

Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Fact Sheet

State of Wisconsin

How are children in Wisconsin impacted by environmental health problems?

- Since 1996, more than 47,000 Wisconsin children have been identified as being lead poisoned (blood lead levels greater than or equal to 10 micrograms per deciliter- ug/dL) and more than 1,300 such children were reported in 2010. Wisconsin ranks consistently in the top ten states in the nation for the number of children found to be lead poisoned.
- In 2010, there were 9,878 tests reported for WI children at levels between 5 and 9 ug/dL. These children's lead exposure has been associated with cognitive deficits and other behavior problems.
- The US Dept of Housing and Urban Development estimates that 1/3 of all homes in the Midwest states have lead paint hazards. Only 38% of high risk children (those enrolled in Medicaid or Women, Infants & Children in WI), received their recommended blood lead tests in 2010. Since the majority of high risk children are untested, many more children are likely to be lead poisoned but remain unreported.

What services does the CDC lead and healthy homes program provide Wisconsin children?

WI's environmental health statute (DHS Ch. 254) requires the State to implement a comprehensive statewide lead poisoning prevention and treatment program, including providing state funded grants to local agencies. WI DHS recommends targeted blood lead testing of children, based on demonstrated risk factors such as age of housing, recent renovation activities, family income status, and a sibling reported with lead poisoning. The WI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (WCLPPP) and local health department officials follow up on children with lead poisoning, educate families on possible lead exposure, inspect the homes to identify lead hazards, and work with property owners to assure that lead hazards are safely corrected.

The Wisconsin State Department of Health (DOH):

- Encourages testing of high-risk children and adults who work in jobs that may expose them to lead should also be tested for lead regularly;
- Assists families whose children have lead poisoning through case management, to help identify sources of lead poisoning and follow up with affected children and families;
- Collects and tracks all lead screening data;
- Outreach, to educate citizens about lead hazards; and
- Targets other home hazards, such as carbon monoxide, asthma triggers, and safety hazards.