



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: Prosperity 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 734-727-7400 and ask for Chad Rhodes or Andrew Borek.

For your local health department:

Wayne County—734-727-7400

Macomb County—586-469-5520

Oakland County—800-848-5533

Detroit City (IPH)—313-309-9350



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Graphic Shows How Lead Was Perceived In the Past



Lead paint was once glorified for being “shiny” and “vibrant”. The picture on the left was an advertisement for Dutch Boy paint in the 1920’s which shows the Dutch Boy riding a “lead horse” and the seal of “lead approval” in the upper right hand corner. At the same time, many other countries in the European Union had banned lead from paint and other materials, citing the known health risks even then. The U.S. government did not ban lead in paint until 1978 and in gasoline until 1985, which is why lead poisoning is still a serious issue, especially here in Prosperity Region 10.

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM: PROSPERITY REGION 10

Lead Watch



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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.

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Head Start Tests For Lead, They Stand Alone

The Head Start program, which is a federally-funded educational program for underprivileged young children, requires a blood lead level test for admission into the program. Lead poisoning correlates with many of the eligibility requirements of being considered for Head Start such as low income, Medicaid eligibility, and age appropriateness. I believe that the public school system, and the children that attend it, could benefit greatly from the model that these enrollment re-

quirements are based on. As of this writing, public schools and the Great Start program do not have a requirement for blood lead testing in the guidelines for enrollment. With a vast majority of children not being eligible for Head Start and going directly to one of the other mentioned programs, this puts many of our children at risk of never being tested for the devastating neurotoxin, also known as lead.

What we need to take from this is that if a child is

not eligible or enrolled in the Head Start program, the likelihood that they haven't been tested for lead increases greatly. We should not assume that blood lead level testing is being done at a well-visit or a routine visit at the primary care physician, it needs to be asked for, and in some cases, demanded. We should all be following the model established by Head Start and have every child tested!

Lead Poisoning Being Called “A Modern Plague”

A new article written in *The Union of Concerned Scientist* by Dr. Wornie Reed states that lead poisoning can have worse effects than some forms of cancer, but is still being largely ignored. He goes on to say that approximately

4 million households have children living in them that are being exposed to dangerous levels of lead.

Dr. Reed also brings up the social issue of environmental justice and that the alarming majority of children that are

lead poisoned are inner-city, African-American children. The housing stock in the inner-city tends to be much older while the opposite is true for suburban areas.

His article can be accessed [here](#).



Folk Remedies Spreading Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning can usually be attributed to lead based paint, however this is not always the case. One of the leading causes of lead poisoning, outside of lead based paint, can be attributed to “Folk Remedies” or “Folk Medicine”. In an article by Fox News, A mother named Maria gave “greta” to her daughter to help with an upset stomach. Greta is a Mexican folk

remedy that is used to treat children’s stomach ailments. The issue with this bright orange powder is that it can be up to 90% lead. Thankfully, Marias daughter had a checkup a week later and they were able to catch the lead exposure and treat it as well as identify the lead hazard. Unfortunately others are not as lucky. Health departments, especially in

highly diverse regions, such as Prosperity Region 10, are dealing with folk medicines and remedies within their constituency.

Read the full article [here](#).

“Lead enters the circulatory system and mimics the movement of calcium”



Lead Poisoning & Waterfowl

Unfortunately, lead poisoning has dramatic effects on the environment, especially waterfowl and predatory birds. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, “When lead is ingested, the fragments, pellets, sinkers, or jig heads lie in the gizzard or ventriculus and begin to erode. The lead enters the circulatory system and

mimics the movement of calcium.” Unfortunately, in most instances, treatment of the affected birds is not possible, unless the bird is found in the early stages of lead poisoning. Michigan does not prohibit the use of lead bullets, sinkers, or jigs. Lead pellets and fragments can be ingested by humans when they consume wild game, be it grouse, pheasants,

deer, elk and even bear. In order to protect yourself and the environment, only non leaded bullets and fishing equipment should be used.

Read the full article [here](#).

Increased Lead Level Correlates With Crime

National and international studies have all shown that crime and blood lead levels correlate almost exactly. The mechanism for this correlation is not fully understood as of yet, but researchers are working on making that connection. In

Ohio, one study found that for every 5 micrograms per deciliter increase of lead in the blood at age 6, the likelihood of being arrested for a violent crime as a young adult increased almost 50%. This is an alarming statistic that does indeed warrant

more research in finding what makes a lead poisoned person more apt to have issues with violence. A link to an article from Lancaster County (which is quite similar in scope to our region) can be found [here](#).

Lead Can Be In Your Children’s Toys

Lead can be lurking in the paint on your walls and windows, in the spices that you’ve gotten from overseas, or a folk remedy that has been passed down in your family for generations. However, a child can be poisoned by a much simpler source that may not be expected, their toys. Per the Center for Disease Control, lead was banned in house paint in 1978 but it is still widely used in other countries and can be

found on imported toys, as well as older American made ones. Per the CDC’s website, “The use of lead in plastics has not been banned. Lead softens the plastic and makes it more flexible so that it can go back to its original shape. It may also be used in plastic toys to stabilize molecules from heat. When the plastic is exposed to substances such as sunlight, air, and detergents the chemical bond between the lead and plastics

breaks down and forms dust.” If you think your child has been exposed to a lead contaminated toy, remove the toy immediately and get your child tested, as lead poisoned children exert no symptoms immediately and a blood lead test is the only way to find out for sure if they have been poisoned. Read the CDCs protocol on lead in toys by clicking [here](#).



“Ventilation is the most important engineering control... against primary lead exposure...”

Lead In Shooting Ranges Follow-Up

In our January newsletter, we highlighted the dangers of becoming exposed to lead in shooting ranges, indoor and outdoor alike. Now, gun ranges in Texas are doing their due diligence to protect the staff and patrons from becoming lead poisoned. With the help of Indoor Environmental Consult-

ants (IEC), they are educating and training staff on how to take precautions when cleaning indoor and outdoor ranges to reduce their exposure to harmful lead particulates that are emitted from the discharge of a firearm. Also, they are helping the ranges take steps to comply with NIOSH standards which

state, “Ventilation is the most important engineering control for protection against primary lead exposure in indoor firing ranges.” The experts at IEC are identifying and resolving hazardous sources of lead poisoning by air. The article can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

List of Links in this Newsletter:

- “[Modern Plague](http://blog.ucsus.org/lead-poisoning-a-modern-plague-among-children-662)” - <http://blog.ucsus.org/lead-poisoning-a-modern-plague-among-children-662>
- “[Folk Remedies](http://www.foxnews.com/story/2008/01/22/health-officials-folk-medicine-leading-cause-lead-poisoning-in-us-children/)” - <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2008/01/22/health-officials-folk-medicine-leading-cause-lead-poisoning-in-us-children/>
- “[Waterfowl](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12150_12220-26676--,00.html)” http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12150_12220-26676--,00.html
- “[Crime](http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/lead-can-cause-brain-damage-maybe-even-crime/article_48d2c008-c994-11e4-8d83-9b84285042f5.html?mode=jqm)” - http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/lead-can-cause-brain-damage-maybe-even-crime/article_48d2c008-c994-11e4-8d83-9b84285042f5.html?mode=jqm
- “[Lead in Toys](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/toys.htm)” - <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/toys.htm>
- “[Shooting Ranges](http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=195977#.VRFeXo4YgRB)” - <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=195977#.VRFeXo4YgRB>