

# Protecting More Montgomery County Babies from Lead Poisoning

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# For 20+ Years PCCY Has Been Engaged in Lead Poisoning Prevention

- ▶ Facilitates the 25 member-strong Lead Free Philly Coalition and a new Delaware County Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition
- ▶ Advocated for the passage of Philadelphia's lead law (2012)
- ▶ Steering committee member of the National Safe and Healthy Homes Coalition of the National Center for Healthy Homes (NCHH)
- ▶ Published numerous reports on lead

# Harnessing Montco Assets Now!

- ▶ Multitude of private, non-profit organizations working with families
- ▶ County and state government
- ▶ Private and public funders
- ▶ National and state SPOTLIGHT on lead



# Housing Stock

**Lead-based paint hazards are the main source of childhood lead poisoning.** In 1978, lead-based paint was finally banned for residential use.

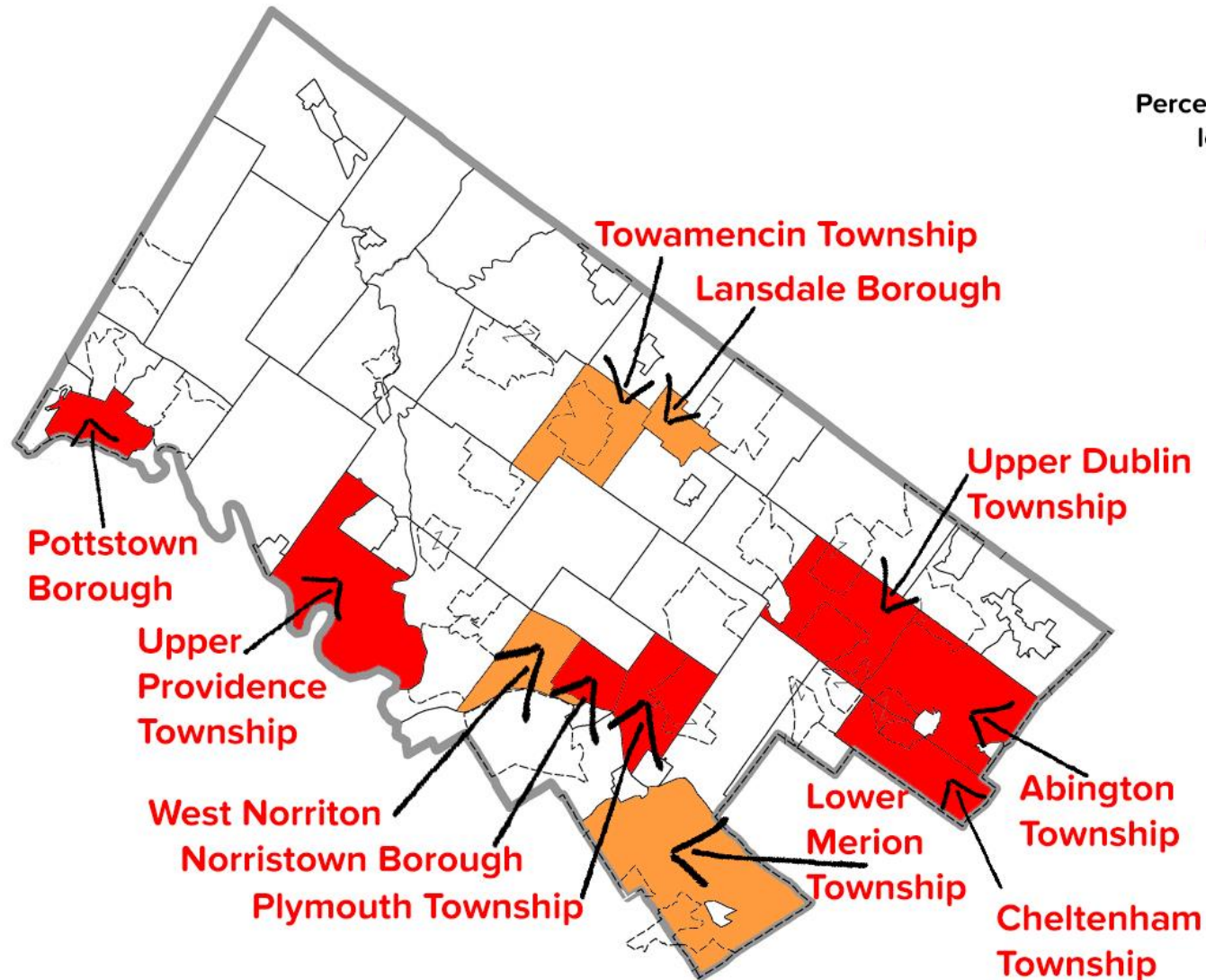
- ▶ In Montgomery County: 65% of housing units were built before 1980.

**Rental properties poison more children across the nation.**

- ▶ In Montgomery County: nearly 4,000 rental properties built before 1980 have children 6 and younger living in them.

**Where are these properties?**

## Seven Montgomery County Municipalities Hardest Hit By Lead



### Legend:

Percent of children tested with a blood lead level greater than or equal to 5 mcg/dL from 2005 to 2015:

Red = 10% - 40% in 3 – 13 census tracts in the municipality

Orange = 10% - 30% in 2 census

Data source: The share of children poisoned is cumulative from 2005 to 2015. The map data is from a Reuters story published in 2016 with census tract-level data for Pennsylvania children tested for lead and children with elevated blood lead levels greater than or equal to 5 mcg/dL. The article is available here: <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-lead-testing/>.

# Poisoned Children

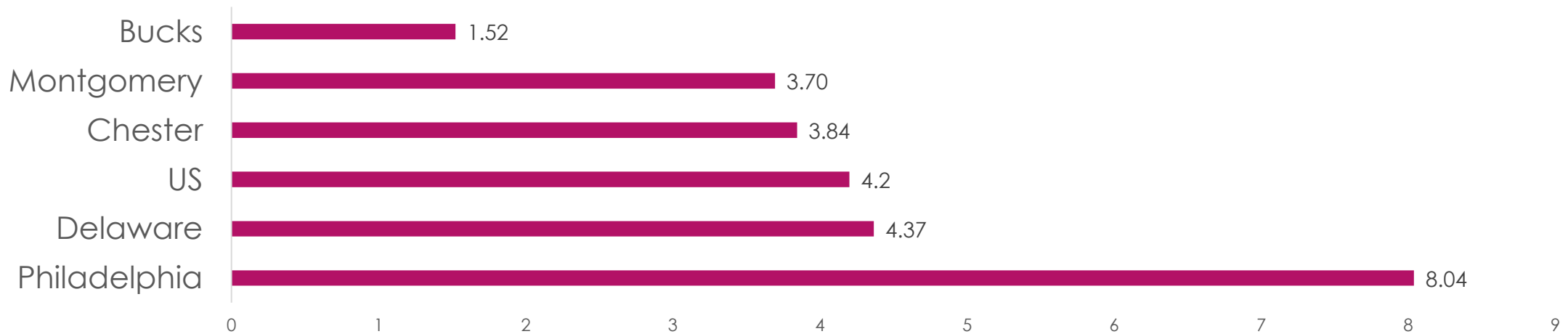
Approx. 350 Children Under 6 Tested for Lead are Poisoned Every Year in Montgomery County

| Year | Number of Children with Blood Lead Level $\geq$ 5 mcg/dL |
|------|--|
| 2015 | 344  |
| 2016 | 364  |
| 2017 | 334  |

Enough children are poisoned to fill 18 kindergarten classrooms every year.

# Poisoned Children

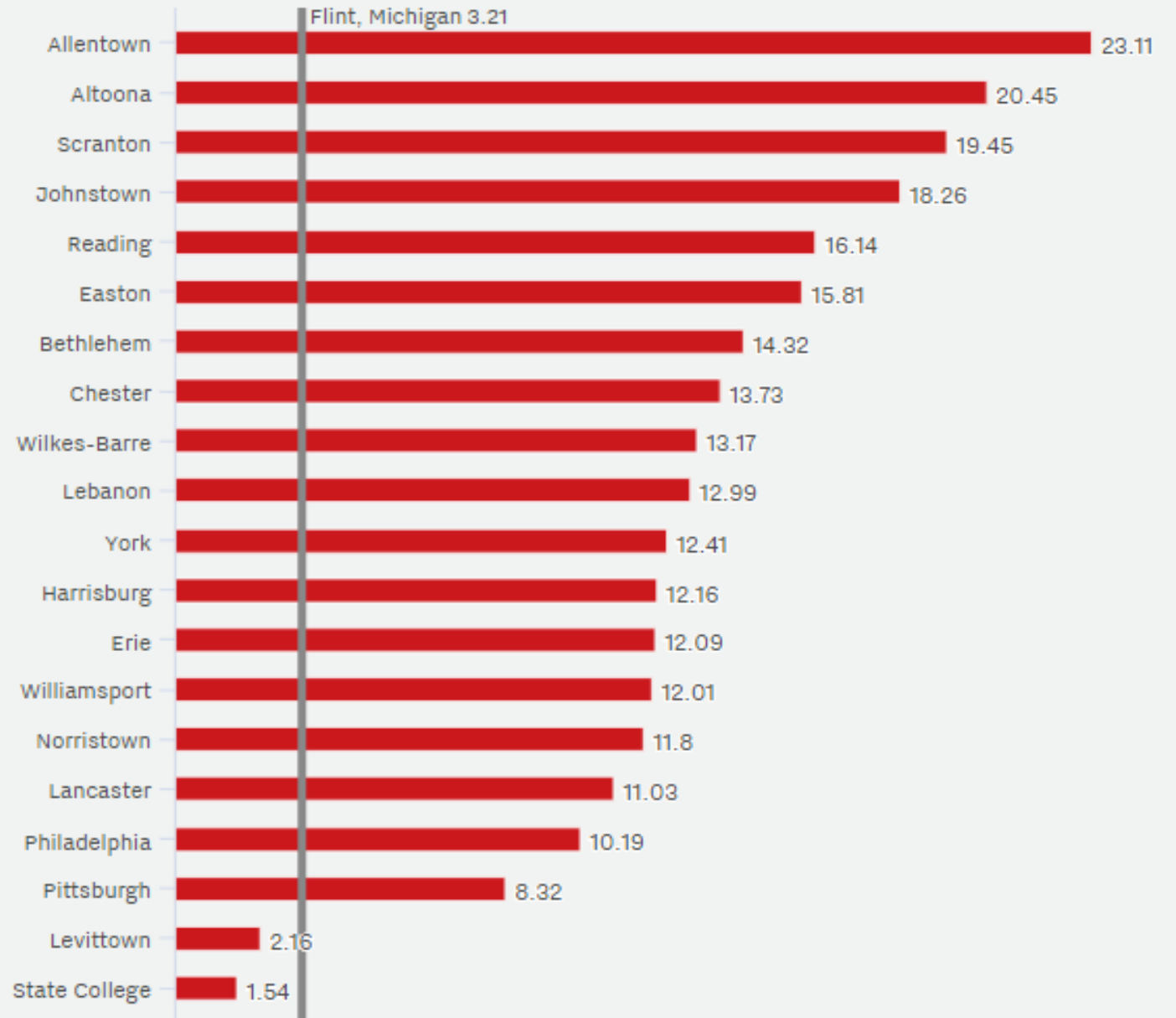
Montgomery County's Lead Poisoning Rate Is Lower Than the National Average and is Fourth Highest Among the Five SEPA Counties in 2017



Norristown had more than 3x as many poisoned children compared to Flint, Michigan in 2014

Note: Graph measures children under 7 years old.

● Elevated BLLs  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  as % of children tested



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2014  
Credit: Sarah Frostenson



# Children Tested in 2017

- ▶ Children on Medicaid and CHIP are required to be tested twice at ages 1 and 2.
- ▶ A total of 5,356 children under 2 were tested once, but we don't know their insurance type.
- ▶ Approx. 6,162 children under 2 are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP and should have been tested at least once.

|  | Medicaid | CHIP   |
|--|----------|--------|
| Number of Montco kids enrolled under 2 (0-23 mos)                    | 5,162    | 1,000  |
| Average share of Pennsylvania children tested at least once by age 2 | 80.12%   | 60.37% |

# Screening Mandate: Philadelphia

## Example

- ▶ In 2016, 74% of Philadelphia children received at least one lead screening test by two years old.
- ▶ Only 28% of children born in 2014 received a screening test at age 1 and 2 – and 45% received two screening tests by age 3.

# Health Partners: Unduplicated Children Tested For Lead Ages 9 mos – 6 yrs old in 2018

**\* IMPO: DATA ON MANDATED TESTING REQUIREMENT OF TESTS AT 1 AND 2 NOT YET AVAILABLE \***

|              |            | BUCKS |          | CHESTER |          | DELAWARE |          | MONTGOMERY |          | PHILADELPHIA |          | All Counties                |
|--------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|--------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Age Tested   | Age in Yrs | CHIP  | Medicaid | CHIP    | Medicaid | CHIP     | Medicaid | CHIP       | Medicaid | CHIP         | Medicaid | *Unique Member Count Totals |
| 9-11 Months  | 0          | 2     | 83       | 0       | 13       | 1        | 31       | 1          | 54       | 6            | 1,952    | 2,143                       |
| 12-23 Months | 0          | 1     | 12       | 0       | 2        | 0        | 1        | 0          | 6        | 1            | 109      | 132                         |
|              | 1          | 2     | 74       | 1       | 9        | 3        | 98       | 10         | 72       | 21           | 2,552    | 2,842                       |
| 24-72 Months | 2          | 6     | 49       | 3       | 9        | 6        | 50       | 6          | 30       | 29           | 1,789    | 1,977                       |
|              | 3          | 5     | 27       | 2       | 9        | 2        | 33       | 5          | 38       | 13           | 1,196    | 1,330                       |
|              | 4          | 2     | 14       | 0       | 5        | 3        | 28       | 11         | 27       | 20           | 972      | 1,082                       |
|              | 5          | 0     | 8        | 0       | 3        | 3        | 18       | 1          | 18       | 14           | 719      | 784                         |
|              | 6          | 0     | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 0        | 1            | 19       | 21                          |
| Total        |            | 18    | 265      | 6       | 49       | 17       | 256      | 35         | 239      | 102          | 9,025    | 10,012                      |

# Goals to consider:

## Primary Prevention:

- ▶ Get lead hazards out of children's homes before they are poisoned.
- ▶ Advocate for lead hazard remediation funding for low-income home owners – especially rental property owners.

## Secondary Prevention:

- ▶ Prioritize testing more babies at 1 and 2 years old who are most at risk and currently mandated to be tested - aka kids on Medicaid and CHIP.
- ▶ Strengthen coordination among health and social service providers to connect more poisoned children to housing remediation, Early Intervention, health care and other resources.

# Strategy 1: Identify and remediate rental properties with hazards before babies poisoned

## Local Strategy:

- ▶ Inform municipal officials about their powers to enact ordinances requiring rental licenses and testing properties
- ▶ Engage municipal officials to advocate for lead remediation funding

# Lead Hotspot Municipalities & Current Rental Housing Regulations

| Municipality     | Property Maintenance Code | Rental Licensing Requirement | Rental Inspection |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Abington         | X                         |                              |                   |
| Cheltenham       | X                         | X                            |                   |
| Lansdale         | X                         | X                            | X                 |
| Lower Merion     | X                         | X                            | X                 |
| Norristown       | X                         | X                            | X (optional)      |
| Plymouth         | X                         | X                            | X                 |
| Pottstown        | X                         | X                            | X                 |
| Towamencin       | X                         | X                            | X                 |
| Upper Dublin     | X                         | X                            |                   |
| Upper Providence | X                         | X                            | X                 |
| West Norriton    | X                         | X                            | X                 |

# Breaking News! New State-Wide Rental Property Strategy

- ▶ State senate advisory committee released a 400+ page report on lead poisoning.
- ▶ Committee comprised of legislators (3 R's and 3 D's from across the state), gov't officials and non-governmental folks.
- ▶ Top recommendations:
  - ▶ Establish a state-wide requirement for rental properties to be lead-safe certified (great news!) - in units with young children living there (not so great).
  - ▶ Establish a lead remediation fund available to municipalities
  - ▶ Establish a rental housing registry
  - ▶ Require all PA children to be screened at ages 1 and 2

Full report is here -

[http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/documents/LEAD ONE PAGE  
SUMM 4.29.19.pdf](http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/documents/LEAD_ONE_PAGE_SUMM_4.29.19.pdf).

## Strategy 2: Secure remediation \$\$ for low-income rental property owners

- ▶ Medicaid and CHIP funds
- ▶ Tax or fee on paint
- ▶ Lawsuit against paint companies
- ▶ New HUD funding(!)



# New 2019 HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Funding

- ▶ \$279 million available – application date still TBD
- ▶ Local and state governments eligible
- ▶ Maximum awards are higher, shorter application package requirements and longer grant period
- ▶ Funds for highest need communities, urban areas (3,500+ occupied rental units built before 1940), never before-funded areas and any communities with pre-1978/target housing with lead-based paint hazards

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Page printed from: <https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/2019/06/07/montgomery-countys-lead-paint-lawsuit-sent-back-to-state-court/>

## Montgomery County's Lead Paint Lawsuit Sent Back to State Court

A lawsuit filed by Montgomery County over lead-based paint in residential communities has been removed from federal court and sent back to state court where it originated.

By P.J. D'Annunzio | June 07, 2019



A lawsuit filed by Montgomery County over lead-based paint in residential communities has been removed from federal court and sent back to state court where it originated.

U.S. District Judge Nitza Quiñones

“Local governments are bearing the costs of the damage done by lead paint and that is why local juries should be the ones making the determinations about how best to remediate the ongoing danger to their neighbors’ health.”

## Strategy 3: Test more kids

- ▶ Work with Medicaid and CHIP managed care organizations to continue to identify and remove testing barriers and incentivize providers.
- ▶ Launch a public awareness/communications campaign targeted at parents.

# Strategy 4: Coordinate Among Service Providers to Connect/Refer Families with Poisoned Kids to Services

Coordination among:

- ▶ Health care providers
- ▶ Office of Public Health – Maternal Child Health & Lead and Healthy Homes
- ▶ Medicaid & CHIP plans
- ▶ Early Intervention
- ▶ Non-profits working with families and on housing

# Stakeholders Needed!

- ▶ Parents, health care, human and social services, Medicaid and CHIP managed care, **housing, lead-paint remediators, the painter's union locals**, county commissioners, county executives, municipal officials, special education teachers, school administrators, school board members, nurses, pediatricians, family practice doctors and **environmental groups**

# Get Involved!

## **Montgomery County Lead Task Force**

A subgroup of the  
Montgomery County Maternal and Early Childhood Consortium

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## Why are so many middle-class families in Montgomery County underwater?

Montgomery County has changed. Tax hikes and other rising costs are draining savings. Despite their best efforts, more and more hard-working families are drowning in debt. Parents have good reason to doubt their children will have better lives.

Join Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) for a panel discussion  
*Underwater: What's Sinking Families in Montgomery County*  
Thursday, June 20, 2019 from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Montgomery County Administration Building, One Montgomery Plaza, Norristown, PA 19404 – Commissioner's Board Room, Suite 800.

Panelists include:

- Val Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
- Stacey Woodland, CEO, YWCA Tri-County Area
- Nelly Jimenez-Arevalo, Executive Director & CEO, ACLAMO Family Centers
- Janet Panning, Supervisor, Maternal Child Health, Montgomery County Office of Public Health

Hear our community experts speak to the alarming trends threatening the Montgomery County families they serve. Learn about the concrete steps the government can take to turn the tide, as described in a new report from PCCY, the leading child advocacy organization in Southeastern PA.

**RSVP at:** [www.pccy.org/underwaterinmontco](http://www.pccy.org/underwaterinmontco)

See our reports at [www.pccy.org/underwater](http://www.pccy.org/underwater) and stay tuned for events in Chester and Philadelphia Counties.

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This event will coincide with the release of our Montgomery County Report