

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Environmental Health

Contact Information

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Short Title: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Program Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Objectives and Goals:

To prevent children from being lead-poisoned, and to provide case management services to children with elevated lead levels to prevent further harm.

This requires:

- Community outreach and education
- Screening and surveillance
- Home inspection and hazard identification
- Code enforcement / Lead hazard control
- Medical case management
- Policy / legislative efforts

Methods:

Program provides complete case management services from testing children to remediating the lead hazards in the home. Outreach and Education are key components. The Program works with many community groups and other City, State, and Federal agencies to coordinate efforts. The Program works to assure that children are safe at home and at childcare, foster care, and in school. The Program works with local legislators to pass laws for primary prevention.

Program Length:

The CLPPP has been a distinct Program within the PDPH since 1970.

Number of target population reached by effort:

There are over 100,000 children under the age of 6 in Philadelphia. Each year, more than 40,000 are screened for lead.

Demographic Info:

Philadelphia has a very diverse population, with almost half being Black. Almost 25% of the population lives in poverty, the highest rate of the 10 largest cities. The City has an increasing immigrant population, with the School District recognizing over 80 different languages spoken in the homes of their students.

Overall Cost:

CLPPP budget \$5,700,000

Funding Sources:

50 % Federal

25 % State

15 % Local

10 % Other, please explain: Local contract with HUD

percentages ARE estimates

Outcomes:

Prevalence rates (children with elevated lead test levels of 10ug/dl or higher) have dropped steadily from a high of over 80% in 1989 to less than 4% in 2008!

Did you make any estimates regarding costs deferred, outbreaks averted or deaths prevented?

It was not uncommon for a child to die from lead poisoning in Philadelphia in the 1950s & 1960s. No child has died from lead poisoning since 1970 when the Program began. In 1989, over 30,000 children tested had what we now know to be elevated lead levels. Last year, that number was down to 1,000.

Future Plans:

Program will be changing focus to Healthy Homes – to provide education, and home interventions on a wide range of environmental health hazards.