

## **New York—Impact Statement**

Each year, approximately 500 children (excluding NYC) are newly diagnosed with lead poisoning in New York. The NYSDOH and county health department officials follow up on these cases, inspect the homes, and order repairs to units with lead hazards. About 1,000 abatements are completed annually. The State also maintains a surveillance system to capture and aggregate the results of blood tests for lead. The surveillance data enabled NYSDOH to identify the high-risk areas for lead poisoning, which it now uses for a state-funded “Primary Prevention Initiative.”

CDC funding enables this program to respond to emerging lead threats. For example, in one case, multiple children in the same family had elevated blood lead levels. The CDC-funded environmental health professional conducted an environmental inspection and couldn’t find a housing hazard. The environmental health professional ultimately identified Tumeric as the likely source.

In 2010, CDC funding paid for about nine positions (employed by a quasi-governmental organization called the Health Research Institute). In 2011, those positions were cut in half; therefore, in the most recent application, they funded about 4.75 staff positions. In 2012, the remaining positions will be eliminated as well if the Senate version of the appropriations bill is adopted as law. The state has a \$10.1 million state budget dedicated to primary prevention of lead, which leverages the CDC funding. The loss of CDC funding will severely impact the primary prevention staff.

In summary, in FY10 the CDC funding level was \$1.1 million, which funded nine positions in 57 counties. The FY11 funding level is \$594,000, funding four positions. In FY12, the program would be eliminated, resulting in job loss and a reduction in vital services. Two cities in New York have already reported a leveling off or uptick in the number of children with high blood lead levels. Without the surveillance data, there will be no way to track such a resurgence.