



Lead poisoning is a major preventable environmental health problem affecting young children in New York State (NYS). In 2008, more than 3,000 NYS children were diagnosed with lead poisoning.

Lead can harm a child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Most lead poisoning occurs when children lick, swallow, or breathe in dust from old lead paint. Most homes built before 1978 have old lead paint, often under newer paint. If paint peels, cracks, or is worn down, the chips and dust from the old paint can spread around the home, come into contact with children's hands and toys, and enter their mouths.

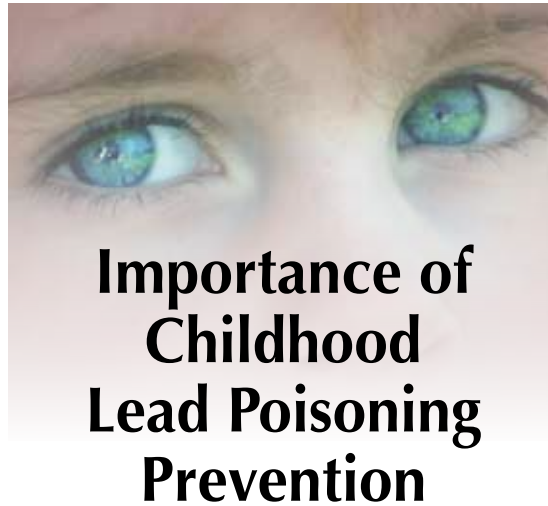
Exposure can also occur from lead in soil, water, air, some toys and children's jewelry, old furniture, and some traditional medicines and herbs.

Certain jobs and hobbies, such as plumbing, auto, and electrical repair, can expose parents to lead, who may then expose their children to lead dust at home or in their cars.

NYS requires doctors to test all children for lead in their blood at age one year and again at age two. For children up to age six years, doctors are required to assess the risk of lead exposure at every well child visit, and if risk is identified, to obtain blood lead testing.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has defined lead poisoning as a blood lead level (BLL) greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL). At this level, clinical and public health intervention are indicated. However, there is no established threshold at which lead does not cause harmful effects, and a growing body of research indicates that children's development can be adversely affected at BLLs below 10 mcg/dL.

Because the harm from lead is irreversible, primary prevention efforts that identify and reduce or eliminate lead hazards in children's environments before they are exposed are critical. In recent years, NYS has dramatically increased



Importance of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Submitted by the NYS Department of Health

funding to identify homes with lead hazards and promote repair. Preventive measures for individual families include:

- 1) Fix peeling old paint and repair older homes using lead-safe work methods;
- 2) Wash dust off hands, toys, bottles, windows, and floors;
- 3) Be careful not to bring lead home on clothes, toys, and jewelry;
- 4) Keep lead out of your food: run tap water before using it; use only cold tap water; visit the DOH Web site (see page 7) to see which imported medicines, food, cosmetics, and dishes have a higher risk of lead content.
- 5) Serve foods that have calcium, iron, and vitamin C to keep lead from being stored in the body.

Between 1998 and 2008, there has been a 74% decline in the number of children with lead poisoning in NYS, a great public health success. However, lead still threatens the health of thousands of children, especially poor children, who are more likely to live in poorly-maintained housing and neighborhoods. The rate of lead poisoning among Medicaid-eligible children is over five times as high as non-Medicaid-eligible children in NYS.

*Given the importance of lead poisoning prevention to the quality of health and life of New York State families, this edition of **Focus on Community Health** is dedicated to news, information, and resources that can be used by communities across the state in their local prevention efforts.*

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, PLEASE CONTACT PATRICIA MONTONE CHARVAT AT [PCHARVAT@AOL.COM](mailto:pcharvat@aol.com).



AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Using Lead-Safe Practices for Renovation, Repair, and Painting: EPA Certification Requirements

On April 22, 2008, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule requiring the use of lead-safe work practices aimed at preventing lead poisoning in children. Exactly two years later, the rule became effective and firms performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified; individual renovators must be trained by an EPA-accredited training provider; and the firms and renovators must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

In general, contractors must use lead-safe work practices and follow these three simple procedures:

- Contain the work area.
- Minimize dust.
- Clean up thoroughly.

To become a certified renovator, individuals are required to take eight hours of training, of which two hours must be hands-on training, to become certified. This training is good for five years. The cost of this training is set by individual training providers, not by the EPA. In addition, renovation firms must be certified by the EPA or by a state authorized by the EPA to administer its own program. As of September 16, 2010, the EPA has accredited 359 training providers who have conducted more than 21,057 courses, training an estimated 470,000 people in the construction and remodeling industries to use lead-safe work practices.

Because contractors in some areas had difficulty accessing training classes, the EPA did not take enforcement action for violations of the rule's firm certification requirement until October 1, 2010, and will not enforce certification requirements against individual renovation workers if they applied to enroll in certified renovator classes by September 30, 2010 and complete the training by December 31, 2010.

As of April 22, 2010, federal law requires that:

- Renovation firms be certified under the EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.
- Individuals be trained in lead-safe work practices.
- Training providers be accredited by the EPA.

The EPA estimates that the costs to contractors to follow the work practices will range from \$8 to \$167 per job, with the exception of those exterior jobs where vertical containment would be required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO FIND A CERTIFIED RENOVATOR,
VISIT WWW.EPA.GOV/LEAD/PUBS/RENOVATION.HTM.



to the New York State Department of Health,
the sponsor of this edition of *Focus on Community Health*.



Established in 1997, the New York State Community Health Partnership (NYSCHP) is a unique private-public partnership with representatives from many different sectors including business, community organizations, education, government, health, and philanthropic organizations that share a common vision of health improvement and have agreed to serve as catalysts and facilitators for health improvement activities throughout New York State.

NYSCHP Steering Committee Members:

American Cancer Society
Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University
Healthcare Association of New York State
Healthcare Trustees of New York State
Medical Society of the State of New York
New York Health Plan Association

New York State Association of County Health Officials
New York State Department of Health
New York State Dietetic Association
New York State Nurses Association
New York State Public Health Association
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy



New York State's Primary Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning Pilot Program Shows Great Promise

As detailed in the cover story of this edition of *Focus on Community Health*, despite substantial progress, childhood lead poisoning remains a major problem, both in New York State and around the nation. Because primary prevention (taking action before a child is harmed) is so critical, New York State began an innovative \$3 million targeted primary prevention initiative in 2007. Eight local health departments (Albany County, Erie County, Monroe County, New York City, Onondaga County, Oneida County, Orange County, and Westchester County) received funding. Collectively, these counties accounted for 79 percent of all known cases in 2005 of children age six and under with newly identified elevated blood-lead levels. In December 2008, Governor David A. Paterson announced plans to make the program permanent, based on the lessons drawn from the first year of implementation. In 2010, the program was expanded to 14 counties and New York City.

Year Two Goals:

New York's Primary Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning Pilot Program

- Identify housing at greatest risk for lead-paint hazards;
- Develop partnerships and community engagement to promote primary prevention;
- Promote interventions to create lead-safe housing units;
- Build Lead-Safe Work Practice (LSWP) workforce capacity; and
- Identify community resources for lead-hazard control.

The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), a nationally recognized non-profit organization based in Columbia, MD, helped to implement the pilot project, provide training and hands-on consultation to the local health department and their partners, in coordination with the NYS Department of Health (DOH), and developed and conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot project.

In its first two years, the NYS Lead Primary Prevention Program (LPPP) has made a significant difference in the lives of children and their families and in the infrastructure for primary prevention of lead-based hazards. Since the program's inception on October 1, 2007, key accomplishments have included:

- Reaching over 13 million individuals through new stories or paid advertisements and reaching over 54,000 through health fairs, letters, flyers, displays and other forms of direct contact.
- Conducting home visits for roughly 3,500 children age six and under—those most vulnerable to neuro-developmental damage.
- Referring nearly 2,000 children for blood-lead testing.
- Investigating more than 6,000 housing units for lead-based paint (LBP)—4,000 units had potential and/or confirmed lead-based paint hazards.
- Creating at least 1,218 lead-safe housing units, with work underway in an additional 2,691 units.
- Training over 2,300 property owners, contractors, and do-it-yourselfers in Lead-Safe Work Practices—thousands of others were trained through pre-existing agreements between these health departments and other programs.

Three publications, available on the NYS DOH Web site, offer additional information about the lessons and accomplishments of the Pilot project as well as recommendations for future activities. The *Early Lessons Learned* report describes how the eight counties implemented Pilot activities during the first three quarters of FY 2008 (October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008). There are also preliminary results and a final report on year one implementation of the NYS Primary Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning Pilot Program—they offer data on Year One implementation, summarize the challenges and strategies, and offer recommendations.

FOR COPIES OF THE REPORTS,
VISIT [WWW.NYHEALTH.GOV/ENVIRONMENTAL/LEAD/EXPOSURE/CHILDHOOD/
PRIMARY_PREVENTION/PILOT_PROGRAM/EARLY_LESSONS/INDEX.HTM](http://WWW.NYHEALTH.GOV/ENVIRONMENTAL/LEAD/EXPOSURE/CHILDHOOD/PRIMARY_PREVENTION/PILOT_PROGRAM/EARLY_LESSONS/INDEX.HTM).



NYS Links Immunization Information System to LeadWeb

To further improve lead testing rates, the state is linking the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) with the lead registry (LeadWeb) to integrate children's lead testing and immunization information. LeadWeb is a secure, confidential electronic database in which lead test results reported by clinical labs are maintained.

NYSIIS is a secure, web-based system that maintains consolidated immunization records for persons up to age 19 in NYS, outside New York City. The linkage of NYSIIS with LeadWeb will allow a data exchange between both systems.

The linkage will:

- facilitate blood lead test reporting into NYSIIS by providers who use office-based testing devices;
- allow health care providers to view children's lead test histories in NYSIIS; and
- enable state and local health departments to assess lead testing practices and target quality improvement activities.

With NYSIIS, a provider can see test results entered by another provider, which is critical to understanding the history of transient patients.

As of April 2010, 83% of Upstate NY health care providers use NYSIIS to report immunization administration, and the immunization records of 78% of children under age six are in NYSIIS. NYSIIS user rates have been increasing. NYC has a separate immunization system, which is 15 years old, and has a user rate of about 95%. NYS and NYC are working together to share lead test results for those providers whose patient population includes children both within and outside of NYC. Implementation of the linkage between NYSIIS and LeadWeb occurred on September 27, 2010.

Community Snapshots

Live Light, Live Right Childhood Obesity Program Awarded 2010 HANYS' Community Health Improvement Award

Each year, the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) recognizes the outstanding efforts of health care providers to improve community health and well-being through its Community Health Improvement Award. Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center's Live Light, Live Right Childhood Obesity Program was the 2010 recipient of the HANYS award. Two other initiatives were awarded honorable mentions—the Youth Violence Partnership (YVP) in Rochester, led by the University of Rochester Medical Center (which was highlighted in the June 2010 edition of *Focus on Community Health*); and SUNY Downstate Medical Center's Center for Community Health; Promotion and Wellness (See Page 6 for additional information).

The Live Light, Live Right (LLLR) childhood obesity program at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center was founded in 2001 as a hospital- and community-based, non-profit program that serves obese children, 95% of whom are minority and nearly half of whom live below poverty. Live Light aims to achieve optimal clinical management, prevent the early onset of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, promote healthy eating and exercise habits, and affect long-term behavior to improve health outcomes.

This is accomplished through integration of multi-disciplinary services, including specialized medical care, nutrition and behavioral counseling, and tailored physical fitness training. For the community, the program strives to generate understanding of



HANYS' Board Chairman Joseph Quagliata presents the Community Health Improvement Award to Sarita Dhuper, M.D., Founder and Executive Director of Live Light, Live Right and Director, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, accepting on behalf of Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center

obesity as a serious health issue, enhance the skills of medical providers, mobilize, and coordinate resources. Since inception, LLLR has served over 2,000 children with extremely positive outcomes, which has enabled ongoing sustainability through public and private funding.

Outcomes for the 700 plus participants enrolled for an average of 20 months included:

- 67% reduced their Body Mass Index score.
- 57% reduced their cholesterol and triglyceride levels.
- 51% reduced their insulin levels and blood pressure.
- Incidence of new onset of type II diabetes among participants has been less than 1%.

Continued on page 6

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LIVELIGHTOBESITY.ORG OR CONTACT SARITA DHUPER, M.D., FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LIVE LIGHT, LIVE RIGHT, (718) 240-5857, SDHUPER@BROOKDALE.EDU.



The Healthy Neighborhoods Program

Building Healthy Neighborhoods

Selected outcomes from the program include:

- increased number of dwellings with functional smoke detectors (94% improvement),
- corrected interior lead paint hazards within a short follow-up period (36% improvement),
- increased number of dwellings with carbon monoxide detectors (59% improvement),
- reduced exposure to tobacco smoke in the home affecting about 1,260 residents,
- reduced number of dwellings with mold and mildew (58% improvement),
- reduced number of dwellings with rats (71% improvement), mice (60% improvement) or cockroaches (59% improvement).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
CONTACT AMANDA REDDY,
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH,
ALR04@HEALTH.STATE.NY.US,
(518) 402-7530.

In 1985, the NYS Department of Health's Center for Environmental Health established the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP), a door-to-door intervention program that targets low-income neighborhoods with a high rate of unmet environmental health needs. Between October 2007 and December 2009, 36,035 people living in 13,165 dwellings in 12 counties across New York State were served by this program. Today, the program is operating in ten counties across the state.

HNP workers conduct a home assessment to identify environmental hazards. Products, education, and referrals to other services are then provided depending on the problems that are observed. Program activities emphasize:

- Tobacco control
- Fire safety
- Lead poisoning prevention
- Indoor air quality
- Carbon monoxide
- Radon
- Ventilation and odors
- Temperature and humidity
- General conditions
- Cleaning and clutter
- Pests
- Mold/mildew and moisture
- Structural problems
- Asthma triggers
- Other hazards (such as injury prevention) or needs (such as social services)

The program uses over 30 different give-away products to gain entry to homes and to support residents in improving any environmental, health, or safety hazards identified during the visit. Give-aways may include: fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, nightlights, mice and cockroach bait stations, cleaning products (mops, pails, sponges, gloves and detergents), tobacco cessation products, and lead educational materials (puzzles, brochures, activity, and coloring books).

An ongoing evaluation of program activities between October 2007 and December 2009 indicated that the program was making significant improvements in tobacco control, fire safety, lead poisoning prevention, indoor air quality, and general environmental health and safety conditions (e.g., pests, mold). In addition, significant improvements were seen among residents with asthma in self-management and morbidity outcomes.

Among residents with asthma, there was an increase in the number of adults and children who know how to avoid triggers that make their asthma worse (76% and 93% improvement, respectively), and a reduction in the mean number of days that adults and children experienced worsening asthma (an average reduction of one day with worsening in asthma in previous three months).

The current evaluation is part of the program's ongoing effort to monitor the program and to continue to improve interventions to eliminate or minimize exposure to hazardous conditions in the home. A report is under development and preliminary findings are being shared with federal agencies (HUD, CDC, and EPA) that are interested in using the evaluation to inform planning for healthy homes initiatives at the national level.



HANYS CHIA Awards 2010 (continued from page 4)

The Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness at SUNY

Downstate Medical Center was established in 1986 to meet growing community demand and provide a comprehensive health education, awareness, and prevention program to an inner city community. The program has a devoted diverse staff of seven, supported by a multi-disciplinary team, who provide free on-site and community health education/prevention via lectures and workshops, health screenings for all ages (including a cardiac risk assessment clinic, mobile asthma screening center), immunizations, prenatal and expectant family education classes, chronic conditions clubs (diabetes, stroke, weight management, smoking), smoking cessation programs, etc., as well as access to care.

During the past year, among the individuals who participated in Center screenings:

- 33% were hypertensive,
- 13% had high blood glucose,
- 27% had elevated cholesterol, and
- 25% had evidence of asthma (adults and children combined).

All of these individuals required further follow-up or work-up. Those who the Center was able to reach by phone stated they had already visited (55%) or plan to visit a doctor (45%).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MARIA YOMTOV, R.N., M.S.N., C.D.E., DIRECTOR OF PATIENT EDUCATION, (718) 270-2020, MARIA.YOMTOV@DOWNSTATE.EDU.

Rochester Coalition Making Great Strides to Prevent Lead Poisoning

The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, located in Rochester, New York, is an education and advocacy organization composed of nearly 100 individuals and community organizations dedicated to eliminating childhood lead poisoning in Monroe County. Its mission is to provide leadership and advocacy to empower the community and its residents to prevent the lead poisoning of children by creating an environment that is free of lead hazards, facilitates the creation of a system that protects children, creates jobs, and enhances property values.

The Coalition has received a number of national, state, and local awards for its comprehensive and effective approaches for eliminating childhood lead poisoning in Monroe County. Through a combination of education, information, community outreach, health screenings, and policy/legislative advocacy, the Coalition is seeing declines in the number of children reported with lead poisoning. The Coalition's work has also included a multi-media campaign, web media, public relations outreach, special events and symposia, and direct mail.

Since 1999, Monroe County has seen the rates of children reported with elevated lead levels decrease by 84% (Monroe County Department of Public Health). This is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the coalition and its community partners, including grassroots organizations, government agencies, housing organizations, schools, health care providers, and regional researchers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LEADSAFE2010.ORG

Tips to prevent lead exposure among children

In the home or residence:

- Talk to your state or local health department about testing paint and dust from your home for lead.
- Make sure your child does not have access to peeling paint or chewable surfaces painted with lead-based paint.
- Pregnant women and children should not be present in housing built before 1978 that is undergoing renovation.
- Create barriers between living/play areas and lead sources until environmental clean-up is completed.
- Regularly wash children's hands and toys.
- Regularly wet-mop floors and wet-wipe window components every 2-3 weeks. Prevent children from playing in bare soil; if possible, provide them with sandboxes.

To further reduce a child's exposure from non-residential paint sources:

- avoid using traditional home remedies and cosmetics that may contain lead;
- avoid eating candies imported from Mexico;
- avoid using containers, cookware, or tableware to store or cook foods or liquids that are not shown to be lead free;
- remove recalled toys and toy jewelry immediately from children (check Lead Recall lists);
- use only cold water from the tap for drinking, cooking, and for making baby formula; and
- shower and change clothes after finishing a task that involves working with lead-based products such as stain glass work, bullet making, or using a firing range.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Let's make lead history.

Web Sites and Resources



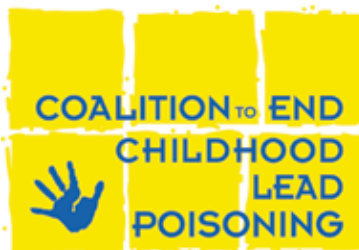
NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH)
www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead

This comprehensive site offers downloadable educational resources for parents and caregivers; information for contractors, homeowners, and tenants; materials on adult lead exposure; and management guidelines for health care providers.

NYSDOH product recalls
www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead/recalls

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY HOMES

www.afhh.org



www.lead-safe.org/index.cfm



EPA Lead Site
www.epa.gov/lead/index.html

The EPA site also offers extensive outreach campaigns and materials including: the Give Your Child a Chance of a Lifetime Campaign, being conducted with the National Head Start Association; a media outreach kit for lead poisoning prevention; a WIC nutritional educational campaign; the "Keep it Clean" Campaign, and for making home projects lead-safe.

EPA Lead Hotline
www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nlic.htm



**National Center for
Healthy Housing**

www.nchh.org/Home.aspx



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention:
A Comprehensive Public Health Response
to an Environmental Issue
Archived Public Health Live!
www.albany.edu/sph/coned/phl/childhoodlead.htm



CDC Lead Site
www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead

CDC Healthy Homes program
www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/healthyhomes.htm



Public Health Live! T²B²

Third Thursday Breakfast Broadcast (T²B²) is now PUBLIC HEALTH LIVE—T²B², a monthly satellite broadcast series designed to provide continuing education opportunities on public health issues. Broadcasts are free and available to all who are interested in furthering their knowledge of public health. The broadcast is held from 9 - 10 a.m. ET on the third Thursday of each month.

Upcoming Webcasts

November 18, 2010

C. difficile Infections

Speaker: **Ghinwa Dumyati, M.D., F.S.H.E.A.**

Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Rochester Center for Community Health, and Epidemiologist, Monroe County Department of Public Health

December 16, 2010

HIV/AIDS and Aging

Speakers: **Doug Fish, M.D.**

Medical Director, AIDS Treatment Program
Albany Medical Center
and

Mr. Frank Oldham, Jr.

Executive Director
National Association of People with AIDS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
GO TO WWW.ALBANY.EDU/SPH/CONED/T2B2.HTM.



November 16-18, 2010

Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP) Meeting

December 2010 (tentative)

Lead Poisoning Prevention Training Center

Program Management, Primary Prevention, and Case Management Tracks

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza

Contact: Kimball Credle, (770) 488-3643



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The NY State Office of Children and Family Services has a new free online course for day care providers. **Keeping Children Safe: Prevention of Lead Poisoning and Other Dangers to Children** takes 1.5 hours to complete and can be done in 10-15 minute sections. This self-directed online course fulfills the following OCFS training requirements:

- Principles of childhood development, focusing on the developmental stages of the age groups for which the program provides care.
- Safety and security procedures, including communication between parents and staff.
- Child day care program development.
- Statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care.

To sign up for this course, go to http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/elearn_catalog.shtm.