



Red dots indicate dwellings associated with lead poisoned children (greater than or equal to 10 micrograms per deciliter) from 1996 – 2006.

Childhood Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin is a statewide problem.

Lead-poisoned children have been identified in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Each dot on this map represents a location associated with a child who has been found to be lead poisoned. This represents more than 40,000 children since 1996. During 2006 alone, an average of four new children were identified with lead poisoning every day of the year. The rate of childhood lead poisoning in Wisconsin is persistently much higher than the national average (CDC Surveillance Data, 1997-2006).

To learn more about the status of childhood lead poisoning in Wisconsin, read this very important new report, *The Legacy of Lead: Report on Childhood Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin 2008*. It's available online at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead> or by calling the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 1-608-266-5817.

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The Legacy of Lead



Summary of the report on **CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING** IN WISCONSIN 2008



Lead Hurts Kids!

We want to prevent exposure before it happens!

Did you know that...

- ✓ *Childhood lead poisoning still affects more than 2,000 children each year in Wisconsin.*
Since only a fraction of the total number of children living in older housing have been tested for lead, there are likely many more lead-poisoned children that have not been identified.
- ✓ *Lead poisoning causes permanent brain damage.*
Lead interferes with the normal development of a child's brain and can result in lower IQ, learning disabilities, and behavior problems like aggression and hyperactivity.
- ✓ *Childhood lead poisoning is a powerful predictor of school disciplinary problems, juvenile delinquency and adult criminality.*
Scientific studies show that the most violent crimes committed by adults are strongly associated with children's earlier lead poisoning.
- ✓ *Lead poisoning is associated with negative health effects across the lifespan.*
Children who have been lead poisoned are at greater risk of a shortened lifespan due to heart disease and stroke as adults. It is also linked to adult kidney disease, diabetes and cognitive deficits such as memory loss and Alzheimer's disease.
- ✓ *We can prevent the lead poisoning of children by fixing the lead hazards in Wisconsin's old homes.*

Lead Poisoning can be Prevented.

What would have the greatest impact on eliminating lead poisoning in Wisconsin?
Fix the houses!

Lead-based paint is the primary source of lead in children's environments. Chipping and peeling lead-based paint creates dust on windows, floors and porches, and the leaded dust gets on children's hands and into their mouths.

Nearly one-third of Wisconsin's housing stock is made up of homes built before 1950, when lead-based paint was widely used on interiors and exteriors. Fixing the lead-based paint hazards in these older homes would be a decisive step toward eliminating the primary lead poisoning threat to Wisconsin children.

To prevent lead poisoning, Wisconsin must focus on:

- Step 1: Identifying the highest risk housing;*
- Step 2: Fixing lead paint hazards; and*
- Step 3: Educating the general public.*

For more details on childhood lead poisoning and strategies to eliminate this tragic disease, go to the full report, *The Legacy of Lead: Childhood Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin 2008* at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead>.

