


ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH

ELEVATED LEAD IN CHILDREN - THE POTENTIAL FOR HARM AND OUR RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM

Shanda Wilkins, LBSW
Public Health Social Worker, Senior



LEAD EXPOSURE

- Children can be exposed to lead by inhaling it, swallowing it, and in some cases, it can be absorbed into the skin
- Lead affects all major body organs
- Children under age 6 are at greatest risk. They are more likely to put their hands and other objects into their mouths.
- Causes irreversible damage to child's growth and development.

July 2019 77



July 2019 78

CARE COORDINATION

Message to the caregiver:

- There may not be any symptoms initially.
- Why there is an immediate need to reduce lead exposure
- Possible sources of the child's lead exposure
- Ways to reduce exposure
- Why continued testing is important
- When should child be retested
- To monitor the child's developmental conditions

July 2019 79

COMMON SOURCES OF LEAD

- Houses built prior to 1978
- Soil- (near busy street, gas previously had lead in it, homes with lead paint may have contaminated the soil, car repairs done in the yard, etc.)
- Water
- Some toys and jewelry
- Food (imported, stored in leaded containers, etc.)
- Homemade remedies, cosmetics
- Household products: cooking utensils, pottery, miniblinds

July 2019 80



July 2019



OTHER SOURCES

RECALLS DUE TO LEAD

- Visit <https://www.cpsc.gov/recall-hazards/lead> routinely to check for items that have been recalled due to the risk of lead.



COUNSELING/EDUCATION

- Discuss long-term, developmental follow-up with caregiver and PMP
- Include elements specific to the child
- Ethnic and cultural practices
- Identify all sites where child spends time
- Emphasize what is known to work
- Work first with the person who regularly cares for the child
- Many caregivers don't see the need to take action when children lack symptoms

COUNSELING/EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

- Know how to spot potential sources of exposure
- Help the family build confidence that they can reduce child's lead exposure
- Give educational materials to all caregivers
- Assist the family in following the PMP's directions for repeat lead testing
- Track and monitor lead levels to determine continued needs for family education
- Additional home visits are required if the levels do not drop

CARE PLAN INCLUDES FAMILY EDUCATION IN HOW TO LOWER LEAD LEVEL

- Environment
 - Wash floors, window sills, weekly with all-purpose detergent.
 - Vacuum with Hepafilter.
 - Remove shoes when coming indoors so lead dust is not tracked inside.
 - Laundry work clothes separately from other clothes.
 - Use proper safety measures when renovating, remodeling
 - Make sure cartons of mini-blinds have terms like "non-lead formula" or "no lead added."

CARE PLAN INCLUDES FAMILY EDUCATION IN HOW TO LOWER LEAD LEVEL

☉Nutrition

- Diet high in iron, vitamin C & low in fat.
- Allow cold water to run several minutes before using for drinking or cooking.
- Do not serve or store food in pottery made outside of U.S.

July 2019

88

CLOSING OF CASE

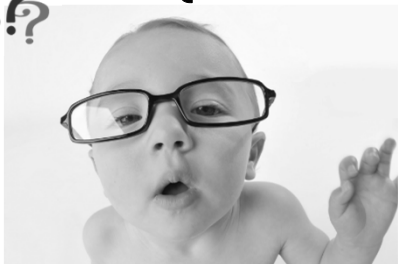
- ☉ Lead cases can be closed when a child has had two consecutive tests < 5 µg/dL.
- ☉ After one year of case being open, with no significant decrease, case review is required.
- ☉ If there are still unresolved issues after lead level goals are met, the child/family should be referred to the Patient 1st CC program for continued services.

July 2019

89



QUESTIONS



Alabama Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (ACLPPP)
(334) 206-3883 or (833) 667-1495



CONTACTS

Steven McDaniel
Program Director, IAQ Lead
334-206-5752

Seratia Johnson, RN
Program Director, ACLPPP
334-206-2966

Shanda Wilkins, LBSW
Public Health Social Worker, Senior
Pike Co. Health Department
334-566-2860