

Massachusetts—Impact Statement

Each year, approximately 1100 children and 800 adults are newly diagnosed with lead poisoning in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) and county health department officials follow up on these cases, inspect the homes (including 10,000 preventative lead inspections), and order that units with lead hazards be repaired. Between abatements and lead hazard control orders, the CLPPP completes about 5,000 repair actions annually.

Massachusetts maintains a surveillance system to capture and aggregate the results of blood tests for lead. The surveillance data enables the CLPPP to identify the high-risk areas for lead poisoning and track patterns over time.

CDC funding enables this program to respond to emerging lead threats. For example, in some cases, multiple children in the same family may have elevated blood lead levels. The CDC-funded environmental health professional conducts an environmental inspection to identify a lead hazard in the home or child care facility. Medicaid does not reimburse for environmental investigations or case management, so CDC funding is critical to the success of the CLPPP.

In FY 2010, \$1,037,000 from CDC funding paid for a full complement of staff employed by the state and sub-grantees. For FY 2011, CDC's funding for Massachusetts has been reduced to \$594,000. In FY 2012, if the Senate version of the appropriations bill is adopted as law, the program's scope would be scaled back considerably, and functions not mandated by state law would be eliminated, resulting in job loss as well as a reduction in vital services. Further, without federal support for managing surveillance data, there will be no way to treat the existing threat or track a possible resurgence in blood lead levels.