

Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning by 2010: *What Progress has Wisconsin Made?*

Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
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Part 2:
Partnerships to Address Lead
Hazards in Old Housing

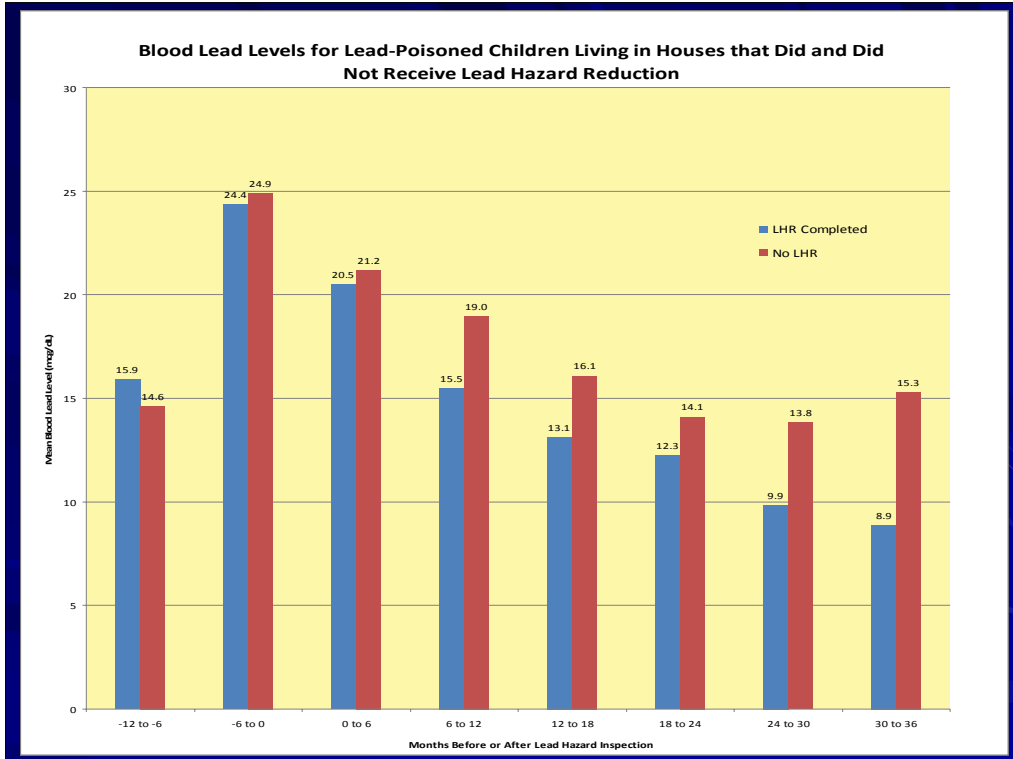
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Lead Poisoning is a housing based disease.

- Under WI state law, DHS shall develop and implement a comprehensive statewide program to prevent lead poisoning.
- DHS is not responsible for housing.
- Therefore, we need partners.

Partnerships Crucial to Respond to Children with Lead Poisoning In Wisconsin

- Local Health Departments
and WI DHS
- Property Owners
- Housing Agencies



Housing Partnerships to Prevent Lead Poisoning

- US Dept of HUD
- WI Divisions of Housing and Energy
- Weatherization and CAP agencies
- Agencies that regulate child care facilities
- Gov't housing agencies and non-profits
- Rental property owners
- Real estate professionals, inspectors
- Contractors, builders, labor
- Advocates, health depts., religious groups

2) agencies or programs that provide housing services.

Lead poisoning is a housing problem, the solutions have to be housing-based

For public health, this requires us to work not only with our more traditional public health partners, but to establish or strengthen relationships with non-traditional partners, e.g. housing agencies and property owners.

If we're going to be successful in eliminating lead poisoning, it requires us to make a fundamental shift in how we address the problem. We've needed to move from a purely reactive approach that responds **after** children are poisoned to a stronger emphasis on pro-active housing based approaches so that we're making housing lead-safe **before** children are poisoned.

Through these partnerships we then indirectly address the race/minority issue.

Statewide we've not directly emphasized strategies that address the needs of minority populations but work with others, e.g. LHDs, who have developed relationships with local CBOs that represent and serve minority populations and community health centers, e.g. 16th St. Community Health Center in Milwaukee.

Strategic Partners for Housing Funding

- 1. Find Partners for HUD lead grants
 - State Divisions of Energy and Housing
 - HUD grants to Local agencies
- 2. Maximize use of federal funds for lead
- 3. Advocate for new state funds
- 4. Advocate for new local housing funds

Strategic Partners for Housing Regulation:

- 1. Strengthen enforcement of C. 254
- 2. Standards for Child Care facilities
- 3. Training requirements for contractors
DHS Certification and Training for lead
- 4. Promote good Local Enforcement Models

Wisconsin doesn't get a fair share of federal housing funds
A challenge to Wisconsin's congressional delegation

- Wisconsin ranked 46th out of 50 states in federal funding per person for housing and community development from 1981-2004.
- US national average for all states = \$82 per person
Wisconsin = \$42 per person.
- Federal Formula rewards states with more unequal distribution of income.

(Cashin, Gerenrot, Paulson, Profitwise News and Views Oct 2007)

1) federal and state programs that provide services to low and moderate income families; and

HUD lead grants

- WI fixed lead hazards in 1278 homes 1994 -2008.

HUD awarded multiple lead grants to several local agencies in WI:

- Milwaukee fixed over 13,000 homes
- Sheboygan
- Kenosha County and City of Racine
- Rock County

1) federal and state programs that provide services to low and moderate income families; and

Maximize use of federal funds for lead hazard control

- State contracts with local health departments for lead poisoning prevention promote partnerships with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) agencies.
- State DHS has encouraged state and local agencies receiving CDBG funds or neighborhood stabilization funds to address lead hazards.
- State encourages weatherization programs to replace windows for health and safety reasons.

1) federal and state programs that provide services to low and moderate income families; and

Support grows for more funding for lead hazard reduction

- Oct. 2007 WI Public Health Council supports \$10 million/year for lead hazard control.
- 2008 WALHDAB leadership notes need for lead hazard control funds to prevent lead poisoning.
- December 2008, Governor Doyle tells US Congress that Wisconsin needs \$534 million for lead hazard control.
- Bipartisan support for a WI window replacement program continues in 2009.

Rehab loans for lead safe homes

\$.50/gallon surcharge
on paint sales
generates \$7 million/year
for loan fund

Wisconsin
Makes loans
to property owners
to replace windows
in pre-1950 homes
With new Energy Star Windows

Children protected from lead on windows
Wisconsin Window manufacturers create jobs
Property owners save energy, pay interest on loans
and pay in full when property is sold.

March 18, 2009
Advocacy Day at the Capitol
“Rehab Loans for Lead Safe Homes”

Bill draft establishes \$.50/gallon surcharge on paint sales
\$7 million/year for window replacement loan fund.

Press Conference, Public hearing in WI Senate committee
>150 people attended event and visited every WI legislator to seek support.

For more information contact:

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- Wisconsin Rental Housing Legislative Council
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Advocate for new local housing funds

- Milwaukee and Waukesha have active Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Campaigns
- UW Lafollette graduate students study HTF
- DHS encourages using new federal stimulus funds to rehab old homes and replace windows.
- Advocates seek support for state legislation to expand use of Tax incremental financing (TIF) funds for local housing needs.

Strategic partnerships for Housing regulation Strengthen enforcement of Ch. 254

- DHS Contract w/ Department of Justice
 - write sample lead hazard control orders,
 - provide training for local health dept (LHD) staff at state environmental conference and
 - Offer legal support to county district attorneys.
- DHS includes training on enforcement methods during required risk assessor refresher training.
- LHDs enforce Ch. 254; DHS monitors follow-up.

Strategic Partners for Housing Regulation require contractor training on lead safe work

- DHS lead certification and training program will issue rules for lead safe renovators to comply with EPA rules by 2010. These rules require training for work that disturbs old paint.
- Previous EPA training and certification requirements were based on intent rather than the risk inherent in the work activity.
- Recently adopted Department of Commerce rules require all professional contractors in WI to attend regular training. Lead training will be included in accepted training programs.

Strategic partners for Housing Regulation

Partnerships with agencies that regulate Child Care (“day care”) facilities

- Dept of Children and Families - (Both state licensed and county certified child care facilities)
- New Administrative rules prohibit deteriorated or flaking paint in child care centers.
- DHS Lead program staff trained 200+ child care inspectors who inspect ~15,000 child care facilities annually.
- Paint in poor condition must be corrected before facility license or certification is issued or renewed.

We found that while most children were being lead poisoned within their homes, some children were exposed at their child care center.

We worked with the Bureau of Regulation and Licensing in the Division of Children and Family Services (DHFS) and Department of Workforce Development (now Department of Children and Families).

These agencies regulate child care facilities - both licensed and certified child cares.

Both agencies revised their administrative rules so that deteriorated or flaking paint is no longer allowed in a child care center. This is now something the day care inspectors are looking for when they go in to a day care for their routine annual inspection.

Our staff have trained more than 200 day care inspectors on what they should be looking for during their inspection.

In addition to training, our staff provided tools to identify lead paint, information on what to do when they found a problem, including names and addresses for referrals.

These rule changes affect approximately 15,000 day cares throughout the state.

Strategic Partners for Housing regulation promote successful models

- Local ordinances (Milwaukee, Racine, Oshkosh)
- Milwaukee direct abatement
- LaCrosse, West Allis, Washington Co. use placards to warn about lead hazards and/or to prohibit occupancy.
- Eau Claire does regular exterior inspections to target high risk dwellings for compliance.
- Beloit requires all rental properties to be inspected.
- Section 8 (HUD's biggest program) requires local housing authorities to inspect privately owned rental properties annually to make sure that paint is intact.

Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Our phone number: 608/266-5817

Our website: *dhs.wi.gov/lead*

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Questions...

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