

Overview of Lead Paint Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean

SAICM GEF Lead Paint Project

Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean

12 June 2019

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**Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint**



Outline

- ▶ Economic Costs of Childhood Lead Exposures
- ▶ Status of Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ▶ Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean

Childhood Lead Exposure Results in Economic Costs

- ▶ Childhood lead exposure to lead (from all sources) has staggering economic costs
 - ▶ Reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ), can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential
- ▶ \$977 billion annual cost (worldwide) to low and middle-income countries from children's lost IQ
 - ▶ **Latin America and the Caribbean**
 - ▶ **\$142 billion**
 - ▶ **1 - 5% of countries' GDP**



Individual Country Results

A full report by NYU researchers is available online and by request.

Country	Annual Cost (billion \$)	% GDP
Argentina	9.78	1
Belize	51.6	2
Bolivia	1.7	3
Brazil	33	1
Chile	6.45	2
Colombia	8.91	2
Costa Rica	1.33	2
Dominican Republic	3.15	3
Ecuador	2.46	2
El Salvador	1.31	3
Guatemala	3.29	4
Guyana	0.0723	3

Country	Annual Cost (billion \$)	% GDP
Haiti	0.44	4
Honduras	1.2	4
Jamaica	0.387	2
Mexico	32.6	2
Nicaragua	0.623	4
Panama	1.61	3
Paraguay	1.26	4
Peru	10.7	4
Suriname	0.123	3
Uruguay	1.34	3
Venezuela	20.4	5

Status of Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean

- ▶ In the Caribbean only Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago have lead paint laws.
- ▶ In Latin America Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay have lead paint laws.
- ▶ Paraguay and Ecuador have voluntary standards



Source: WHO Database

Status of Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean

- ▶ Brazil, Mexico and Argentina are in the process of revising their existing laws (to reduce from 600 to 90 ppm)
- ▶ Colombia is working on a non-legally binding technical standard



Source: WHO Database

Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean

- ▶ **October 2016:** Paint manufacturing associations in Latin America co-sponsored two workshops in Colombia in partnership with the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC).
 - ▶ Encouraged the elimination of lead additives from paint through best industry practices

Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws *(cont.)*

- ▶ **December 2017:** A Caribbean Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint took place at the Norman Manley Law School (University of the West Indies) in Kingston, Jamaica.
 - ▶ UN Environment Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and Office for North America co-sponsored the event.
 - ▶ Convened key stakeholders from Jamaica and the region to learn about the laws in the region, introduce the UN Environment's Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint, and to develop next steps for establishing a law in Jamaica.

Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws *(cont.)*

- ▶ **October 2018:** The XXI Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held 9-12 October 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Forum adopted the Latin America and the Caribbean “Action plan for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management” for 2019-2020
 - ▶ Reflects the priority technical cooperation activities for the region over the next two years.
 - ▶ Includes a focus on raising awareness about the dangers of lead and the status of laws on lead paint in the region.

Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws *(cont.)*

- ▶ **October 2018:** UN Environment Latin American and the Caribbean Office hosted a webinar entitled, Regulating Lead Paint: Overview in the LAC Region and the Experience of Brazil during International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW).
 - ▶ US EPA presented on global and regional efforts to regulate lead paint
 - ▶ The Department of Environmental Quality and Waste Management of Brazil presented about the updates to their existing lead paint law.
 - ▶ Attended by government, industry and NGO representatives from all over the region.

Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws *(cont.)*

- ▶ **GEF-IWEco Project** – The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States Project (GEF-IWEco Project) is a five-year regional project that builds upon the work of previous initiatives, to address water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change.
 - ▶ Includes components geared towards addressing lead in paint.