

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: Region 10

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Protect your children from lead poisoning

CLPPP is committed to actively reducing the threat of, and exposure to lead poisoning by education and outreach initiatives all over the region. If you would like to hear more information on how we can provide informative presentations to you and your staff/families, please call us at 313-727-7400 and ask for Chad Rhodes or Andrew Borek.



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Lead poisoning of Detroit Children Declines

When it comes to lead poisoning, Detroit has always been a trouble area. In 2013 approximately 2,900 children were considered lead poisoned. This is a 70% drop from 2004 where 10,000 children were lead poisoned. Detroit, with the help of organizations such as the Detroit Lead Partnership, and CLEARCorps, fought back against the toxic metal known as lead that has plagued the city for decades. A new emphasis on the cleanup and demolition of homes, a decline in the cities population, and stricter landlord laws have been partly responsible for the decrease of lead poisoned children. "Over the past 12 years, there's been a push to get rapid intervention for kids exposed, abatement in contaminated homes

and enforcement for landlords," said Lyke Thompson, director of Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies. With much support from medical professionals, in October of 2012 the CDC cut its guideline for lead from 10 micrograms per deciliter to 5 micrograms per deciliter. The decision to decrease the intervention threshold was brought about by an increasing number of tests that show even the smallest amount of lead being harmful to children. While the amount of children being poisoned by lead has been slowly decreasing in Detroit, the funding for lead prevention has been slashed drastically. The CDC cut its lead prevention funding from 30 million to only 2 million. Lyke Thompson from

Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies says that this decrease in funding has halted all lead services in their tracks. One can only hope that the cut funding will not result in a greater number of lead poisoned children.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lead poisoning is 100% preventable!
- Practicing good nutrition can help protect your children from lead poisoning.
- Only hire EPA Lead-Safe Certified contractors for home improvements if lead hazards are suspected.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Shooting Range 2
- EPA regulations 2
- CDC update 2
- Lead poisoning and taxes 3
- Urban Farming 3
- Ghost Factories 3
- Inside Story 6

Lead Watch

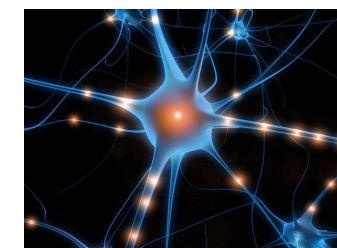
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Occupational exposure to lead is linked to ALS

If you've been living under a rock, you may not be privy to the social phenomenon of the "Ice Bucket Challenge" that swept the nation in the Summer of 2014. This challenge was in support of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS., which is a crippling disease that affects the neurological system, specifically motor neurons. In a recent paper published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, a group of doctors funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada have concluded in a meta-analysis that up to 5% of sporadic ALS cases can be caused

by occupational or environmental exposure to lead. Also explained in the paper is that the risk of developing ALS is almost doubled by



occupational and environmental exposure to lead. This is just another devastating and irreversible way that lead exposure can effect a persons well-being, even as

an adult. Childhood lead screenings are incredibly important to catch lead exposure early enough to prevent long-term effects, however, adult lead exposure can also have serious consequences. Adults tend to typically absorb around 10% of the lead they come into contact with. However, occupational exposure to lead in high concentrations can make that 10% a large number.

If you are exposed to occupational lead hazards, request a test from your primary care physician to see if you have been poisoned.

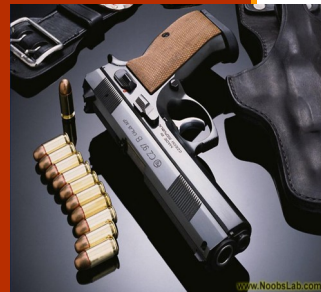
MisLEAD production almost finished

Tamara Rubin was an everyday mother of four who was interested in environmental causes. She one day wanted to refinance her house to make home improvements with the new equity but the mortgage broker informed her that she should repaint the exterior to increase the

appraisal value. She hired a "lead-safe contractor" to do the work, but as it turns out, he used very unsafe methods to remove the exterior paint and her kids became lead poisoned. This prompted her to create the non-profit Lead Safe America Foundation and a documentary titled

MisLEAD which focuses on childhood lead poisoning as a "secret epidemic" in America. Click [here](#) to view a trailer of the documentary which will be available soon to the general public.

Lead poisoning at the shooting range



Gun control is generally a hot topic among people and is heavily debatable. One thing that is not up for debate is the fact that lead dust that is formed from discharging firearms is hazardous. Parents seem to be letting children exercise their 2nd Amendment right at a younger age, however, they may not be aware that they are potentially exposing their child to hazardous

lead dust that can have deleterious effects on their development. As the age in which children are firing guns decreases, more life events, such as birthday parties, are becoming more common at shooting ranges. This provides a two-fold problem of not only lead dust inhalation, but also of lead dust ingestion. If the range holding the party is not prop-

erly equipped with filters and vacuums for dust control, it can migrate onto food that is being served and pose an ingestion hazard.

A link to an article that deals with the very topic can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

“CHPAC does not agree with the status quo”



EPA proposes no change to particulate lead in air

The EPA periodically revisits their standards of allowable pollutants when new science becomes available to review whether or not they are keeping up with the latest information to keep the public safe. In 2008, they lowered the allowable particulate lead in air from 1.5 micrograms per meter cubed to 0.15 micrograms per meter cubed. These read-

ings are done on a quarterly basis to which many lead advocates believe is not a high enough standard. The EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) does not agree with the status quo either. They are recommending that the allowable lead in air should be reduced to 0.02 micrograms per meter cubed, averaging peri-

ods should be one month long and not quarterly, and using a more robust lead monitoring network that is better able to capture children's exposure to lead.

A link to the regulatory action is [here](#).

Number of lead poisoned children is alarming

The CDC suggests that 1 in 38 children across the country are lead poisoned. This staggering number became a reality once they lowered the threshold of intervention to 5 micrograms per deciliter of blood from 10 micrograms per

deciliter of blood. Federal grant cuts have eliminated some of the available testing for families which, as Columbia University public health historian David Rosner says, represents “an abandonment of children”. This is why it is imperative

to recommend blood lead level tests to any families that you may think are at risk!

Link to the article [here](#).

Lead poisoning in MI costs taxpayers large sum



In a study recently done by the University of Michigan's School of Public Health Risk Science Center, it was estimated that lead poisoning costs Michigan \$330 million dollars annually. They broke it down into

four major lead poisoning impact areas: Health care costs, \$18 million annually; Crime rates, \$105 million annually; Lifetime earnings decline, \$206 million annually; Special education, \$2.5 million annually. Of this \$330 million, taxpayers pay an estimated \$145 million of that annually. The study estimates that the homes that are most in need of remediation would cost \$600 million. Michigan has a home remediation plan in place, but it seems that it may fall short of that mark.

"This program needs to be ex-

panded, fully funded, and properly staffed. We call on the Governor to reconvene Michigan's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission in order to develop a plan to end lead poisoning in Michigan." - Rebecca Meuninck, Ecology Center

“Lead is a legacy contaminant, therefore, any amount of time that passes will not be sufficient enough for it to dissipate”

Urban farming can be a hotbed for lead poisoning

The urban farming initiative is taking Detroit by storm, but hopefully they are not forgetting a simple soil test. Parcels that once had aging homes on them that are now used for an urban garden can be subjected to soil contamination from lead. Paint chips and dust that fell from the house or other

houses around it can easily contaminate the soil and be taken up by leafy greens in a garden. Lead is categorized as a legacy contaminate, therefore, any amount of time that passes will not be sufficient enough for it to dissipate.

It is suggested that before planting, get the soil tested for lead

and other potential contaminants. If lead is found, either remove the top layer of the soil or plant a leafy green, such as spinach, that will take up the lead and can be discarded.

Link to a relevant article can be found [here](#).

USA Today investigates “Ghost factories”

USA Today presents a great investigative journalism piece about what they've termed “ghost factories”. What they've done is use historical maps and other data to find where old smelting factories were located and tested the soils in these areas. Most of the soils tested positive for lead at many times the EPA limits for safety. Being in a heavily industrialized area as Region 10 is, this

story is quite pertinent to our localities. Remember, lead is a legacy contaminant and a powerful neurotoxin which can be ingested and cause serious cognitive deficiencies, especially in younger children.

The link to the story and video is [here](#).

*Side note: this report is from 2012. Since then, the elevated

blood lead level in which intervention is enacted has since been reduced to ≥ 5 micrograms per deciliter of blood.

