

APRIL 2008

OKLAHOMA CHILDHOOD
LEAD POISONING PREVENTION
PROGRAM (OCLPPP)

MISSION

Oklahoma Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OCLPPP) provides screening and testing for lead exposure for eligible children ≤ 6 years of age and follow-up for children with blood lead levels ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

PURPOSE

The OCLPPP strives for the elimination of childhood lead poisoning as a public health problem in Oklahoma by the year 2010.

VISION

Every child in Oklahoma will live in a home free of lead hazards.

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OCLPPP-CDC, Cooperative Agreement 2006-2011 Update

In June 2006, the OCLPPP was awarded a 5-year Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to focus on high-risk groups in Oklahoma, especially young Medicaid-eligible children living in old houses.

The CDC requires grantees to submit an interim progress report every year, which serves as a non-competing continuation application. In February 2008, the OCLPPP submitted the required interim progress report for year 3 of the cooperative agreement.

EPA Award One – Year Grant To The OCLPPP



In September 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the OCLPPP a one-year grant to conduct outreach and screening activities to reduce incidences of lead poisoning in under-studied areas with a high potential for undocumented elevated blood lead level (EBLL) cases.

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/lead/pubs/grants/062007-okla.htm>

Children enrolled in Medicaid benefit from a federal mandate that all enrolled children shall be tested for lead exposure at 12 and at 24 months of age or by 72 months of age. Non-Medicaid children may not receive a blood lead test, either because they do not receive regularly scheduled health care, or their providers are not aware which patients are at risk for lead exposure.

The major goals of this project are to:

- Communicate risks to families with young children who are not Medicaid eligible, living in pre-1950 housing within high-risk target area zip codes and
- Test approximately 2,700 children \leq 6 years of age, living in these pre-1950 homes.

EPA New Rule On Lead Renovation, Repair, & Painting Program

On March 31st 2008, EPA issued a new rule under the authority of § 402(c)(3) of the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA) for home improvement contractors and maintenance professionals who renovate or repair pre-1978 housing, childcare facilities or schools.

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/lrrpfinal.pdf>

The rule requires that by April 2010 contractors and maintenance professionals be certified, that their employees be trained, and that they follow protective lead-safe work practice

standards. Trained contractors must post warning signs, restrict occupants from work areas, contain work areas to prevent dust and debris from spreading, conduct a thorough cleanup, and verify that the cleanup was effective.

CDC's Healthy Home Initiative



CDC have expanded collaborations with other partners, such as the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to initiate a Healthy Housing model to address diseases and injuries related to housing hazards and deficiencies.

According to the CDC and the HUD, there are more than 6 million substandard housing units nationwide. Unhealthy conditions in these units result in childhood lead poisoning, injuries, respiratory problems such as asthma, pest infestations, mold, mildew, contaminated water supply and poor air quality.

CDC's Healthy Homes Initiative is a comprehensive approach to address a broad range of housing deficiencies and hazards. It seeks to broaden the capacity of programs such as childhood lead poisoning prevention programs beyond the identification of lead hazards and preventing lead poisoning. The focus of the initiative is to address housing hazards which effect public health, and build partnerships to facilitate reduction or elimination of these hazards. CDC is encouraging all their grantees to start incorporating healthy homes initiatives in their programmatic activities at state and local level.

Essentials Of Healthy Housing Workshop In Tulsa – May 14-15, 2008

As part of the CDC's Healthy Homes Initiative, the OCLPPP is partnering with the American Lung Association of the Central States and East Central University, Department of environmental Health Sciences in Ada, Oklahoma, to organize a 2-day, *Essentials of*

Healthy Housing Practitioner Course, in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 14th and 15th 2008. Everyone from a public health nurse visiting a client to an environmental health professional doing a rodent inspection will gain insight into how housing and health are related and actions they can take to improve the health of their clients.

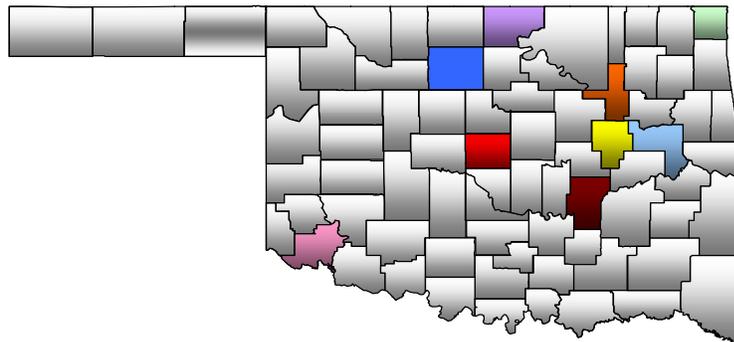
The course complements hazard-specific training in lead-based paint, radon, mold, pests, and asbestos. It identifies root causes of health problems in a home and links them to seven principles of healthy housing: Keep it dry; Keep it clean; Keep it pest-free; Keep it ventilated; Keep it safe, Keep it contaminant-free; and Maintain the house. Course participants will have a better understanding of how to collaborate to make healthy homes a reality in their community.

[http://www.ok.gov/health/documents/HH Practitioner course \(3\).pdf](http://www.ok.gov/health/documents/HH_Practitioner_course_(3).pdf)

High-Risk Target Area Zip Codes In Oklahoma

In June 2006, the CDC awarded the OCLPPP a 5-year project grant, “Oklahoma Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Focusing on High Risk Groups”. The program is focused on children ≤ 6 years of age who are at high risk for lead poisoning.

In order to more effectively target high-risk areas and populations, OCLPPP has identified 21 high-risk target area (HRTA) zip codes within 9 counties, referred to as “Focus Areas”.



Focus Areas & HRTA Zip Codes

■ Oklahoma County – 8 HRTA Zip Codes	■ Tulsa County – 5 HRTA Zip Codes
■ Muskogee County – 2 HRTA Zip Codes	■ Garfield County – 1 HRTA Zip Code
■ Kay County – 1 HRTA Zip Code	■ Jackson County – 1 HRTA Zip Code
■ Okmulgee County – 1 HRTA Zip Code	■ Ottawa County – 1 HRTA Zip Code
■ Hughes County – 1 HRTA Zip Code	

Surveillance Highlights - 2007

All Children \leq 6 years of age

- During calendar year 2007, the OCLPPP received 26,941 laboratory reports on 25,609 children \leq 6 years of age who were tested for lead poisoning.
- Of these 25,609 children tested, 17,348 (67.7%) children were $<$ 3 years of age. 8,261 (32.3%) children were \geq 3 and \leq 6 years of age.
- 194 (0.8%) children \leq 6 years of age had confirmed elevated blood lead levels (EBLL).
- Of the 194 EBLL cases, 144 (74.2%) were incident (new) cases and 50 (25.8%) were prevalent (existing) cases.
- Of the 194 EBLL cases, 129 (66.5%) cases were children $<$ 3 years of age. 65 (33.5%) cases were children \geq 3 and \leq 6 years of age.
- Of the 194 EBLL cases, 150 (77.3%) cases were children who had EBLL between 10-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and 44 (22.7%) cases were children who had EBLL \geq 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.
- During 2007, 24 environmental investigations were performed throughout the state for children with EBLL \geq 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or persistent EBLL between 15-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

All Medicaid eligible children \leq 6 years of age

- As of December 31st 2007, there were 159,372 Medicaid eligible children \leq 6 years of age in Oklahoma. These were the children born between December 31st 2001 and

December 31st 2007. Of these children 36,016 (22.6%) children were tested for blood lead from 2001 through 2007.

- In 2007, out of total 25,609 children ≤ 6 years of age tested for blood lead, 13,922 (54.4%) children were Medicaid eligible.
- Of these 13,922 Medicaid children tested, 9,505 (68.3%) children were < 3 years of age. 4,417 (31.7%) children were ≥ 3 and ≤ 6 years of age.
- In 2007, out of 194 EBLL cases of children under the age of 6 years, 101 (52.1%) were Medicaid eligible.
- Of the 101 Medicaid EBLL cases, 74 (73.3%) were incident (new) cases and 27 (26.7%) were prevalent (existing) cases.
- Of the 101 Medicaid EBLL cases, 71 (70.3%) cases were children < 3 years of age. 30 (29.7%) cases were children ≥ 3 and ≤ 6 years of age.
- Of the 101 Medicaid EBLL cases, 80 (79.2%) cases were children who had blood lead level between 10-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and 21 (20.8%) cases were children who had blood lead level $\geq 20 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.
- According to the CDC reported findings of the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) 1999, Medicaid enrollees nationwide accounted for 60% of children age ≤ 6 years of age who had EBLL. In Oklahoma, during 2007, Medicaid enrollees accounted for 52.1% of children age ≤ 6 years of age who had EBLL.

Toy Recalls & Toy Lead Testing



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced a recall of several children's products since June 2007. The products contained excessive levels of lead and could lead to adverse health effect if ingested by children. A complete list of all the recalled products can be found at : <http://www.cpsc.gov/>. To subscribe to the CPSC's email distribution list to receive bulletins about recalled products, consumers can go to: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>

There has been an increased interest in blood lead screening and testing for children since the recent toy recalls. The OCLPPP offers the following suggestions regarding lead in toys:

- Any recalled toy should be removed and returned to the manufacturer according to the instructions that are provided on the CPSC web site. Any toys that show signs of wear (chipped or peeling paint) or have cracked or broken parts are of special concern. Suspicious toys should be removed from the child's access immediately.
- Consult with the child's primary healthcare provider for further assessment for blood lead testing. When assessing the child's need for blood lead testing, the provider should use the Lead Exposure Risk Assessment Questionnaire. This questionnaire may be accessed at: <http://www.ok.gov/health/documents/2007--LERAQ-English.pdf>

In addition, the OCLPPP has worked in conjunction with other partners to organize 4 free toy testing events in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa area to check for lead in toys since December 2007. Some of the toys tested during the events exceeded the CPSC's permissible limit of lead in toys, which is 600 parts per million (ppm) or less.

For more information about toys and childhood lead exposure, refer to these fact sheets.

<http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org/factsheet-toysleadexposure.pdf>

<http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org/factsheet-leadtestconprod.pdf>

Upcoming Events

- Hispanic Initiative Health Fair at Oklahoma State Fair Grounds - April 12, 2008.
- [Immunization Fair](#) at Christview Christian Church, 2525 South Garnett Road, Tulsa, April 26, 2008. The OCLPPP will offer free lead testing for toys at its booth.
- [Essentials of Healthy Housing: Practitioner Course](#), May 14 and 15, 2008, Tulsa, OK
- Region IV CLPPP Conference, Week of June 23 – 27, 2008, Miami, FL
- [Lead Poisoning Prevention Training Center](#), July 28 – August 1, 2008, Chicago, IL
- [2008 National Healthy Homes Conference](#), September 15-17, 2008, Baltimore, MD



Oklahoma Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

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