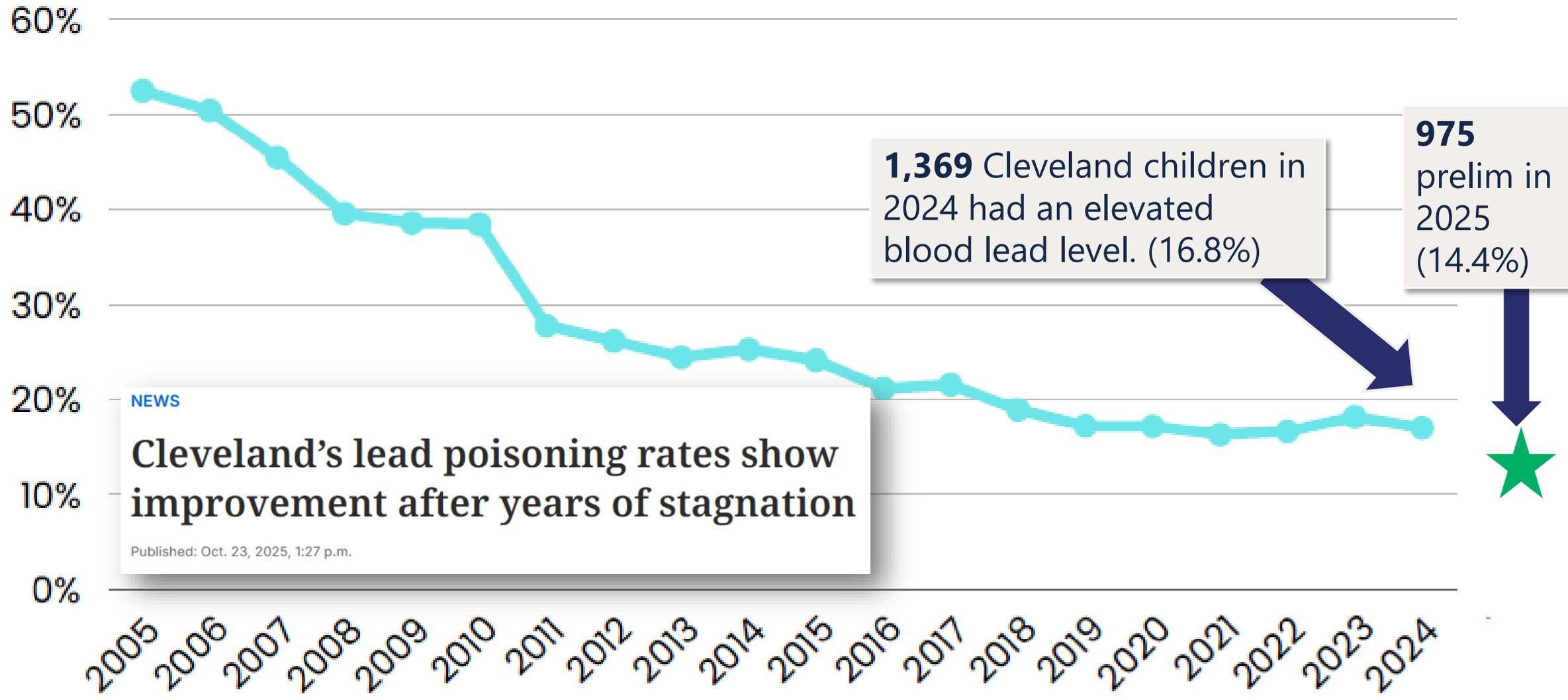


Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to reduce Lead Poisoning in Cleveland:

1. The Number of **Homes tested** for Lead Hazards.
2. The Number of **Homes upgraded or improved.**
(i.e. replaced windows, doors, porches)
3. The Number of **Homes demolished.**
4. The Number of **New Houses and Apartments.**
5. The Number of **Children Tested** for Lead.
6. The Number of **Children in Lead-Safe Homes.**



Of children in Cleveland 1-5 years old who tested at least once each year, the percentage of tests with results $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ has improved 2 years in a row – and now is lowest ever.



NEWS
Cleveland's lead poisoning rates show improvement after years of stagnation
Published: Oct. 23, 2025, 1:27 p.m.

Are these the correct metrics associated with Lead exposure?

How do we measure them?

How can we improve them?

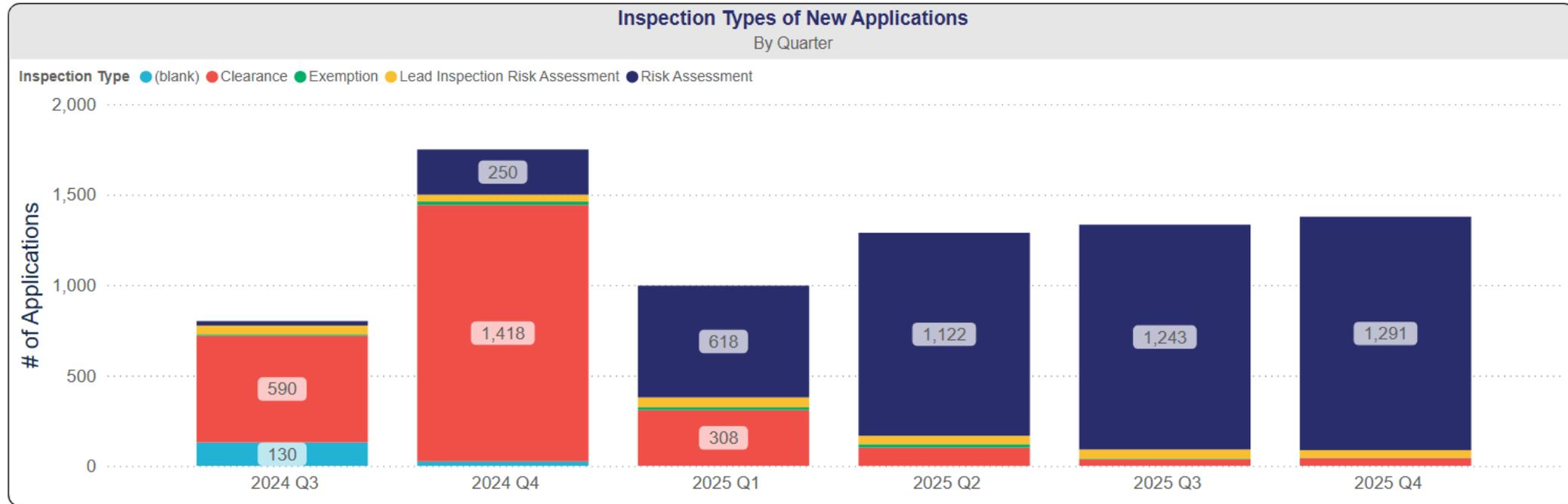


Appendix

Data for each Metric/KPI



The number of homes tested with a Lead Risk Assessment is Increased in 2025.



Inspection Type	2024 Q3	2024 Q4	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4
(blank)	130	25	1	0	1	1
Clearance	590	1,418	308	102	36	42
Exemption	7	19	15	18	3	2
Lead Inspection Risk Assessment	49	38	55	47	51	42
Risk Assessment	25	250	618	1,122	1,243	1,291
Total New Reports Filed	801	1,750	997	1,289	1,334	1,378

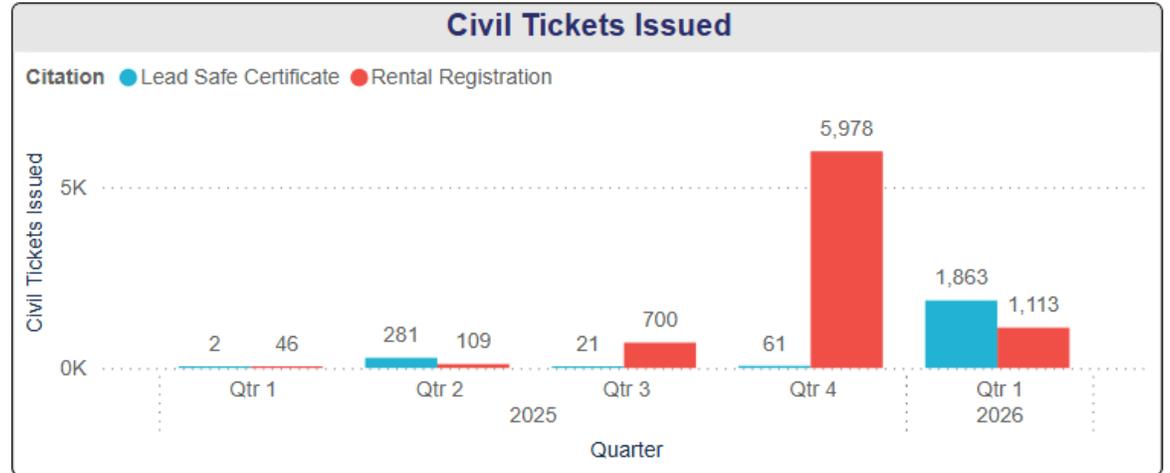


The number of tickets issued for Lead Safe Certification & Rental Registration is increasing:

Ticket Status	Total Tickets	% of Total
Awaiting Payment - Late	5,850	57.50%
Awaiting Payment	1,901	18.68%
Closed Payment Received	1,334	13.11%
Administrative Appeal Filed	344	3.38%
Appeal Denied	276	2.71%
Sent to DAL	223	2.19%
Closed Appeal Granted	123	1.21%
Admin Closed	118	1.16%
BBS Appeal Filed	2	0.02%
BBS Denied	2	0.02%
Total	10,174	100.00%

Property Use (zoning)	Total Tickets	% of Total
2F	6,421	63.11%
1F	2,304	22.65%
(blank)	744	7.31%
MF	702	6.90%
1F-A	3	0.03%
Total	10,174	100.00%

ZIP	Total Tickets	% of Total
44105	1,397	13.73%
44102	1,189	11.69%
44109	961	9.45%
44120	911	8.95%
44111	844	8.30%
44110	811	7.97%
44108	799	7.85%
44128	712	7.00%
44103	466	4.58%
44104	448	4.40%
44135	424	4.17%
44113	238	2.34%
44106	212	2.08%
44119	165	1.62%
44127	157	1.54%
44112	155	1.52%
44144	136	1.34%
44122	59	0.58%
44121	34	0.33%
44114	30	0.29%
44115	14	0.14%
	12	0.12%
Total	10,174	100.00%



Rental Citation Outcomes

1,681 ticketed properties have submitted a Rental Registration application for review after the ticket was issued. (1342 require a LSC)

Application Status	Total Registrations	Total Registrations (LSC Req)
Additional Info Required	1,224	1134
Active	171	84
About to Expire	163	79
Additional Info Received	49	17
Pending	44	25
Total	1,681	1342

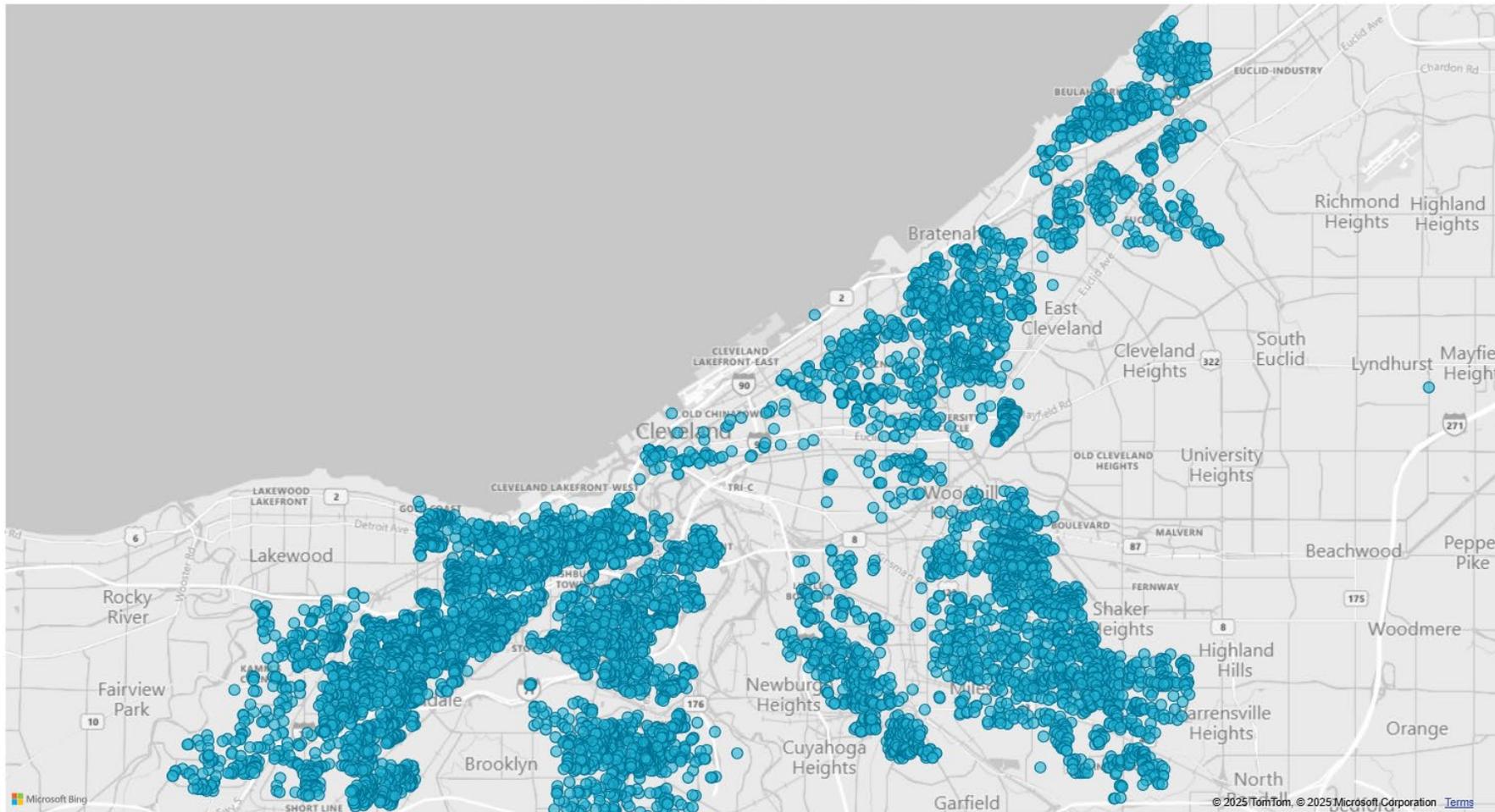
Lead Citation Outcomes

108 ticketed properties have submitted a LSC application for review after the ticket was issued.

Application Status	Count of Certificates
Certified	73
Awaiting Review	16
Resubmittal Required	10
Additional Info Required	7
Additional Info Received	1
VN to be issued	1
Total	108

Homes all over Cleveland have been tested – which matters most if process compels homes being improved:

Map of Active Certifications



Active Certifications:

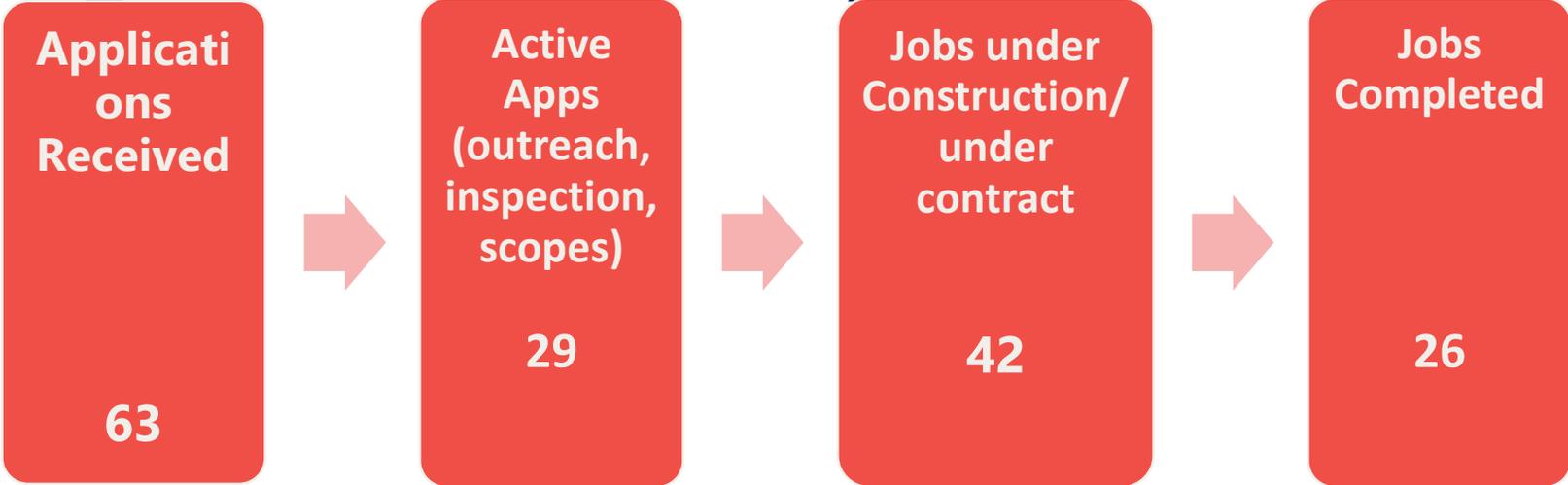
- 29,238 Rental Units through 3/4/2026
- (25,967 in Sept; 24,149 in June)
- Denominator estimated to be 90,000

2. More residential permits are being pulled for windows and/or porches:



Government Funding Progress on reducing Lead Hazards: (through February 2026)

ODOD Lead Safe Ohio Grant:



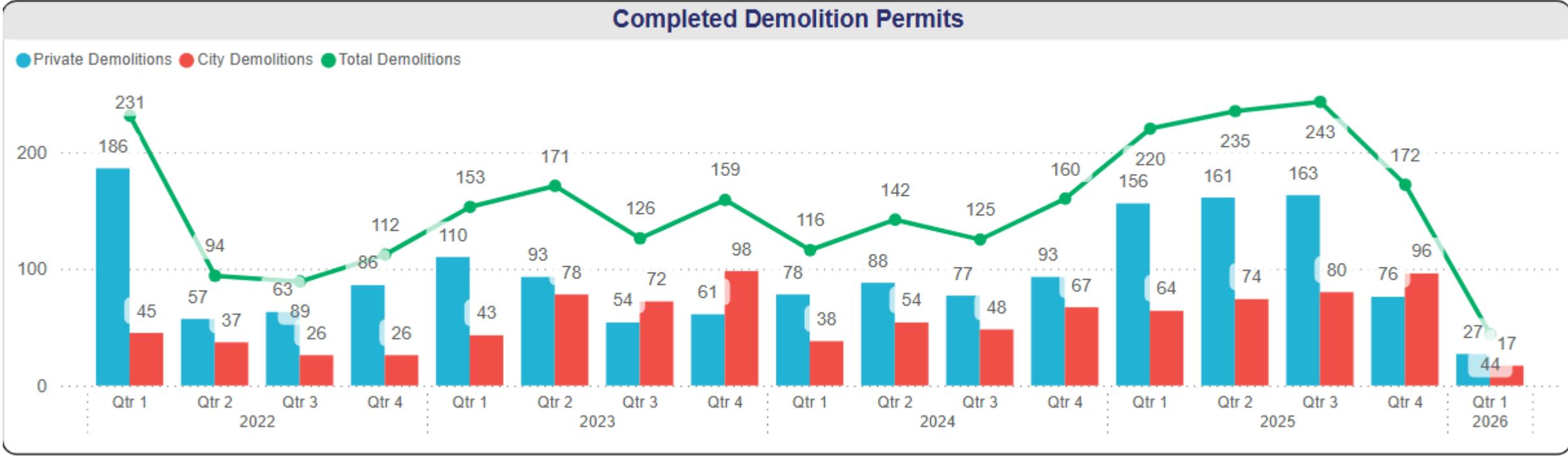
HUD Lead Grants:

Program	Completed Projects since 1/2025	Under Construction	Project Assigned to a Contractor or Vendor	Total Completed for life of the grant
LEAD High Impact	21	7	32	75
LEAD Citywide	10	7	27	45
Healthy Homes Production	27	11	21	55

The number of homes demolished year-over-year is increasing:

Demolitions since 1/2022:

- 2,592 Total Demolitions
- 1,629 Private Demolitions
- 963 City Demolitions



The number of new homes being built is increasing:

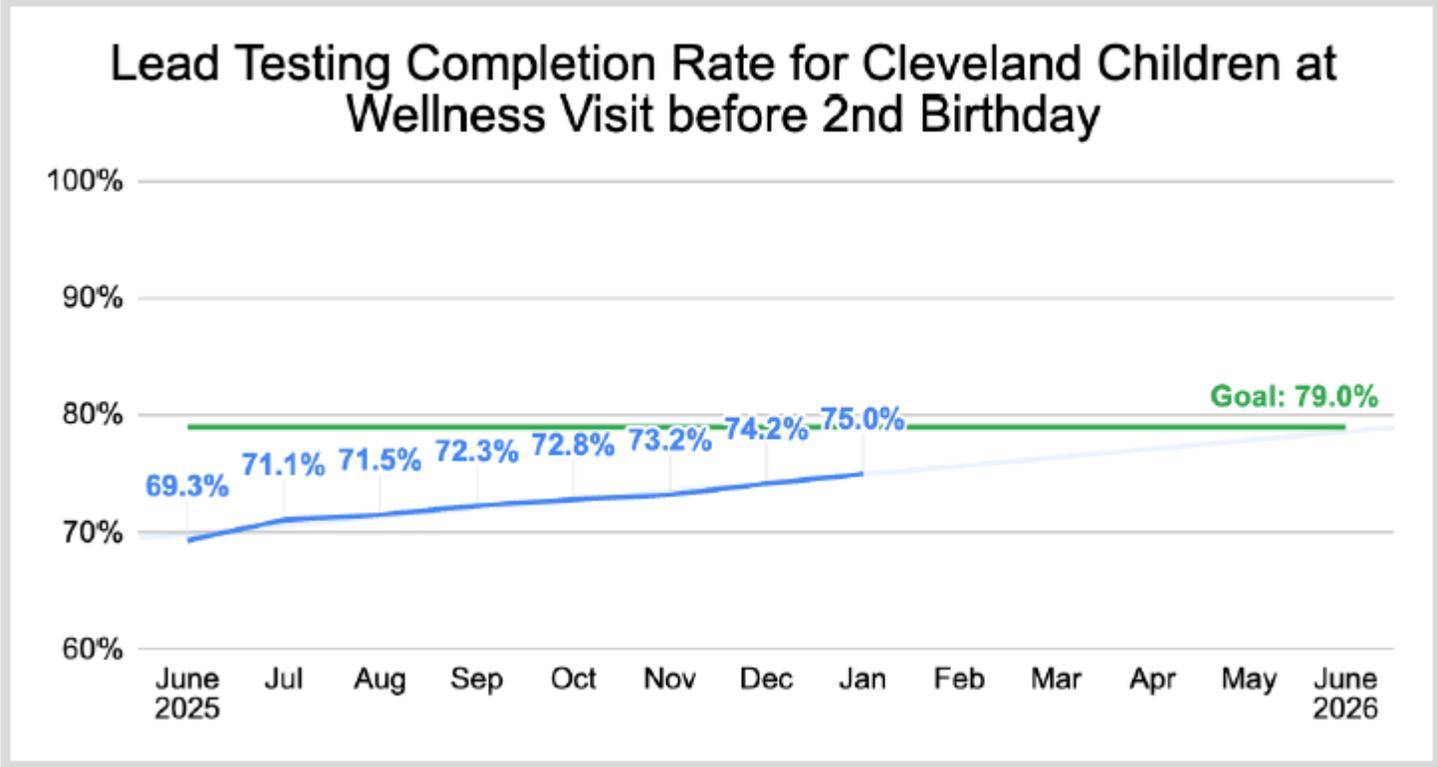
Source:
Residential Building Permit
Database – HUD Office of
Policy Development &
Research

Type of House	single family	2 units	3/4 units	5+ units	Totals	
2025*	86	0	0	160	246	through 8/2025
2024	234	0	16	646	896	
2023	161	0	0	644	805	
2022	158	0	0	363	521	
2021	104	12	15	0	131	
2020	95	10	12	0	117	
2019	78	10	9	0	97	
2018	114	22	12	0	148	
2017	144	36	0	0	180	
2016	137	36	0	0	173	
2015	130	42	0	0	172	
Totals	1,441	168	64	1813	3,486	housing units

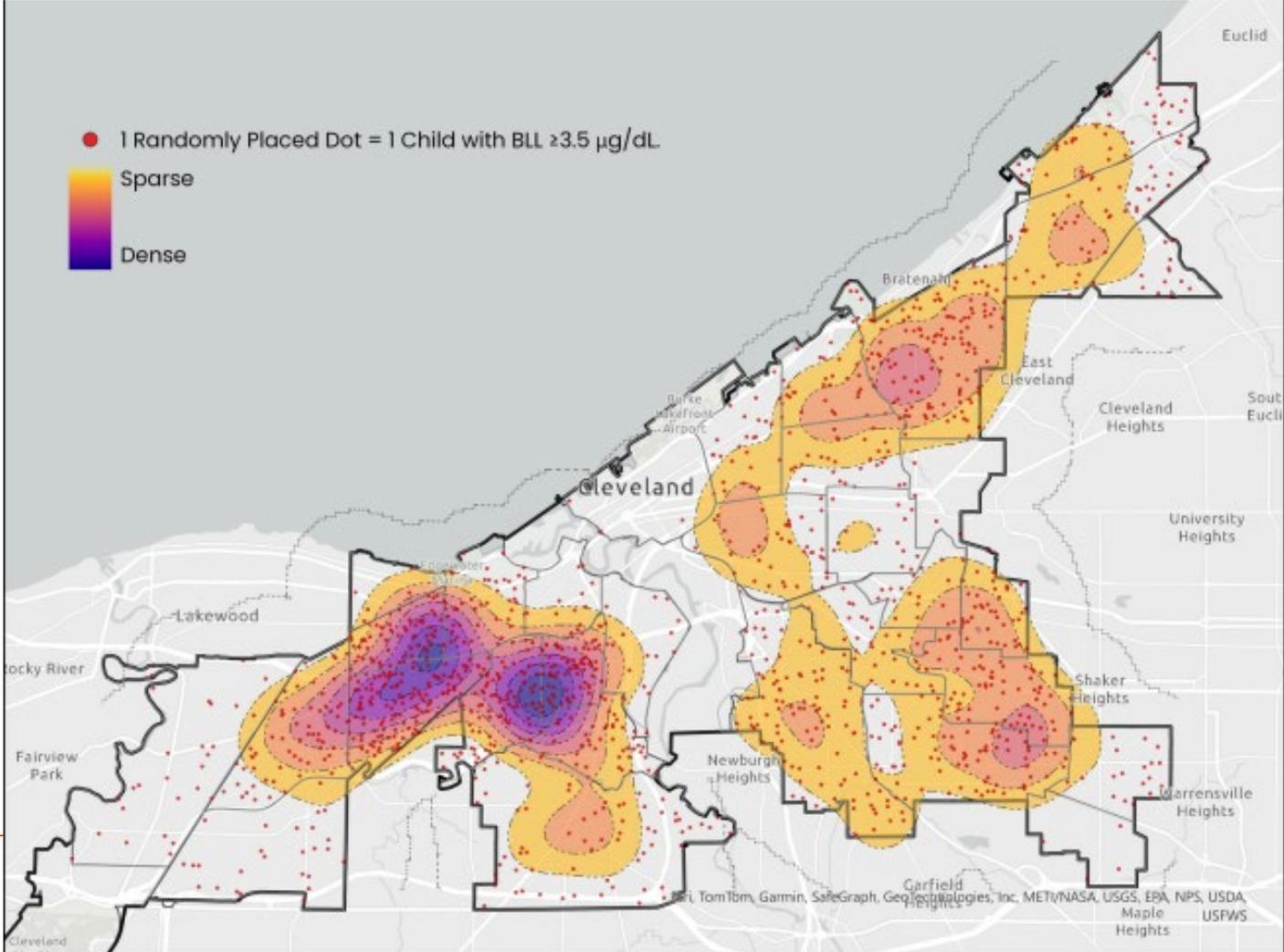


The number of children in wellness visits being tested for blood lead levels is increasing:

Our outcome metric increased to 75.0% in December from a baseline of 69.3%. Our goal is 79.0% by June 2026.



The homes that children grow up in are increasingly lead-safe:



Potential Changes to 2019 Lead Safe Law

Based on stakeholder engagement to date



Goals of Lead Safe Law Changes:

- **Increase the relative number of higher risk rental properties** going through the Lead Safe Certificate Process.
- **Increase the number of rental units that make home improvements** that address active lead hazards.
- **Decrease the number of required inspections for lower risk rental properties** that have done the right thing.



Amendment #1:

Must use form provided by the Director:

- (1) To obtain a lead-safe certification, an owner of a residential rental unit constructed prior to January 1, 1978, shall provide to the Director a copy of a clearance examination report or lead risk assessment, completed pursuant to applicable Ohio laws and rules, **and submitted on a template issued by the Director**, within 90 days prior to the date of submission evidencing that lead hazards were not identified in the unit.

Why? Consistency for Lead Inspectors and Reviewers.



Amendment #2:

Lead-based Paint Inspection Risk Assessment (LIRA) that is negative for lead-based paint or a negative clearance exam after abatement is completed - provides a *life-time of property* Lead Safe Certification. (rather than 20-year “exemption”)

- **New Jersey does not require ongoing lead inspections for:**
Dwellings that have been certified to be free of lead-based paint pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:17-3.16(b) either after an abatement is completed or an evaluation has confirmed that there is no lead-based paint in the dwelling.

Why? We want more property owners to choose this option. And New Jersey does it.



Amendment #3:

Multi-Unit Apartment Buildings built before 1978 that have been converted from commercial uses (office buildings; warehouses) to residential apartments require one submitted Lead Risk Assessment or Lead Hazard Screen with no lead hazards identified for *lifetime of property* certificate.

◆ “Commercial Conversions” or “Gut Rehabs” of multiunit apartment buildings have not been found to be the source of childhood lead poisoning in Cleveland.

**- Need to figure out how we would measure or confirm above.
(architect letter? General Contractor letter?)**



Amendment #4:

For pre-1960 Properties: a 3rd consecutive Lead Inspection showing no active lead hazards, would grant a *5-year* Lead Safe Certificate for the property.

◆ Reevaluation is generally not needed after: — Two consecutive reevaluations are conducted two years apart without finding a lead-based paint hazard; (<https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/lbph-07.pdf>) Section VII-B, Reevaluation Schedule.

- **However, HUD regulations and guidelines outline the need for *periodic reevaluations and ongoing maintenance.***



Amendment #5:

Properties built 1960 to 1978 require one submitted Lead Risk Assessment or Lead Hazard Screen with no lead hazards identified every 7 years.

◆ Per HUD guidelines, “only 11% of the U.S. housing built between 1960 and 1977 is estimated to have “significant” lead-based paint hazards compared to 39% of housing built in the period 1940-1959 and 67% of housing before 1940”; (<https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/lbph-07.pdf>) Page 5-12.

- **Of 343 Cleveland properties with a Lead Hazard Control order: 1 was built in 1953; 2 in 1944; 2 in 1941; 2 in 1940. 336 were built before 1940.**



Amendment #6:

Pre-1960 Rental properties found to have non-lead based paint window, door, and porch replacements documented on their Lead Risk Assessment submission, and no active lead hazards, will be granted a *7-year* Lead Safe Certificate.

◆ Windows, Doors, Porches are the most likely source of lead paint dust per HUD – if those components have all been replaced, risk of lead poisoning is lower and property owner is rewarded for home improvement with extended interval.

**- Need to figure out how we would measure or confirm above.
(photos of each component?)**



Other amendment considerations?

- **Extend timeline to address active Lead Hazards?** *Current language gives 90 days from date of inspection to submission to address lead hazards and submit report.*
- *Clarify Lead Risk Assessment versus Clearance requirement for Lead Safe Certificate – law already states “per State and Federal Guidelines” which is our current standard.*



Goal of Lead Safe Law Changes:

- Increase the number of higher risk rental properties going through the Lead Safe Certificate Process.
- Increase the number of rental units that make home improvements that address active lead hazards.

Changes recommended so far:	Why?
1) Standard Template	- Better reports – better review
2) Lifetime for abated properties (neg LIRA or clearance after completed abatement or LRA in “commercial conversion”) 3) Extended interval for low-risk properties: a) 1960 – 1978 with negative LRA b) 3 negative lead inspections c) Replaced high-risk components	- Incentivize doing the right thing through longer intervals. - More time for our teams to spend on higher-risk properties.





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Questions?

