



INFORMATION ON LEAD POISONING IN MAINE



Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

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TOP FACTS

- **Did you know that, according to the Maine Medical Assessment Foundation, Medicaid recipients in Maine are twice as likely to be lead poisoned?**
- **CDC considers any area where greater than 27% of housing is pre-1950 to be "at risk". This description fits 41% of all Maine housing.**
- **Every year, an average of about 550 children are identified in Maine with elevated blood lead levels. Lead can cause learning disabilities and behavioral problems that last a lifetime.**
- **In Maine, the majority of cases of childhood lead poisoning occur in homes where remodeling has taken place. Nationally, the single most common source of lead poisoning is dust from leaded paint. Dust is created by chipping and peeling or by sanding leaded paint.**

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Contacts

The Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program offers case management and educational services. This is the program to contact with questions about **health effects, inspection, signs and symptoms, treatment and prevention activities**. Educational programming and materials are available upon request. The program can be contacted directly at (207) 287-4311. If you need a toll free number, use this number: 1-800-698-3624. Our fax number is: (207) 287-5355. Our TTY number is: (207) 287-8016.

E-mail us at: dianna.l.saunders@state.me.us

For information on **remodeling, renovation, environmental regulations, licensed lead personnel, training for lead-safe work practices, and cleaning tips**, contact the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Lead program at 1(800) 452-1942.

For information on funds for **abatement and free inspections**, contact the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) at 1 (800) 452-4668 or your local CAP agency.

For advice from physicians on clinical management, contact **Barbara Bush Children's Hospital's "Maine Kids Run Better Unleaded"** at Maine Medical Center (Toll-free at 1-877-330-BBCH). See: <http://www.mmc.org/news/lead.html>

For management of adult poisonings, contact the **Poison Control Center** at (800) 442-6305 or (207) 772-8850 and also **the Maine Occupational Health Program** at 287-5378.

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Fact Sheets and Reports

[Summary of Maine Statistics From MMAF Report](#)

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Basic CDC Risk Questions

Below are the **THE 4 BASIC RISK QUESTIONS** From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ask yourself these questions to see if your child is at risk for lead poisoning:

1. Is the house where the child lives or stays pre-1950?
2. Is it pre-1978 with recent renovations?
3. Is there a sibling or playmate who is poisoned?
4. Is the child's family involved in a program that gets federal funds (like Medicaid, WIC or HeadStart)

If you answered "Yes" to any of these question, your child may be at risk. If your child is below 6 years of age and has never been tested, ask your doctor for a blood test. If your child was tested but one of the answers has changed to "yes", ask your doctor about a blood test.



Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

11 State House Station
7th Floor Key Bank Plaza
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Phone: 1.207.287.4311 or 1.800.698.3624
TTY: 1..207.287.8015

Webmaster: dcfh.webmaster@state.me.us