

OH HELP!

The Ohio Help End Lead Poisoning Newsletter

Issue 6

January – February 2003

In This Issue

Around the State

Ohio Lead Legislation signed into law.....	1
Celebration and a look at the past - House Bill 248.....	2
University of Cincinnati Healthy Homes Grant.....	2

National News

Fewer Kids are poisoned by lead, CDC estimate says.....	3
St. Louis Lawsuit.....	4
Lead in Kids' Vest.....	4

Help End Lead Poisoning General Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2003
Time: 10:30 - 12:30 (Board Meeting to follow)
Location: Columbus Southside Pride Center Settlement House
(310 East Innis Avenue - Columbus, Ohio 43207)

Guest Speakers Include:

- **Marcheta Gillam**, *Cincinnati Legal Aid Services* - History and summary of House Bill 248;
- **Jenny Kattlove**, *KidsOhio.org*;
- **Carolyn Gillam**, *Clark Co. Health Department LPPP*.

NEWS AROUND THE STATE

Ohio Lead Legislation signed into Law

With 124th General Assembly coming to an end on December 31, 2002, it was all or nothing for House Bill 248, the childhood lead poisoning prevention legislation. Entering December, the bill had to be passed out of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee, followed by the full Senate, and concurred by the House in order to make it to Governor Bob Taft's desk before the end of the month. It made the situation look even bleaker considering the House and Senate were only planning to stay in Session until December 6, 2002. Despite all this, the legislative process showed its efficiency as it pushed the bill through the

process within a matter of days.

On December 5, 2002 the Senate Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee adopted a new version of Substitute House Bill 248. These amendments revise the bill's provisions for the performance of essential maintenance practices; clarifies that training in lead-safe renovation is optional; and modifies the duties and organization of the Wellness Block Grant Program and Children's Trust Fund Board. Once these new amendments were adopted to the bill it was immediately voted out of the committee.

Later that day, the full Senate passed the bill with a unanimous affirmative vote. On Friday, December 6, 2002, the House of Representatives concurred the passage of Substitute House Bill 248.

The final obstacle before becoming law was for the bill to be signed by Governor Bob Taft within 10 days of him receiving the final copy of it. On January 6, 2003, representative Williams, along with his family, and other interest parties, such as representatives from Help End Lead Poisoning and the Columbus Apartment Owners Association, gathered in the Governors office to the signing of House Bill 248 into law at 10:30 in the morning.

This is the first major legislative victory for lead poisoning prevention in many years for Ohio. For information on the specifics of House Bill 248, check Help End Lead Poisoning website at www.ohiocdc.org/HELP.html.



Governor Bob Taft signs House Bill 248, as interested parties look on

Celebration and a Look at the Past - HB 248

Help End Lead Poisoning will be celebrating the passage of House Bill 248 at the February 12, 2003 meeting. There will be a presentation on the long history of House Bill 248 and the legislative fight for action. In addition there will be an informative presentation on House Bill 248 and what new regulation it will present. These regulations, along with all aspects of the bill will be discussed, along with ways to implement these changes.

Regardless if this law affects you, might affect you, or whether you are unsure if this law affects you, it would be very beneficial to attend this meeting.



Help End Lead Poisoning

The University of Cincinnati Healthy Homes Program Description

The University of Cincinnati researchers will develop appropriate preparation procedures to use for the measurement of lead in soil and exterior dust samples. The researchers will analyze various fractions of the samples for lead based on particle size. They will measure the lead in the various fractions of samples from two large studies to determine which part of a soil or dust sample may be more valid to use when assessing risk and health implications. As a final product they expect to develop and document a universal procedure for the preparation of soil and exterior dust samples for lead analysis.

The objective of this research by the University of Cincinnati is to determine the effect of residential soil lead hazard

control procedures both on exterior dust lead levels on the adjacent street and at the exterior entry and on interior surfaces of study homes in Cleveland, Ohio. The researchers will also determine the effectiveness of soil-lead hazard controls three to six years after they were implemented and they will compare two different methods of collecting exterior dust. Researchers will collect and analyze samples from 120 housing units that will be selected at random from units previously treated through the HUD-funded Cleveland Lead Hazard Control Program. This study fills a gap in research by documenting the impact of soil lead controls on interior dust lead loadings.

NEWS AROUND THE NATION

Fewer Kids are poisoned by lead, says CDC estimate

*By Hugh McDiarmid Jr.
Detroit Free press staff writer*

The number of children at risk for brain damage and learning disabilities from lead poisoning has dropped by nearly two-thirds since the early 1990s, according to federal statistics obtained by the Free Press.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 300,000 children between ages 1 and 5 have unsafe levels of lead in their blood, according to survey data collected in 1999 and 2000, said Pam Meyer, a health scientist with the CDC's Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch.

That's a dramatic drop from an estimated 890,000 kids with high lead levels in a 1991-1994 survey. And it is a fraction of the estimated 14.9 million lead-poisoned kids in the late 1970s -- before the effects of a ban on leaded gasoline became evident. CDC officials said they expect to publish the data within the next several weeks.

"This comes as great news. Clearly, we're in the range where we can get our arms around this problem," Don Ryan, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, said Wednesday.

But with an estimated 300,000 kids being poisoned nationally and 39 million U.S. homes at significant risk for lead paint hazards, it's no cause for celebration, Ryan warned. And in Detroit, and other urban areas, children continue to be poisoned at much higher rates, experts said.

Dr. Herbert Needleman, a longtime researcher on the health effects of lead on children, noted that some research indicates the current CDC definition of an "elevated" blood-lead level -- 10 micrograms per deciliter -- may be too high. The research shows behavioral, health and learning problems at much lower levels. If those children were included in the count, the CDC's estimate would be much higher, Needleman said.

"Three hundred thousand is no number to sneeze at, and there is new data that shows effects at levels below 10," said Needleman, a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The national averages compiled

Don't forget to send your updated contact information, membership dues, and contributions to Ira Horowitz at the Help End Lead Poisoning Office:

**35 East Gay Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 461-6392
fax: (614) 461-1011
no_lead2002@hotmail.com**

Check out Help End Lead Poisoning Website!

<http://www.ohiocdc.org/HELP.html>

It includes all HELP publications, educational materials, information on House Bill 248, 100s of links, and much, much more.

by the CDC are not reflective of urban areas like Detroit, where lead poisoning is more prevalent.

The new data is part of the CDC's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which collects information about the health and diet of people in the United States using interviews and health tests in a mobile examination center. The survey uses scientific methods to get a representative sampling of Americans. As part the 1999-2000 survey, 723 of the participating children were tested for lead.

Because data is still being analyzed, the estimate of 300,000 children with elevated lead levels is subject to revision. The final number could be as low as 185,700 and as high as 640,000, CDC officials said.

**HELP END LEAD
POISONING (HELP)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Jo Anne St. Clair, *President*
Eleanor Pearlman, *Vice President*
Shelley Cooper, *Secretary*
James Callen, *Treasurer*

Patricia Barnes
Stuart Greenberg
Suzanne Gomochak
Eugene King
Tom Rotte

Ira Horowitz, *Coordinator*

St. Louis Lawsuit

A judge has allowed the city of St. Louis to continue to seek millions of dollars in damages

from seven lead paint manufacturers.

Judge Margaret Neill threw out some of St. Louis' claims but rejected most arguments for dismissing the city's lawsuit, which contends that the companies misrepresented or failed to disclose the hazardous nature of lead and lead products.

"This court concludes that the widespread alleged presence of lead paint in the city's housing stock presents a very serious and pervasive threat to the public health, as well as an environmental hazard, and therefore qualifies as a public nuisance," Neill wrote.

The ruling, issued Wednesday, November 20, 2002, and made public Friday of that week, allows the city to continue what it says is an effort to make its housing lead-safe and to help families hurt by lead contamination.

In 2000, when the lawsuit was filed, about 31 percent of St. Louis children under 6 had elevated lead levels, one of the highest rates in the country. Estimates for fixing the problem run as high as \$40 million for St. Louis alone.

Individuals and communities have filed more than 40 lawsuits against lead paint companies since 1989. All have failed.

A Rhode Island jury was unable to reach a verdict in November in that state's case against the paint industry. Cities including San Francisco, Milwaukee, New York and Newark, N.J., also have filed lawsuits, and several other states were considering such action.

St. Louis is suing American Cyanimid Co., Atlantic Richfield Co., DuPont & Co., Glidden Co., NL Industries Inc., SCM Corp. and Sherwin-Williams Co. No trial date has been set.

Lead in Kids' Vests

*By Tom Neltner
Improving Kids' Environment*

Nicole Gaunt, Allen County of Indiana Health Department's case manager, was investigating a 4-year old lead poisoned child. She found that her local public school puts some aggressive and hyperactive children in a weighted vest to slow them down. She checked the pocket of the vest to find loose pellets and a gray residue on her fingertips. The pellets contained lead.

The school district has stopped using the vests. The 50 to 60 kids using them will be tested to see if they are lead poisoned.



Help End Lead Poisoning

Editor's Notes

If you have any news or information that you would like to see in this newsletter or questions/comments about the newsletter please contact Ira Horowitz at 614-461-6392 or via email at no_lead2002@hotmail.com