

# Water Contamination Effect on Children

**Raising Awareness:** Over 80% of schools in New York state are contaminated with lead in their waters. There is a disadvantage in schools across the state that have children rely on school fountain water. These fountains are riddled with lead and other substances such as plumbing material that may endanger the health of children.

## **Inspiring Actions:**

1. Provide schools with filtered water fountains.
2. Create volunteer group to clean the plastic and other wastes from rivers and oceans.
3. Schools in low-economic areas should have free water bottles included with their lunch.
4. Slowly start replacing old pipes in schools with new material that does not degrade and cause lead to be created.



**Educational information:** As shown in this table, the total percentage of samples taken from New York City school water fountains that are above EPA limit continues to increase. This shows that the problem has not be addressed and the lives of children are still at risk. Lead poisoning is considered to be a “silent epidemic” because the effects of lead poisoning don’t show until a dangerous amount has accumulated.

Year	Total # Samples	# Samples Above EPA Limit	% of Samples above EPA Limit	Max Concentration Found (ppb)
2020	411	28	6.80%	120
2019	487	26	5.33%	190
2018	481	26	5.40%	277
2017	487	26	5.33%	190
2016	498	34	6.80%	4726
2015	350	23	6.60%	110
2014	191	15	7.90%	4960
2013	220	10	4.50%	34
2012	238	10	4.20%	381
2011	352	20	5.70%	80
2010	222	30	13.5%	1590
2009	242	13	5.40%	145
2008	278	20	7.20%	6408
2007	191	15	7.90%	156

As shown to the left, more and more public places are installing filtered water systems into their fountains. This greatly decreases the levels of lead exposure. Clean, uncontaminated drinking water should be a right to children, especially in schools.

