

Lead News for Healthcare Providers: Volume 1, Issue 2

FALL/WINTER 2016

Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, Rochester Office

NEW AAP POLICY STATEMENT ON LEAD

In July 2016, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on Environmental Health published a new Policy Statement: **Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity** (<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/1/e20161493%20>).

This statement recognizes pediatricians' and other primary care providers' crucial role in working with families and health departments to prevent lead exposure for kids as well as in assessing their risk of lead exposure and testing

their blood lead levels. Please check it out!

The AAP also has an excellent web page dedicated to lead exposure and lead poisoning which includes lots of information for health care providers, educational material to share with parents, and details about the AAP's recent lead poisoning advocacy work. (<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/lead-exposure>)



NYS BLOOD LEAD TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Remember, per NY State law, **every child** in the state **must** have a blood lead test at or around ages 1 & 2 **and** whenever a potential risk of lead poisoning is identified in their environment. In addition, risk assessment questions should be asked at every well child visit for children between 6 months and 6 years of age.

MEDICAL OFFICES & LEAD CARE II MACHINES

Medical offices that use a Lead Care II blood lead testing machine, must:

- 1) Get a CLIA waiver from the NY State Wadsworth Center before beginning to use Lead Care II.
- 2) Have staff watch a NYSDOH webinar training session on the proper use of Lead Care II and the reporting of results (https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/status.htm).
- 3) Report results to NYSDOH in a timely way, generally within 2 weeks of the test via NYSIIS or sooner through an authorized laboratory's reporting system.



To receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact jenniferd_becker@urmc.rochester.edu

NEW RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF TAP WATER LEAD ON CHILDREN'S BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

Ngueta G, et al. Use of a cumulative exposure index to estimate the impact of tap water lead concentration on blood lead levels in 1- to 5-Year-Old Children (Montréal, Canada). Environmental Health Perspectives 2016;124:388–395.

**Reviewed by
James Campbell, MD, MPH**

Drinking water is recognized as a source of lead exposure. However, questions remain about the impact that chronic exposure to lead-contaminated water has on blood lead levels (BPb). Despite great interest on the impact that environmental lead has on children's health, few studies have investigated the impact of water lead levels (WLL) on BPb in children <6 years of age. The author's sought to estimate the dose-response relationship between drinking-water cumulative lead exposure and BPb in 1-5 year-old children.

The authors identified children age 1-5 years of age living in Montreal, Canada. They were recruited from four neighborhoods selected for the possible presence of lead pipes and old houses. The homes of the children were sampled for en-

vironmental sources of lead (water, dust, and paint samples), and the children had blood drawn for BPb. Multiple linear regression was used to estimate the association between cumulative water lead exposure and BPb.

A total of 298 children were enrolled. As a whole, the mean BPb was 1.34 µg/dL and only 5 of the included children had BPb exceeding the current standard of U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1-5 year-old children living in Montreal, the authors found an association between lead concentration in tap water and BPb. It was estimated that in this age group, an increase of 1 µg/L in water lead would result in an increase of 35% of BPb after 150 days of exposure. The authors concluded that water lead concentration well below the current EPA-defined drinking-water guidelines (15 µg/L) could have an impact on blood lead levels of young children after long-term exposure.

Reviewer's Note:

Given that 98% of the child in this study had BPb less than 5 µg/dL, the results of this study should be applied to children who have similar BPb levels.

LEAD STORYBOARD FOR EDUCATING FAMILIES

The Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center has a resource available to organizations in our region for educating the general public about lead poisoning prevention. The Lead Storyboard is 3 feet wide, 10 feet long, 5.5 feet tall and is suitable for indoor or outdoor (fair weather) locations. It is attractive to families and contains educational material in visual and audio format. You can read or listen to the content at www.storyboardinc.com/lead-poisoning-1.

To request use of the Lead Storyboard, email Jennifer Becker at jenniferd_becker@urmc.rochester.edu.



HEAD START CHILDREN & LEAD

Because of poverty, children enrolled in Head Start are at high risk of lead poisoning. Did you know that Head Start requirements for blood lead testing are different than the requirements for other New York State children? Like all children, they need to get a blood lead test at age one and again at two. In addition, however, children between the ages of 3 and 6 (36 months and 72 months) who are enrolled in Head Start must have a blood lead test if they have not previously been tested for lead poisoning.

Please work with Head Start programs to help their enrolled children get the blood lead tests they need!



See <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/physical-health/education-activities/lead-poisoning-prevention.html> for more information.

HURRAY FOR AN OBSERVANT NURSE!

We recently heard from a Head Start nurse in Rochester. She noticed a 4 year old boy in her program had a recent well child visit in which it was noted that he had developed behavioral problems within a short period of time. Though he had no history of an elevated blood lead level, she suspected he might have a new lead exposure and she urged the family to have the child tested for lead again. When the family went to the doctor's office, the healthcare provider at first would not order a blood lead test because the boy had already been tested at age 2 as required by NYS law! This was obviously frustrating for the family and the nurse.

After finally convincing the doctor's office to order the test, the result showed that the child did indeed have an elevated blood lead level. With the help of the Monroe County Health Department, the family was able to identify and reduce sources of lead exposure. We commend this nurse for persisting in helping this child avoid long term exposure to lead! Remember, even though blood lead testing is not required after age 2, it is important to consider lead exposure at any age if a child is developing behavior or attention problems!

LEAD COALITION CONTACTS



Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

www.letsmakeleadhistory.org/
(585) 224-3125

Covers Monroe County primarily

**Finger Lakes Coalition to
STOP Lead Poisoning** 

(585) 396-4343

Covers 8 counties:
Chemung, Livingston,
Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca,
Steuben, Wayne, and Yates

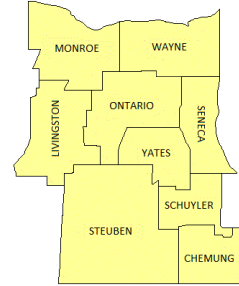
WE ARE . . . AT YOUR SERVICE!

Need an update about lead poisoning and its management for your staff?

Have a question about a patient with lead poisoning?

Groups we have recently spoken to about lead include:

- Pediatric Practices
- Family Medicine Practices
- Pediatric and family medicine residents
- Dental residents
- Head Start Health Advisory Groups
- Visiting Nurse (pediatric) programs



Serving 9 counties in the
Finger Lakes Region

Contact us to schedule a presentation!

Stanley Schaffer MD, Director • James Campbell MD, Assoc. Director • Jennifer Becker, Coordinator

No level is safe . . . prevent lead exposure in children!

To receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact jenniferd_becker@urmc.rochester.edu

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supported by the NYS Department of Health

www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

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