

Lead News for Healthcare Providers: Volume 3, Issue 1

WINTER 2018

Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, Rochester Office

DOCTOR, WHERE IS THE LEAD COMING FROM?

That's a question parents of children with elevated blood lead levels often ask. Is it from PAINT? DUST? SOIL? WATER? CONSUMER PRODUCTS? When a recent study examined lead sources for the "average" child, what was most striking was the contribution of lead in water for infants (36%). Also, 50% of lead exposure for the "average" 1-6 year old was found to come from food. However, as author Tom Neltner notes, **"For 1 to 6 year olds [with blood lead levels] in the top 90-100 percentile, more than 70% of the lead in their blood is from soil and dust."**



<http://blogs.edf.org/health/2017/12/15/childrens-lead-exposure/>

Figuring out the most important sources of lead exposure for children is challenging, so what guidance do you give patients families to prevent exposure?

TIPS TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Healthcare providers play a critical role in educating families about lead poisoning prevention, and they are required by NYS law to "provide anticipatory guidance to all parents of children less than 6 years old as part of routine care." The NYS educational sheet **What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means** also has excellent tips on the back **How to Protect Your Child From Lead Poisoning**. These patient education sheets are available in multiple languages at <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/>. Reviewing ways to prevent lead exposure with families, especially those with low literacy levels, can make them aware of actions they can take to prevent lead exposure. The lead poisoning prevention tips are in 5 categories:

- **Fix peeling lead paint and perform home repairs safely**
- **Wash dust off hands, toys, bottles, windows and floors**
- **Be careful not to bring lead home on clothes, toys, or jewelry**
- **Keep lead out of your food and drinking water**
- **Serve foods containing calcium, iron, and vitamin C**

Other helpful educational material comes from the CDC's health literacy project. Three simple, colorful fact sheets are available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tools/LeadLiteracy.htm>.

Know the Facts: general lead poisoning prevention information.

5 Things You Can Do: information on how to help lower elevated blood lead levels.

Are You Pregnant?: lead poisoning prevention information for pregnant women.

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

OCT 2017 LEAD AND LEARNING CONFERENCE

Over ninety people participated in our Oct 18, 2017 conference, **The Effects of Lead Exposure on Learning: The Way Forward**. Conference materials including PowerPoint slides and video recordings are available at www.urmc.rochester.edu/childrens-hospital/lead-poisoning-resource-center/2017-lead-conference.aspx. These include:

Stanley Schaffer, MD, MS - Intro and Dedication; What We Know About Lead and Its Effects on the Brain

Pat McLaine, DrPH, PH, RN - Educational Interventions for Children Poisoned by Lead: a Summary of Recommendations from CDC's 2015 Expert Panel Report

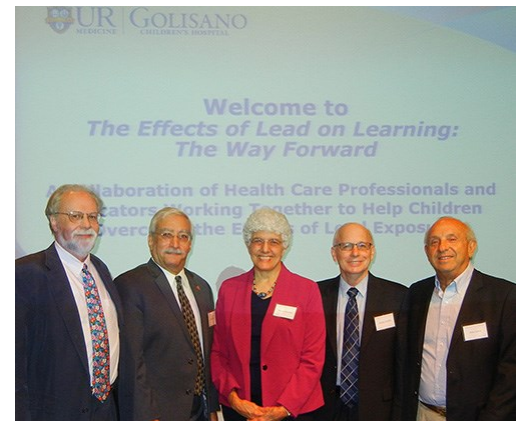
Peter Simon, MD, MPH - Lessons from Rhode Island's Efforts to Support Local Education Agencies' Child Outreach (Child Find) with KIDSNET.

Panel Discussion moderated by Dirk Hightower, PhD - Implementing 'Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead' - the CDC's 2015 Expert Panel Recommendations – How Can We Get it Done?

Theodore Lidsky, PhD - Assessing the Neurocognitive Effects of Brain Injury: Why Schools Fail Lead Poisoned Children

Panel Discussion-Andrew MacGowan III, moderator- How Can Schools Address the Needs of Individual Students Affected by Lead?

Ralph Spezio, EdD - Helping Lead Poisoned Children: New Directions and New Ideas



HOW CAN HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS PARTNER WITH EDUCATORS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY LEAD?



- 1) Require that children get their blood lead tests at appropriate times and that children with elevated blood lead levels get follow-up testing promptly, emphasizing the importance of doing so to families
- 2) Include accurate blood lead test results on school health forms
- 3) Obtain a developmental assessment if delays are suspected. Consider a neuropsychological evaluation for children with significant learning issues
- 4) Encourage parents to advocate on behalf of children with a history of elevated blood lead levels throughout their educational years

SCREENING versus TESTING

From PEDIATRICS Volume 140, number 2, August 2017

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/2/e20171490>

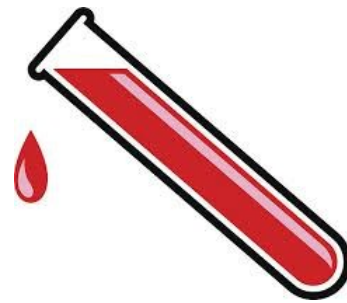
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) wishes to clarify terminology in its policy statement “Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity” to avoid potential confusion that could occur related to the use of the words “screening” versus “testing.” the AAP suggests that the terminology going forward be consistent:

- **Screening:** Use of a Lead Hazard Questionnaire
- **Testing:** Obtaining a Capillary or Venous Blood Lead Sample

Lead Exposure Risk Assessment Questions for All Children Less than 6 Years of Age

1. Does your child live in or regularly visit an older home/building with peeling paint, renovation or remodeling? New York City banned lead-based paint for residential buildings. Older dwellings, such as care, preschool, school, and home of babysitter or relative. Ask if any move, repair, or renovation. Children with Medicaid, those entering foster care, and recently arrived refugees are at higher rates of lead poisoning.
2. Has your child spent any time outside the U.S. in the past year? All foreign-born children are at higher rates of lead poisoning.

Screening



Testing



Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

www.theleadcoalition.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

THE IMPORTANCE OF COALITIONS

Lead poisoning is a health problem with an environmental solution, and local coalitions are effective in bringing about change for communities. There is no known way to reverse damage done by lead exposure, so prevention is most important. Healthcare providers have many demands on their time, yet our local lead coalitions need their involvement. As respected members of the community, healthcare providers are needed to raise awareness, educate families, become familiar with local resources to improve housing conditions, and advocate for policies that will protect children from lead exposure. Contact us to find out more about local lead coalitions.

NO LEVEL IS SAFE... PREVENT LEAD EXPOSURE IN CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN!

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

Have a question about a child or pregnant woman with lead exposure?

Contact us especially for advice managing patients with blood lead levels of 15 ug/dL or higher:



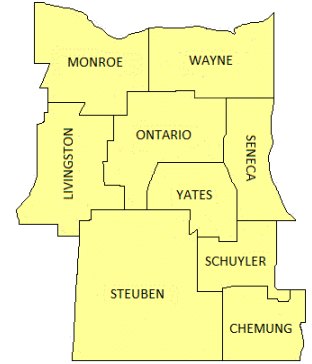
DIRECTOR

Stanley Schaffer MD, MS



COORDINATOR

Jennifer Becker MPH



Serving 9 counties in the Finger Lakes Region

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

WESTERN NEW YORK LEAD POISONING RESOURCE CENTER, ROCHESTER OFFICE

Golisano Children's Hospital, Division of General Pediatrics
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 777
Rochester, NY 14642

Toll free: 877-352-5775

www.Golisano.URMC.edu/lead-poisoning

Supported by the NYS Department of Health
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

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