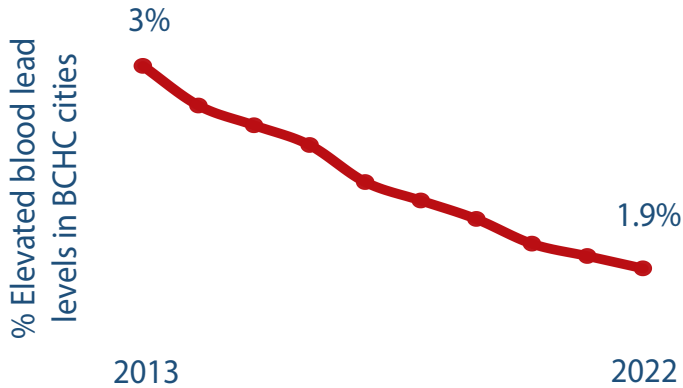
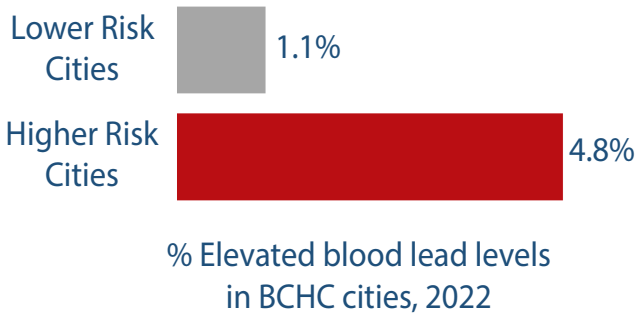


# CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING IN BIG CITIES

New data from the [Big Cities Health Inventory](#), an open-source platform providing health metrics for the 34 large U.S. cities that comprise the [Big Cities Health Coalition \(BCHC\)](#)



IN BIG CITIES, FROM 2013 TO 2022, CHILDHOOD ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS DECREASED BY MORE THAN 35%.\*

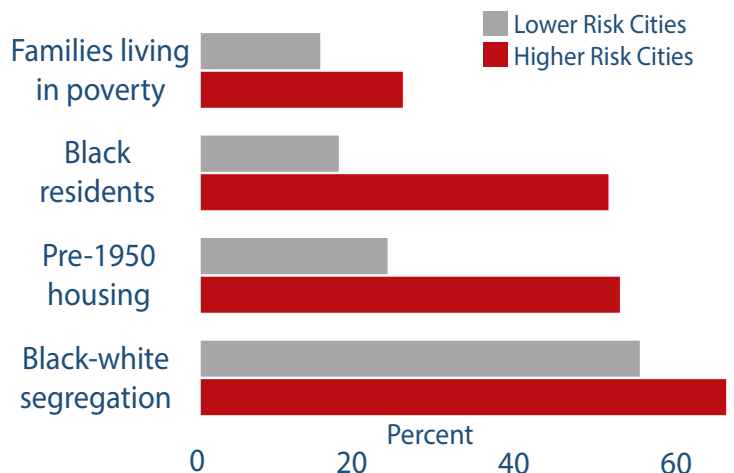


DESPITE SUCCESSES IN REDUCING CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING, THERE ARE WIDE DISPARITIES BETWEEN CITIES.

In 2022, elevated blood levels were 4X higher in some big cities ("higher risk" cities) compared to other cities.\*\*

## LONG-STANDING STRUCTURAL RACISM AND INEQUITIES IN SAFE HOUSING AND WEALTH UNDERLIE HIGHER LEAD LEVELS.

Cities with higher lead poisoning had much higher proportions of older housing and poverty, as well as Black residents and residential segregation.



\* For this infographic, percent of elevated blood lead refers to levels  $\geq 5$  micrograms per deciliter among ages  $< 6$  tested for lead. Blood lead  $\geq 5$  micrograms per deciliter was the blood lead level reference value that CDC used from 2012 to 2021.

\*\* Higher risk cities refer to five BCHC cities that consistently had the highest proportions of children with elevated levels: Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Milwaukee.

For more data on childhood lead poisoning in big cities, visit [bigcitieshealthdata.org](https://bigcitieshealthdata.org).