

Global Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint

# Eliminating Childhood Exposure to Lead Paint

## Overview of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

*Walker B. Smith*

*Director, Office of Global Affairs and Policy,*

*US Environmental Protection Agency*

*Chair of the Lead Paint Alliance*



# Lead is Poisonous

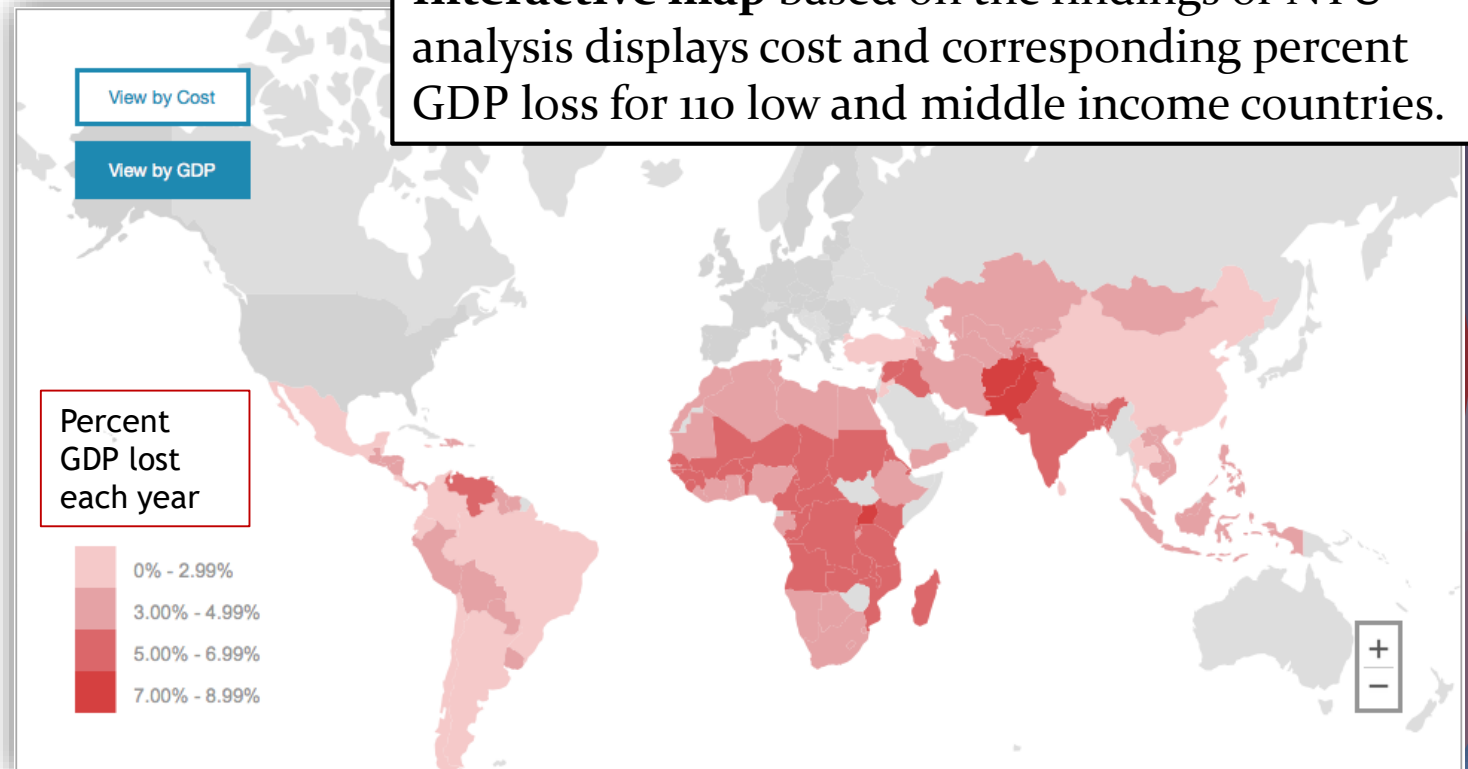
- Lead is harmful to health, especially for children
- Life-long consequences in children including serious and irreversible neurological damage and behavioral problems
- Globally lead in paint is the major source of childhood exposure
- There is no safe level of exposure to lead



# High Cost of Lead Poisoning

- Reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ) can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential.
- Children's exposure to lead from all sources has staggering economic costs for countries.
- \$977 billion cost for low and middle-income countries from children's lost IQ.

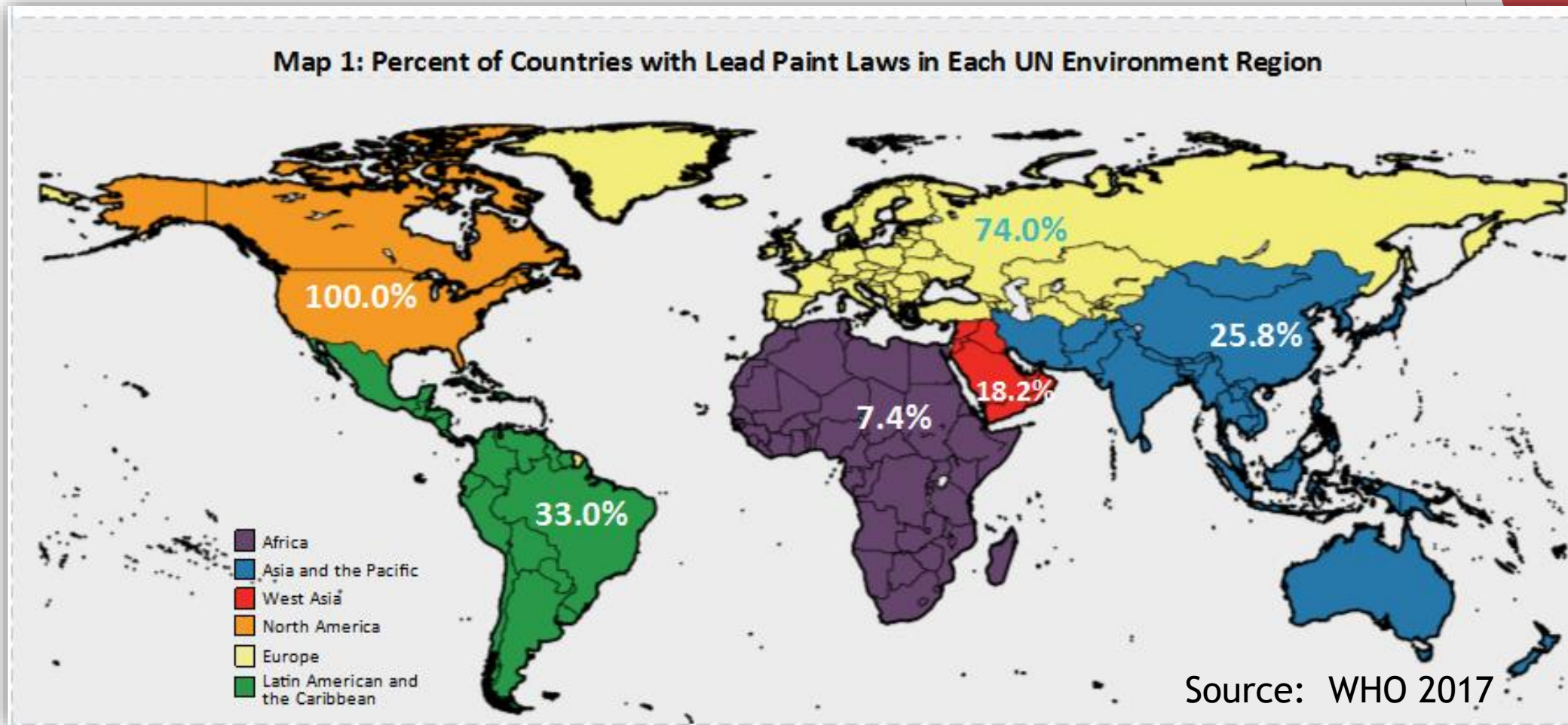
**Interactive map** based on the findings of NYU analysis displays cost and corresponding percent GDP loss for 110 low and middle income countries.



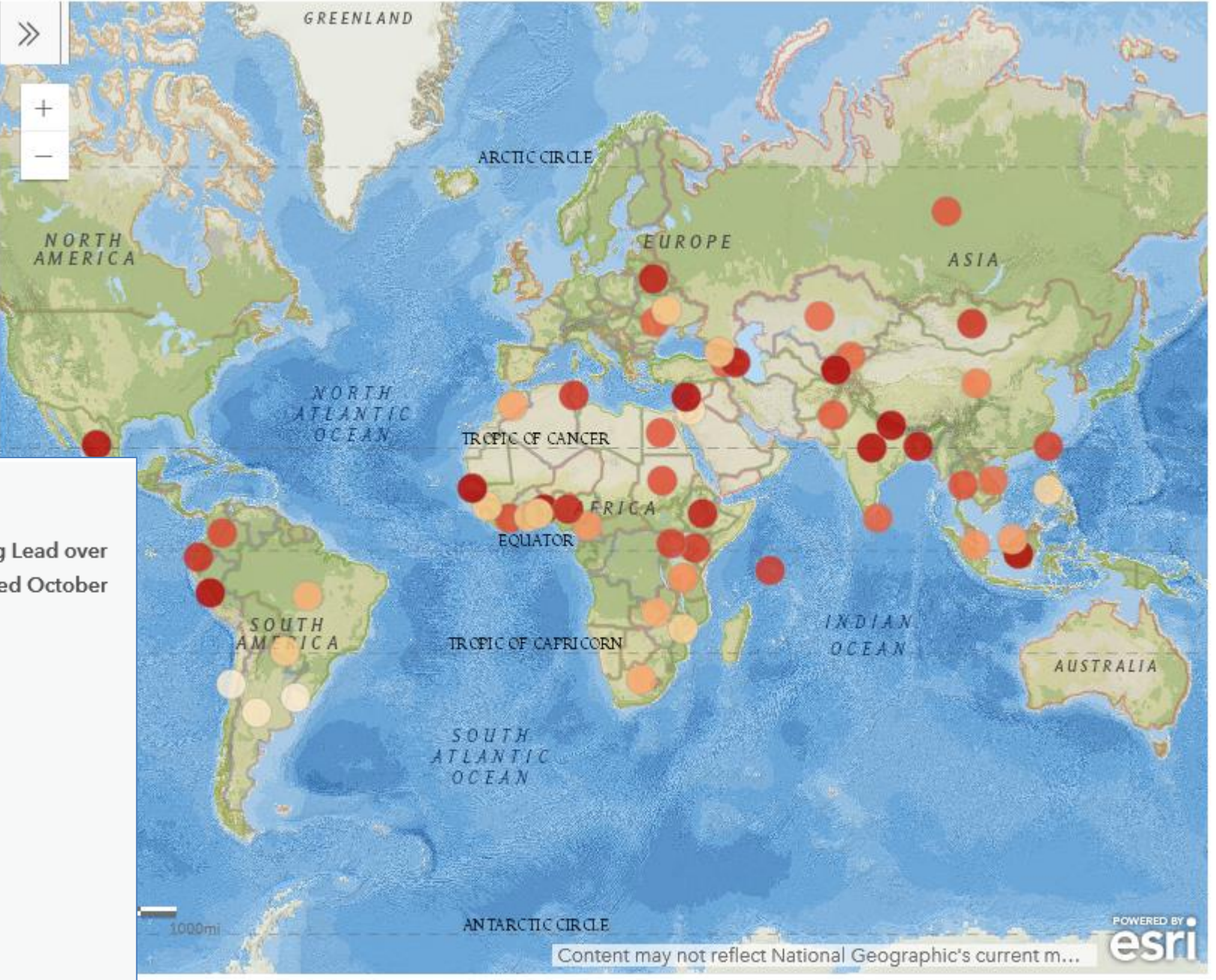
**Source:**

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

# Only 30% of countries have laws



# Lead Paint Levels are High Around the World



Content may not reflect National Geographic's current m...



# About the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

- ▶ Lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary global partnership
- ▶ Launched by SAICM resolution in 2009
- ▶ 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 Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint

Global Citizens  
Earth Day 2015



**Goal: Establish  
laws globally**

# Key Activities of Lead Paint Alliance

- ▶ The Alliance developed an Action Plan for 2017-2018
  - ▶ Main goal is to encourage countries to establish and enforce lead paint laws
  - ▶ Also encourages industry activities, awareness raising and increasing the number of Alliance partners
- ▶ Providing information and tools:
  - Model Law and Guidance on Regulating Lead Paint
  - Regulatory toolkit, which includes information about health and economic impacts, alternatives to lead paint, paint testing methods

# Recent Momentum on Lead Paint



- ▶ Model Law and Guidance
- ▶ UNEP 2017 Global Status Update on Laws
- ▶ WHO Global Map on Status of Lead Paint Laws
- ▶ Other Materials and Tools
  - ▶ UNEA3 Commitment model language
  - ▶ World Health Assembly Roadmap Chemicals Roadmap (May 2017) - calls for action on lead paint
  - ▶ NYU Map of Economic Impacts of Childhood Lead Poisoning (NYU School of Medicine)
  - ▶ IPEN Global Map of Lead Paint Testing Data
  - ▶ American Bar Association Resolution on Lead Paint





# Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint

- ▶ Governments requested guidance on a model for developing lead paint laws
- ▶ Industry and NGOs also supported the development of the model law
- ▶ UN Environment developed the law with help from WHO, EPA and other Lead Paint Alliance partners
- ▶ 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
  - ▶ Simple to implement

# Key Ongoing and Future Activities

- ▶ EPA training of Environment, Science, Technology and Health officers in US Embassies by region (ongoing)
- ▶ Annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (since 2013)
- ▶ UNEA3
  - ▶ Science Forum Session on Lead Paint
  - ▶ Government, NGO, industry UNEA3 commitments
  - ▶ USG Resolution on lead paint (Argentina co-sponsoring)
- ▶ World Bank Report (March 2018 TBC)
- ▶ Current regional efforts
  - ▶ West Africa - draft regional waste strategy includes lead paint
  - ▶ Caribbean - UN Environment / EPA / ABA Launch of Model Law in Jamaica
  - ▶ Central and Eastern Europe - US Department of Commerce Standards Officials Project and Eurasian Economic Union lead paint technical regulation
- ▶ Global Environment Facility Project on Lead Paint (2018-2020)

# International Lead Paint Resources

- ▶ Lead Paint Alliance: <http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/technology-and-metals/lead/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint>
- ▶ USEPA Lead Paint Alliance site: <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/epa-leadership-lead-paint-alliance>
- ▶ WHO Map of Lead Paint Laws: [http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical\\_safety/lead\\_paint\\_regulations/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/)
- ▶ World Health Assembly Chemicals Roadmap: <http://www.who.int/ipcs/saicm/roadmap/en/>
- ▶ Economic Impact of Childhood Lead Poisoning: [http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/lead\\_exposure](http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/lead_exposure)
- ▶ Map of Levels of Lead in Paint: <http://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/lead-levels-paint-around-world>
- ▶ American Bar Association Resolution on Lead Paint: <https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/abanews/2017%20Annual%20Resolutions/109B.pdf>