

DUTCHESS COUNTY PRIMARY PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM



Identifying the Risk

- New York State identified zip code 12601 as having the highest incidence of elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) => 10mcg/dL in children under the age of six in Dutchess County (*NYSDOH 2004-2005 Surveillance report*). For 2006-2007, the city of Poughkeepsie showed the greatest concentration of confirmed and unconfirmed EBLLs => 15mcg/dL (refer to GIS map).

Developing Partnerships and Community Engagement

- Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) will serve as the lead agency and collaborate with other county departments (Department of Social Services (DSS), Planning & Development, and the Health & Human Services Cabinet (HHSC) for this program.
- The City of Poughkeepsie will conduct the housing inspections, provide educational information, identify property with a potential for lead hazards and refer landlords and/or property owners to the DCDOH for Lead Safe Work Practices training.
- DCDOH Nursing Division will outreach the identified households with children six years and under. If they have not been tested for lead they will refer them to their pediatricians, if the family has no provider, they will be referred to local pediatric groups or if they have no insurance, the DCDOH will provide for testing and they will be referred to DSS for insurance application, as appropriate.
- DCDOH Environmental Division will arrange for lead safe work practices training for landlords, apartment managers and/or painters, contractors, remodelers and renovators. DCDOH will provide technical assistance to the property owners and building inspectors to ensure a lead safe environment.
- DC Planning & Development will assist with census and other information and DSS will spread the word about the program through their Section 8 program by providing information to their clients.
- Poughkeepsie Housing Authority, Hudson River Housing, WIC program, Healthy Families, and members of the Dutchess County Housing Consortium (a partnership of housing and human services providers) will provide referrals, spread the word, and educate about lead prevention, lead testing and the City's ability to receive complaints.
- DCDOH will work with the City and County Executive's Office to launch an education and awareness campaign to inform residents about the program's goals, the importance of lead testing, lead safe housing and what steps they can take to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Housing Intervention

- The City of Poughkeepsie will use their permit system and housing complaint process to identify specific properties within the targeted zip code. The building inspector (BI) will conduct visual assessments of all accessible interior and exterior areas and note any deteriorated paint films on the inspection form. The BI will provide to the tenants and landlord information about lead, lead poisoning and lead safe work practices (LSWP).
- The landlord will be directed to obtain *free* LSWP training that will be arranged through the DCDOH. To further encourage the participation in this program, those that attend will either be given some material to do the remediation work and/or provided their first set of dust wipe samples.

Building Workforce Capacity

- LSWP training will increase the amount of certified contractors. In order to qualify for the incentives, landlords participating in the program will be required to obtain the LSWP training.