

# Fact Sheet on Lead and SB 117

## Lead:

- Lead is highly toxic to humans, especially young children.
- Lead can affect a child's mental and physical growth.
- Lead severely affects the nervous system and can cause brain damage and death.
- Lead poisoning is Ohio's largest preventable environmental health threat to children.
- Ohio has up to 2.7 million housing units containing lead-based paint. Over 1.5 million of these were built before 1950.
- 36% of Ohio's children under six years live in these possibly hazardous homes.
- Most children are exposed to lead through lead contaminated dust and deteriorating lead-based paint.

Information courtesy of the Ohio CDC Association

## SB 117:

- Proposes a radical change to Ohio's long-standing public nuisance law. The amendment would require all nuisance cases to be brought under the products liability statute.
- Will take away an important deterrent to harming human health. Because the public nuisance statute allows for civil liability claims, it helps to prevent industrial facilities from exposing people to dangerous emissions to the air, land, and water.
- Will have a chilling effect on individuals to hold manufacturers accountable for injuries they may cause from the production of harmful products and byproducts.
- Will shift the burden from government agencies to individuals, families and cash-strapped cities to hold manufacturers accountable from injuries caused by a dangerous substance that puts the public's health at risk from a public nuisance.
- Is not limited to injuries caused by exposure to lead paint, alone. SB 117 provisions could be applied to an injury caused by a public nuisance that may

expose individuals to any harmful substance, such as the chemical C-8, which is used in the manufacture of certain non-stick coating products and which the EPA has confirmed has fouled drinking water supplies in part of Southeast Ohio.

**Information courtesy of the Ohio Environmental Council**