

Michigan—Impact Statement

Through state and local prevention efforts, the prevalence of lead poisoning in Michigan has decreased each year, but still in 2011 approximately 1000 and 600 adults were identified with lead poisoning (≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). The state and county health departments follow up on these cases, inspect the homes, and order repairs to units with lead hazards. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) issued more than 280 abatement or lead hazard control orders in 2010, and 1,089 lead hazard control activities were completed. Scientific research indicates the need to start helping even more children with blood lead levels below the current action level, and MDCH follows these lower-level cases as well.

MDCH also maintains a surveillance system to capture and aggregate the results of blood tests for lead; they have accumulated nearly 2.1 million records since January 1, 1998. The surveillance data enables them to identify high-risk areas for lead poisoning and track patterns over time. MDCH also uses the data for program planning and grant applications.

MDCH's CDC-funded program also helps Michigan 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.

Despite MDCH's aggressive efforts, there are still serious problems. While MDCH's prevention efforts have drastically reduced the number of lead-poisoned children, Michigan still ranks fifth worst in the U.S. for lead-poisoned kids. Only 20% of Michigan children under age six receive testing for lead annually, and a recent study indicates that more than half of the kids in the Detroit Public School system alone have been lead-poisoned at some time. Estimates show that childhood lead poisoning costs Michigan between \$3.2 and \$4.85 billion per year for the annual loss of future lifetime earnings of lead-poisoned kids. That figure doesn't include the skyrocketing costs of special education, medical treatment, and law enforcement. There is much work left to do.

MDCH relies on CDC funding to keep its lead poisoning prevention program running. In 2010, CDC funding paid for seven full-time positions and CLEARCorps projects that focused on Detroit, Pontiac, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon. In 2011, that funding was reduced from \$739,485 to roughly \$544,000—a 19% cut.

As a result of the CDC allocation being drastically cut for FY 2012 and (under the President's budget) eliminated in 2013, there will be job loss and a critical reduction in vital services, as well as the complete elimination of several important programs. Without the surveillance data, there will be no way to treat the existing threat or track a possible resurgence in blood lead levels.