

Find It, Fix It, Fund It:

A Lead Elimination Action Drive

Talking Points

Overview

Overall strategy: Locate exactly where lead problems are (**Find It**). Take action to eliminate those problems using proven methods (**Fix It**). Raise the necessary financial and human resources to get the job done (**Fund It**).

Key Statistics

- 535,000 children with elevated blood lead levels (at or above the CDC reference value)
- Lead poisoning is preventable; we know how to correct lead hazards
- Preventing lead exposures is better than waiting for children to be exposed and only then taking action
- The costs of lead poisoning for a single cohort of children under six years of age are **estimated at over \$190 billion** (sum of lifetime costs of medical treatment, lost earnings, tax revenue, special education, lead-linked ADHD cases, and criminal activity)
- Every dollar invested in lead hazard control **saves at least \$17**
- There are **37 million homes** with lead paint, **23 million** with deteriorated lead paint, contaminated dust or contaminated soil, **3.6 million homes** with hazards and young children, **1.25 million low-income**
- **Six to 10 million** homes have lead pipes (service lines)

Goals of the Campaign

- All our children should be healthy, able to learn, and grow into productive adults, but lead poisoning damages children's brains.
- We can and should address this problem within five years by eliminating lead exposures from housing, water, consumer products, and other sources.
- We should also help children already exposed by providing follow-up services.

Who is the Campaign?

- Find It, Fix It, Fund It has over **150 members**. It has built on the 525-member **National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition** but has also brought new voices to the table. Groups from the following sectors are already participating in the Find It, Fix It, Fund It campaign and have developed **key recommendations** for needed policies, publicity, education, and funding:

Parents of children with elevated blood-lead levels
Housing agencies, organizations, and associations
Clean drinking water advocates and practitioners
Public health officials, agencies, organizations, and associations
Community-based organizations
Academics and researchers
Pediatricians and pediatric clinics and associations
Children's advocates
Legal advocates for disadvantaged families and communities

Environmental and environmental justice organizations
Philanthropists
Policymakers
Antipoverty budget advocates
Businesses and business associations Labor
Civil rights organizations
Artists
Teachers and educational organizations

Benefits of Taking Action to Prevent Lead Poisoning

- Enables children to perform well at school and succeed in life
- Cuts public health costs
- Improves property value
- Can help reduce crime, because lead exposure is linked to adverse behavior later in life
- Provides 75,000 – 150,000 jobs
- Enables surveillance of exposed children in all 50 states and all rural, suburban, and urban areas
- Connects families to the services their children need

Specific Recommended Actions

- About 50 recommendations for local, state, and national policymakers, and citizens
- Recommendations are organized into four areas: Finding and Eliminating Exposures; Surveillance and Follow-up of Poisoned Children; Financing; and Infrastructure and Jobs
- Recommendations were developed by consensus and intended to stimulate actions
- Recommendations are to be tailored depending on audience, capacity, and interest
- Some priority recommendations include:
 1. Provide incentives and requirements to locate lead problems in homes, schools, and areas frequented by children by increasing inspections and risk assessment. Examples include tax credits, underwriting standards for mortgage institutions like Fannie, Freddie, FHA, appropriations, and philanthropic contributions.
 2. Make lead hazard control part of infrastructure improvements.
 3. Replace all single pane windows in pre-1960 housing (windows have the highest levels of paint and contaminated dust).
 4. Optimize water corrosion control and begin to eliminate all lead water pipes.
 5. If a poisoned child is identified, ensure that their home is inspected and remediated before another child is harmed. If the child is in an apartment building, ensure all similar apartments with children are inspected and remediated.
 6. Conduct lead paint abatement in homes occupied (or expected to be occupied) by young children.
 7. Eliminate unnecessary uses of lead, such as wheel weights, aviation gas, folk remedies, cosmetics and hair dyes, metal jewelry, toys, and new lead-based paint manufactured in other countries, and many other products.
 8. Update all standards and laws to reflect the latest research, especially the EPA lead dust standard and EPA water regulations.
 9. Convene local and national task forces to create five-year strategies.
 10. Conduct lead job training.
 11. Enforce the lead poisoning prevention laws already on the books.
 12. Eliminate the loopholes in the lead disclosure law and other federal and local regulations and codes. For example, the disclosure law does not require identification of where lead is located in a home; the Section 8 voucher program requires only a visual assessment instead of actual lead measurements; and there is no health-based water lead standard.
 13. Because lead cannot be seen by the naked eye, stop using visual assessments alone as a way of identifying lead problems.