Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Global Elimination of Lead Paint

Through Establishing Lead Paint Laws

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Lead is Poisonous

- Lead is harmful to health, especially for children
- Life-long consequences in children including cognitive and behavioral deficits
- Globally lead in paint is the major source of childhood exposure
- There is no safe level of exposure to lead

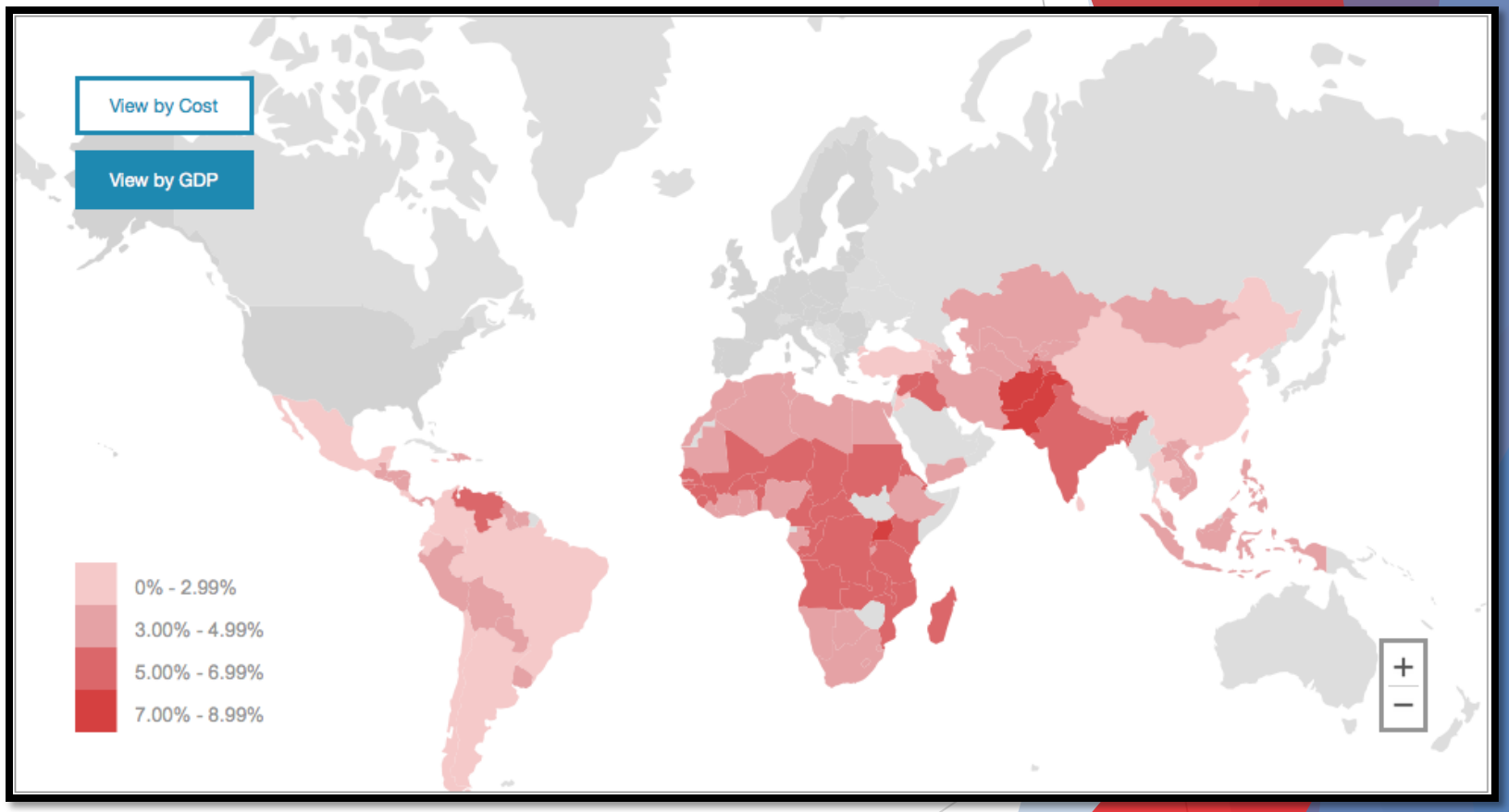
Lead Poisoning's Health and Economic Costs

- Exposure to lead has permanent negative impacts to children's developing brains.
- Lifelong consequences are borne by the affected children, their families, and societies at large.
- One key impact: reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ), which can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential.

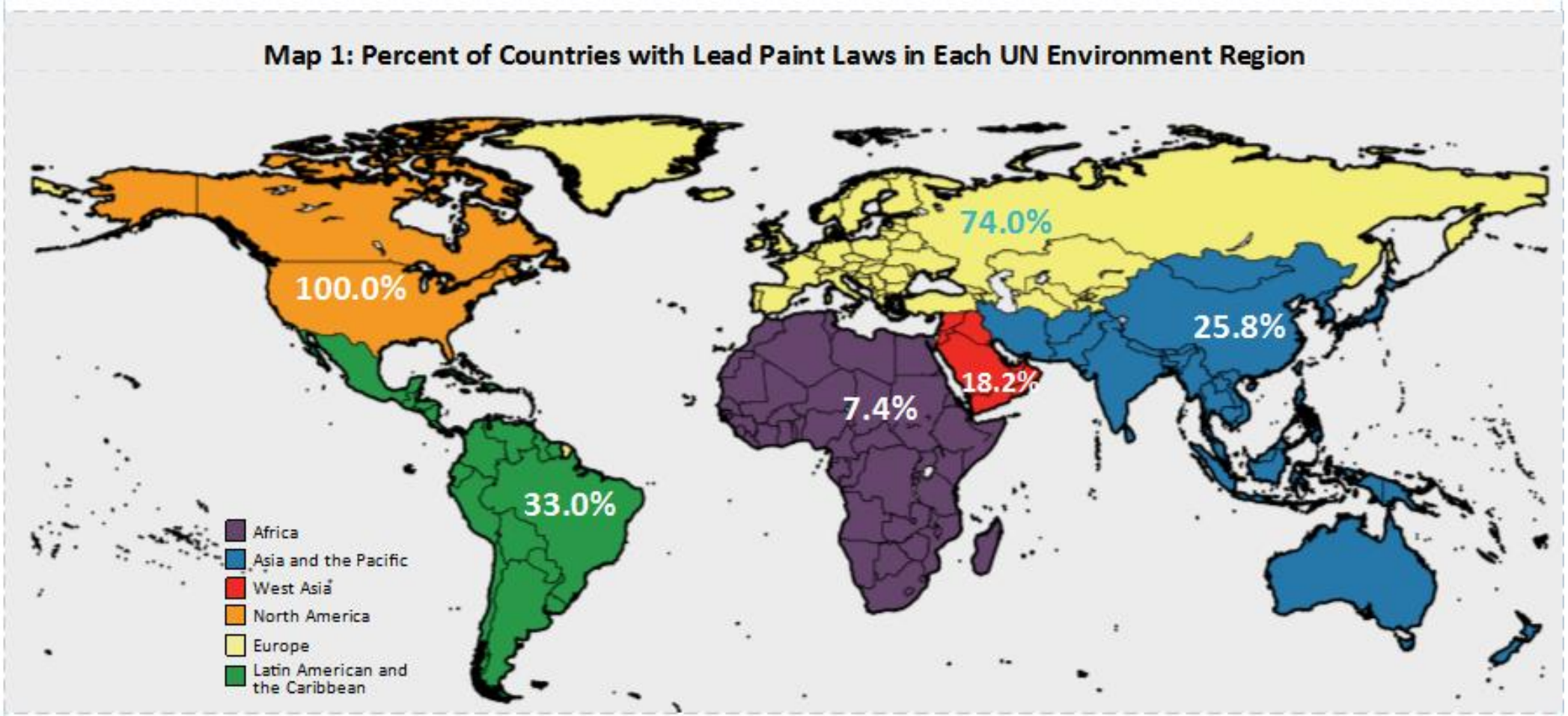
Individual Children -> Global and National Costs

NYU School of Medicine
NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER

- Children's exposure to lead from all sources has staggering economic costs for countries
- $977 billion in cost for low and middle-income countries from children's lost IQ



http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/leadexposure



Source: WHO 2017

About the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

- Lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary global public/ private partnership
- Secretariat: UNEP and WHO
- Chair of Advisory Council: US EPA
- Partners: Governments, NGOs and Industry
- Alliance is modeled on successful Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles efforts to eliminate lead in gasoline globally

Global Citizens
Earth Day 2015

Goal: Establish laws globally

Action Needed: Lead Paint Laws

- The developed world banned lead in paint in 1970s and ‘80s.
- In most of the developing world, lead paint is still legal
- Lead compounds added to paints to improve drying time and color brightness
- Alternative paints without added lead are affordable and widely available
- Voluntary labeling of paints is not a solution
- Industry and governments agree: Solution is enacting lead paint laws in countries worldwide – 90 ppm limit (US Law)

Key Activities of Lead Paint Alliance

- Encourage countries and regions to establish and enforce lead paint laws.
- Encourage governments to join the Lead Paint Alliance to support the ***global effort to establish lead paint laws to ban Lead in Paint by 2020***.
- Provide information and tools:
  - Model Law and Guidance
  - Information about health and economic impacts, alternatives to lead paint, testing
- available at:

www.unep.org/noleadinpaint

Lead Paint Laws: Progress and Momentum

- Only about one third of countries have lead paint laws or standards in place
  - Recent laws: Cameroon, Paraguay, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand
  - Most recent countries with 90 ppm legal limit
- Many countries/regions are working toward lead paint laws - most to set a 90 ppm total lead limit:
  - Bangladesh, Cambodia, Caribbean Community, East African Community, Indonesia, Economic Community of West African States, Eurasian Economic Union

Model Lead Paint Law: Reasons

- Governments were requesting guidance from UNEP on what laws to develop
- Industry and NGOs also supported the development of the model law
- In response UNEP developed a lead paint model law
- Laws only effective way to eliminate lead paint
  - Countries with laws have low levels of lead in paint
- Removes the market for lead paint by reducing demand – law prohibits import of lead paint
- Reduces trade barriers through consistent standards
- Provides clear benefits to citizens – economic and health impacts well known
- Can be adapted to country regulatory frameworks
- Simple to Implement

Model Lead Paint Law: Key Features

- Low concentration limit for lead in paint (90 ppm total lead)
- Applies to all types of paints (consumer and industrial uses)
- Provisions for effective compliance and enforcement

THANK YOU!