

OCTOBER 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.

CONTACT

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OCLPPP-CDC, Cooperative Agreement 2006-2011 Update

In June 2006, the OCLPPP was awarded a 5-year 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 OCLPPP submits an interim progress report every year in February, which serves as a non-competing continuation application. In June 2008, the CDC awarded funds for year 3 (July 1st 2008 - June 30th 2009) of the cooperative agreement.

EPA Targeted Lead Grant Update



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>

The major goals of this project are to:

- Communicate risks of lead poisoning 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.

The OCLPPP proposed to acquire tax assessor data for all the high risk counties, “Focus Area” (see High -Risk Target Area Zip Codes In Oklahoma section of this new letter for the description of Focus Areas) and matching it with data already at its disposal such as surveillance and case management data, Medicaid data, and Newborn screening data.

An extensive data matching using the above mentioned datasets was performed to develop a comprehensive database of 3,377 families living in pre-1950 homes with children \leq 6 years of age who were not Medicaid eligible and had no previous history of blood lead testing.

The OCLPPP is currently in the process of getting fact sheets and brochures published in order to mail out the latest literature about childhood lead poisoning to the families encouraging them to have their children tested.

2008 National Healthy Homes Conference



BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

2008 National Healthy Homes Conference

The 2008 National Healthy Homes conference, “Building A Framework For Healthy Housing” was held in Baltimore, MD, September 15-17 2008. The event co-sponsored by HUD, CDC, EPA, and USDA brought together experts with a wide range of experience relevant to health and housing to discuss regulatory, policy, research, and outreach needs to ensure safe, healthy and efficient housing.

The conference focused on the following key themes to build the framework necessary to make homes safe, healthy, and efficient for everyone:

- Building Capacity to Deliver Healthy Housing;
- Mainstreaming Healthy Housing Principles;
- Creating Healthy Housing through Research;
- Developing Enforcement and Regulatory Strategies;
- Marketing Healthy Housing; and
- Educating the Public and Practitioner

More than 200 subject-matter experts from across the country spoke on key issues related to healthy housing during the conference’s 87 sessions. 3 staff members of the OCLPPP, Cheryl Barr, Antoinette Arenas, and Fahad Khan and 1 practicum student, Neil Brown attended the conference in Baltimore.



Oklahoma's Healthy Home Initiative

For over a year, federal agencies including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have turned their attention to the need to provide safe and healthy homes for America's families. The CDC has also joined and plans to include lead poisoning in the larger strategy of preventing environmental hazards to children. In response to that shift in focus, the OCLPPP has begun to identify the appropriate experts in our state and to further develop the capacity to meet this challenge.

In partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing, East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma and the American Lung Association of the Central States, the OSDH has offered the course entitled, *Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners* in Oklahoma City and in Tulsa in 2008. During the two-day course more than 120 participants, many of whom are professionals that routinely visit clients in their homes, learned what conditions must be present to make a home healthy and how to recognize visible environmental safety hazards.

The *Essentials* course along with *Launching a Healthy Homes Initiative* course (soon to be offered by the OSDH) signals the beginning of an important time in Oklahoma. Oklahoma's healthy homes initiative is a holistic approach to address a broad range of housing deficiencies and hazards. It will expand the capacity of the OCLPPP beyond the identification of lead hazards and preventing lead poisoning. The focus of the initiative will be to address housing hazards and unsafe living conditions, which affect the health and safety of Oklahomans.



Housing Related Hazards – Facts & Figures

- Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death in the U.S. and Oklahoma for persons in the age group of 1-44 years. In the U.S., 173,753 people died from an injury and unintentional injuries accounted for 117,809 (67.8%) deaths during 2005. In Oklahoma, 2,820 people died from an injury and unintentional injuries accounted for 2,005 (71.1%) deaths during 2005.
 - During 2001-2004, asthma average annual prevalence was higher in children under age 18 (8.5%) than in adults 18 years and older (6.7%). According to the 2006 BRFSS results, asthma prevalence in Oklahoma was higher in children under age 18 (9.2%) than in adults 18 years and older (8.5%). In the U.S, an average annual 4,185 deaths from asthma occurred during 2000-2004. In Oklahoma 56, deaths from asthma occurred during 2005.
 - According to the EPA and American Lung Association, every year approximately 53,800 people in the U.S. die from secondhand smoke. In Oklahoma, 700 people die every year from secondhand smoke.
 - During 2004-2006, 9,233,337 U.S. children younger than 6 years of age were tested for lead poisoning and 139,355 (1.5%) children were found to have blood lead levels greater than or equal to the CDC established level of concern 10 µg/dL. During 2004-2006, 67,052 Oklahoman children younger than 6 years of age were tested for lead poisoning and 567 (0.8%) children were found to have blood lead levels greater than or equal to the CDC established level of concern 10 µg/dL.
 - Every year, more than 500 people in the U.S. die from carbon monoxide poisoning. In Oklahoma, 291 (29 every year) carbon monoxide related deaths occurred during 1994 and 2003.
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- According to the EPA, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., responsible for 21,000 deaths every year. No state level mortality or morbidity data for radon is available in Oklahoma. However according to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, there are 5 counties (Beaver, Delaware, Cotton, Cherokee, and Cimarron) where all the homes tested to date have an average indoor radon level greater than the EPA established action level of 4 Pico Curies per liter of air (pCi/L).
- In Oklahoma, child maltreatment rate of 16.3/1,000 children was higher than the national rate of 12.1/1,000 children during 2005. In Oklahoma, child maltreatment fatality rate of 4.8/100,000 children was also higher than the national rate of 1.96/100,000 children during 2005.
- Every year, an estimated 7.7 million persons become victim of intimate partner violence in the U.S. An estimated 2,538 persons were treated and released for intimate partner violence injuries from Oklahoma hospital based settings (e.g., inpatient facilities and emergency departments) during 2002.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week



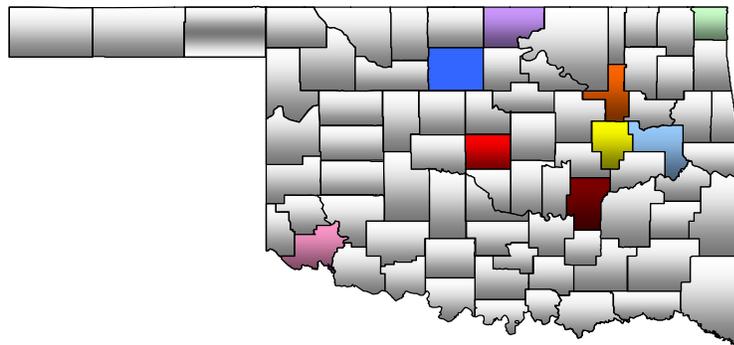
National Lead Poisoning Prevention week is October 19 –25, 2008. At the national level, the CDC in collaboration with the HUD and EPA have developed materials as well as released podcasts about the importance of primary prevention, blood lead testing as well as EPA's new rule for renovations, repairs, and painting activities on the CDC, HUD, and EPA websites.

At the state level, various childhood lead poisoning prevention programs including the OCLPPP and communities nationwide will be conducting activities to raise awareness and educate parents and families about lead poisoning.

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	

Childhood Lead Poisoning Article In The Bulletin

The October issue of the Oklahoma County Medical Society publication, “The Bulletin” features a brief article on Childhood Lead Poisoning and low Medicaid testing rates in the U.S. and Oklahoma.

A scanned copy of the article is available in the publications & articles section of the OCLPPP website at <http://www.ok.gov/health/documents/all.pdf>

Helpful Links and Contacts



<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>



<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthyhomes.htm>



<http://www.healthyhomespartnership.net/>



<http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org/>



<http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/index.cfm>



<http://www.uwex.edu/healthyhome/tool/>



<http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/hhi/index.cfm>



<https://lpp.health.ok.gov>



http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/in_focus/housing_if_healthyhomes.html

<http://www.epa.gov/lead>