

# Sustainable Resources Center, Inc.

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## SRC Mission

To create healthy and efficient homes, in partnership  
with families and communities

## Programs

- Low Income Weatherization in suburban and rural Hennepin County
- Lead Hazard Control in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, primarily Minneapolis
- Lead Poisoning Prevention throughout Minnesota
- Training in lead safety and healthy homes
- Home performance solutions – diagnosis and interventions

*SRC staff worked in the homes of over 1000 low income families in 2011*

# Health in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century



*“The connection between health and the dwelling of the population is one of the most important that exists.”*

*- Florence Nightingale*

Cited in Lowry, S, BMJ, 1991, 303, 838-840

- Challenge of Tuberculosis, Typhoid, Cholera Seemed Insurmountable
- Lessons for Public Health Officials, Architects & Planners: Light, Fresh Air, Reduce Crowding , Improve Sanitation
- With Improved Living Conditions & Medical Interventions, Disease Rates Declined
- Most of the Increase in Life Expectancy in the Last 100 Years (25 of 30 years) is Due to Public Health Measures, *Not* Medical Treatment

# Principles of Healthy and Efficient Homes



**DRY**  
**PEST FREE**  
**CONTAMINANT FREE**  
**WELL VENTILATED**  
**WELL MAINTAINED**  
**SAFE**  
**CLEAN**  
**ENERGY EFFICIENT**

# The Impact of Unhealthy Housing



- American Spend 90% of Their Time Indoors
- An Estimated 450,000 Children Have Blood Lead Levels Exceeding CDC's Level of Concern
- Asthma costs \$10.1 Billion in Direct Medical Expenses yearly
- An Estimated 40% of New Asthma Cases are Attributed to Home Exposures
- Each Year, 13 Million are Injured, 11,000 Die From Unintentional Injuries in the Home

# The Impact of Unhealthy Housing



- Each Year, Nearly 10,000 People Visit the Emergency Department for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Annual Cost of Environmentally Attributable Childhood Diseases = \$54.9 Billion
- In 2011 at least 544 Children in Minnesota were Lead Poisoned
- The Impact of Childhood Lead Exposure in Minnesota Includes Loss of Lifetime Productivity, Health Care Costs & Special Education Costs that have been estimated at \$1.2 Billion per year.

# Lead



- Lead Poisoning Can Damage the Brain, Nervous System and Kidneys in Both Children and Adults
- Even Small Amounts of Lead Can Create Permanent Developmental Problems in Children, Including:

*Reduced IQ*

*Learning Disabilities*

*Behavior Problems*

CDC has concluded there is no safe level of blood lead for young children

# Lead



- Lead in Dust is the Most Common Way People are Exposed to Lead
- Windows with Old Paint are a Major Lead Source and Potentially Dangerous to Both Children and Adults,
- An Estimated 85% of Homes in Minneapolis Contain Hazardous Lead Level

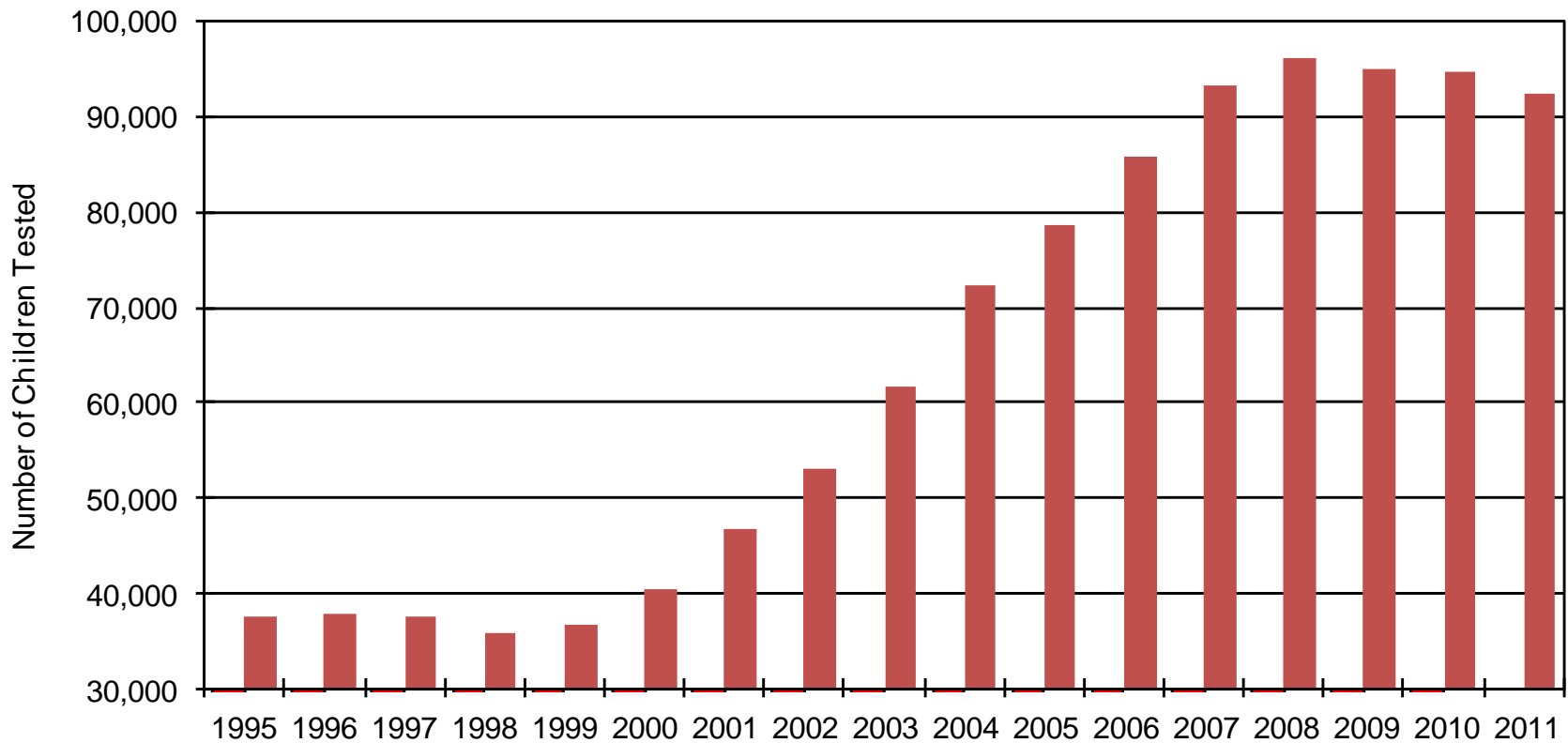
# Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention is a Cross-Sector Public Health Success Story in Minnesota



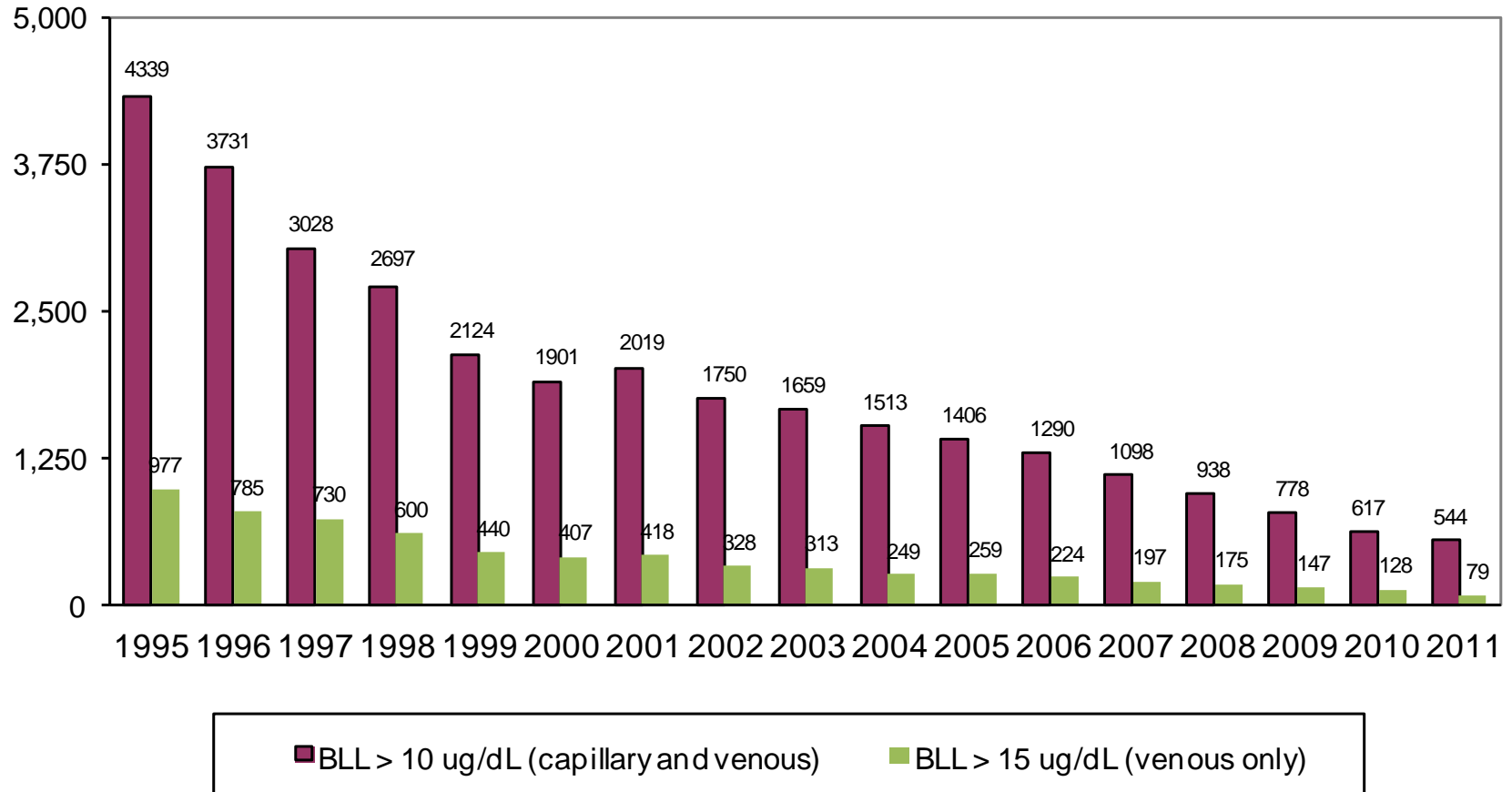
- Federal, State and Local Governments
- Health Providers
- Health Plans
- Community Organizations
- Contractors
- Building owners



# Number of Children Tested (Less than 6 Years of Age)



# Number of children with elevated blood lead levels



# Lead Poisoning Prevention is a Cross Sector Success Story



- Minnesota Department of Health – convening, standards for lead work and workers, monitoring, education, lead hazard control, guidance for the public, licensing
- Local Public Health – required to respond to BLL's over 15 mg/dL, may intervene at lower levels
- Local Governments – funding, program operations

Minneapolis and Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis Counties have completed lead hazard control in 4600 housing units with HUD and local funds

## Lead Poisoning Prevention is a Cross Sector Success Story



- Health Plans – hold back of capitation for performance measures (proportion of children tested)
- Health Clinics – new guidelines, referrals, education
- Community Organizations – outreach, education, risk assessment, lead hazard control, training
- Contractors – lead hazard control, clearance
- Federal Government

HUD: Standards for Lead Safe housing, funds for lead hazard control

CDC: Funding for statewide planning, organizing, monitoring, technical assistance

# Home Safety and Public Safety



- Injuries and fires in the home have a big impact on Fire, Police, and Emergency Services
- Great Britain – ROI on fall prevention
- Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department – Inspection, Investigation, Education
  - Home inspections averaging 208 per year for ten years
  - Public education in homes, schools, community organizations
  - Population up 18%, fire calls down 9%
  - Other Anoka County Departments calls are up over 17%

# Connecting the Dots on Public Costs & Benefits



- Families in Unhealthy Housing Conditions are More Likely to be Poor, to be Ill, to Miss School, & to be Enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs
- The Current Costs of Unhealthy Housing are Imbedded in Health & Education Expenses
- The Future Costs Will Be Seen in Increased Medical Expenses, Lost Productivity & Reduced Incomes