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Details: Informational hearing, 3/18/2009, on lead paint poisoning

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation (SC-PHSILTCJC)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- [Committee Reports](#) ... **CR**
- [Executive Sessions](#) ... **ES**
- [Public Hearings](#) ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- [Appointments](#) ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- [Clearinghouse Rules](#) ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- [Hearing Records](#) ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- [Miscellaneous](#) ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation

Lead Paint Poisoning

The Committee will hear testimony relating to eliminating lead paint poisoning in Wisconsin.

March 18, 2009

PUBLIC HEARING HELD

Present: (5) Senators Carpenter, Coggs, Vinehout, Schultz
and Kapanke.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Jeff Kindrai, Lancaster — Grant County Health Department
- Judith Walker, Superior — Head Start
- Timothy Whittmore, Waukesha — City of Waukesha
Housing Rehab Programs
- Dale Hippensteel, Sheboygan — Sheboygan Public Health
Department
- William Bidefeldt, Racine
- Karen Ordinans, Greenfield — Childrens Health Alliance of
Wisconsin
- Pamela Strittmater, LaCrosse — Wisc. Apartment Assoc.
- Jonathan Bader
- Jeff Havlena — WI. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
Program
- Mike Mokler, Pickett — WI. Rental Housing Leg. Council
- Ramona Jensen, Milwaukee

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- Karen Timberlake — Dept. of Health Services
- John Bartkowski, Milwaukee — Dr., 16th Street Community
Health Center

Registrations For

- Meacullm Smede, Milwaukee
- Alden Ferguson, Sherwood — Fox Valley Apartment Assoc.

- Kim Schairer, Madison
- Sabrina Lee, Milwaukee — ABRI Health Plan
- Betty Manske, Neenah
- Edward Manske, Neenah — Fox Valley Apartment Assoc.
- Noel Stanton, Madison
- Janice Vele, St. Francis — Ecare MCO
- Brian Fahrenkrug, Neenah — Wisconsin Apartment Assoc.
- Pamela Campbell, Madison
- Reghan Walsh, Madison
- Marjory Givens, Madison
- Evan Cole, Madison
- Charles Loderbauer, Hilbert — Apartment Assoc.
- Margie Coons, Middleton
- Dalila Cardona, Milwaukee
- Kendra Marquez, Racine — City of Racine
- Robert Carlson, Racine — City of Racine
- Charles Powell, Pleasant Prairie — Wisconsin Apartment Assoc.
- Christina Vander-Wieleu, Appleton
- Gary Schwefel, Fond du Lac — Fond du Lac Apartment Assoc.
- Judson Ridders, Ripon
- Marilyn Fahrenkrug, Neenah
- Kristi Zwiefelhofer, Madison
- Joe Schirmer, Madison — SEIU
- Keycha Remus, Milwaukee
- Zongsar Vang, Milwaukee
- Sharon Jacoby, Wis, Rapids — Wis. Rapids Area Rental Property Owners
- Jeff Wicinsky, Winneconne — Winneconne County
- Steve Heuse, Greenville — Fox Valley Apartment Assoc.
- George Carns, Milwaukee
- Steve Autholt, Sun Prairie
- Anna McCreery, Kenosha
- Hank Drechsler, Kaukauna
- Tom Schwefel, Fond du Lac — Fond du Lac Apartment Assoc.
- Jim Campbell, Madison
- Vicki Garthwaite, Fond du Lac — Wi. Apartment Assoc.
- Pangdee Vang, Milwaukee
- Meredith Luis, Cambridge
- Marcie Fernholz, Racine
- Libbe Slavin, Mosinee
- Lisa Klindy Simpson, Cedarburg

- Gary Goyke, Madison — Wi. Rental Housing Legislative Council & Wi. Apartment Assoc.
- Donn Load, Oshkosh — Wi. Apartment Assoc.
- Kris Mueller, Marshfield
- Chuck Virnig, Marshfield — Marshfield Area Apartment Assoc.
- Kristine Freundlich, Madison
- John Fischer, Wausau — Wi. Apartment Assoc.
- Ken Wastlund, La Crossa
- Thomas Miller, La Crosse — Apartment Assoc.
- Carmen Bolorin, Milwaukee
- William Heuer, Stratford — Marshfield Apartment Assoc.
- Jeff Knutson, Winneconne
- Sandy Knutson, Winneconne

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.



Russell DeLong
Committee Clerk

Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Job Creation Informational Hearing
Wednesday, March 18, 2009 (Invited speakers, for the record)

	Name	Title	Organization
1	Spencer Coggs	The Honorable G. Spencer Coggs	6 th Senate District
2	Karen Timberlake	Secretary	Department of Health Services
3	Seth Foldy, MD	State Health Officer and Administrator	Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services
4	Jeff Havlena	Surveillance Coordinator	Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
5	Pamela Strittmater (Strit má ter)	Past President	Wisconsin Apartment Association
6	John Bartkowski, PhD (Bárt cow ski)	President and Chief Executive Officer	Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee
7	Dale Hippensteel	Health Officer	Division of Public Health, Sheboygan County Health and Human Services
8	Ramona Jensen	Citizen and advocate for children	SDC-Head Start, Milwaukee
9	Bob Jones	Housing and Energy Director	Wisconsin Community Action Program
10	Jonathon Bader (Bä der)	Parent of lead-poisoned children and homeowner	
11	Bill Bielefeldt (Bē lí félt)	Housing Technician	City of Racine
12	Tim Whitmore	Coordinator	Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program, City of Waukesha Community Development
	FINAL SPEAKERS Karen Ordinans & Mike Mokler	Executive Director President	Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin Wisconsin Rental Housing Legislative Council



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

*Division of Public Health
Health and Human Services Department*

March 18, 2009

TO: Wisconsin Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care, and Job Creation

FROM: Dale Hippensteel
Public Health Manager/Health Officer
Sheboygan County Health and Human Services

RE: Informational Hearing on Lead Hazards and the Housing Renovation Loan Fund Proposal

The City of Sheboygan and the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health have had a joint lead prevention and premise rehabilitation program for the last five years. The Division of Public Health does age-appropriate blood lead testing on children that visit our clinics. In addition, community physicians and clinics do screenings on their patients who have health check visits. Because of our old housing stock in the city, with the vast majority of our homes built pre-1950, we encourage childhood lead testing for all age-appropriate children and not just low income families.

In 2008, 1,220 children were tested for lead poisoning. Approximately 4% of those tested have elevated lead levels that require our Department to do some level of intervention ranging from education to outright rehabilitation of their homes.

Because we have had an active group of professionals and community members concerned and dedicated to eliminating this very debilitating condition, we were successful in competing for HUD funding. The first cycle was three years at two million dollars. We were successful for a second round of funding of 1.2 million dollars. Unfortunately, not all communities with high percents of pre-1950 housing units are funded. The proposal being discussed will go a long way in assisting communities and families who have the will and commitment to positively affect childhood lead poisoning.

What is Sheboygan doing to drive a successful program?

- Lead poisoned children – timely follow-up.
- Created a Community Lead Task Force
- Educate families, landlords/homeowners, and the community, especially medical personnel, school staff, and contractors.
- Training of inspectors, contractors, and landlords in identifying and properly abating sources of lead poisoning.
- Actively searching for funding to do rehabilitation in our housing stock. This includes HUD funding, Community Block Grant (CBG) funding, and private initiatives.

This is Johnny's Story:

Public Health starting working with Johnny when he had a capillary lead of 35 through WIC in July 2006. His confirmation test came back as a 29 venous. An EBL investigation was done, and it was determined that there were any number of hazards in the home that could have caused his poisoning. Parents also indicated that he had behavioral tendencies and was very oral – everything in the mouth. After lead poisoning prevention education, his lead level began to decline. The property was renovated through the HUD grant.

In April 2007, the family was fortunate to buy their first home. On the down side was the fact that the house was “loaded” with lead, and Johnny’s lead level went back up to 42. At this point, he had been diagnosed with behavioral issues, which continued to play a part in his poisoning. Public Health again provided information on lead poisoning prevention and offered the opportunity for the parents to take the Lead-Safe Worker Training and sign up for the HUD grant. Due to the parents’ personal issues and complacency, they never took advantage of the services Public Health offered and Johnny’s lead level continued to rise. It wasn’t until Johnny was sent to Milwaukee Children’s Hospital for his lead poisoning and the Division of Social Services got involved that the family

followed through with applying for the HUD grant. Their property was renovated through HUD in December 2008. It is taking time for Johnny's lead level to return to normal. His last level was still 34.

Addendum: Johnny was forced to live in just a few rooms on the first floor that were deemed "lead safe" until the house could be done by HUD (about five months). This was the only way he could stay safely in the house.

I would invite any of you or your constituents to visit Sheboygan and observe and talk with our staff and community partners on how our joint project works. It should be noted that we have great respect for the staff at the Department of Health Services for their technical assistance and moral support over the years.

I would encourage you to explore and develop this legislation and simply do the right thing for the kids of Wisconsin.

DH/js



TO: Members, Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care,
and Job Creation

FROM: Bob Fassbender, the Hamilton Consulting Group
on behalf of the National Paint and Coatings Association

DATE: March 18, 2009

RE: Lead Paint Hearing

The National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) is a voluntary, nonprofit trade association that represents paint and coatings manufacturers, raw materials suppliers and distributors. Thank you for this opportunity to allow NPCA to provide information about the industry and its efforts to reduce lead exposure.

Notably, as discussed below, Wisconsin will be receiving millions of dollars from the federal government targeted specifically to address the problems associated with lead-based paint.

About the Industry and Lead-based Paint Issue

Although childhood lead exposure remains one of our nation's most serious pediatric health priorities, lead exposure to the general population in the United States is actually a public health success story since it has been reduced to safe levels for the vast majority over the past generation. This concern is not new to the U.S. paint and coatings industry, which voluntarily reduced its use of lead pigments in consumer paints over 50 years ago.

During the 1940s and 1950s, paint manufacturers essentially discontinued the use of lead pigments in consumer paints. In 1954, a voluntary standard to effectively remove lead pigment from consumer paints was developed by the American Standards Association (now known as ANSI). This voluntary standard formed the basis of the first government regulation in 1972, which substantially eliminated the use of lead in paints. The paint industry has publicly supported all federal legislation and regulation prohibiting the use of lead, including landmark legislation in 1971 and the subsequent 1978 Consumer Product Safety Commission ban. Like many other industries that used lead in their products, the paint industry found substitutes that were safe and effective.

Despite these efforts by the paint industry, there remain legitimate concerns relating to old, deteriorated lead-based paint in housing. These risks could be mitigated or eliminated through the Department of Housing and Development (HUD), Environmental Protection Agency and state lead-safe protocols. In addition, lead contamination is caused by old automobile exhaust deposits in soil; industrial lead soil deposits; lead in drinking water; homeopathic remedies among certain communities; and new sources of lead contamination in imported products. Statistics maintained by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and various state and local health departments, while showing the incidence of childhood lead poisoning nationwide has substantially declined, nevertheless affirm that the problem still persists.

CLEARCorps Program

NPCA believes that lead exposure is a health problem which can be eliminated altogether with the right attention, dedication of resources, and cooperation by public agencies with their private counterparts.

One such example is the Community Lead Education and Reduction Corps (CLEARCorps), an organization whose primary mission is to protect children from lead poisoning. In 1995, NCPA, in partnership with the Shriver Center at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, established CLEARCorps. Since that time, CLEARCorps has grown to become an independent advocacy organization with offices in nine states, with an impressive list of accomplishments. Please go to CLEARCorps Website (<http://clearcorps.org/>), to learn more.

Federal Funding Dedicated towards Reducing Lead Levels in Wisconsin

In addition to NCPA's efforts to reduce the incidences of lead exposure, NCPA supports a number of federal programs that provide significant funding toward reducing blood lead levels. In fact, Wisconsin is receiving millions of dollars from the federal government targeted specifically to address the problems associated with lead-based paint.

For example, Wisconsin is receiving \$3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for Lead Hazard Reduction Grants¹ to assist urban jurisdictions with the greatest lead-based paint hazard control needs in undertaking programs for the identification and control of lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately owned rental or owner-occupied housing.

In addition, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu joined Gov. Jim Doyle last Friday in Milwaukee to announce that Wisconsin is receiving \$197 million in weatherization and energy efficiency funding as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.² Some of this money will likely be used for replacing old windows in homes that contain lead-based paint. Moreover, most of the money will go to low-income families, many of whom could not afford on their own to replace windows that contain lead-based paint. (See the attached report)

Wisconsin is also receiving \$38 million (\$9 million for the City of Milwaukee), in funding from HUD under the National Stabilization Program.³ NSP provides emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. In addition, NSP provides grants to every state, and certain local communities, to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes. These homes must be lead-free once they are rehabilitated.

Conclusion

NCPA is fully committed to the national goal of eliminating childhood lead exposure. This information provides just a perspective of the industry's interests and advancements in support of childhood lead poisoning prevention, but it is in no way the full story. For more information, please visit NCPA's Website (<http://www.paint.org/issues/lead.cfm>) to learn more.

¹ <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/healthy-homes.cfm>

² http://www.fox6now.com/marketplace/realestate/chi-ap-wi-stimulus-energy_0_1112329_story

³ <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg/>

Doyle, energy secretary Chu tout home upgrades

By DINESH RAMDE Associated Press Writer

4:15 PM CDT, March 13, 2009

MILWAUKEE - Energy Secretary Steven Chu toured a newly insulated home in Wisconsin on Friday before touting the expansion of a federal program that helps poor homeowners reduce their energy bills.

The Weatherization Assistance Program, run by the U.S. Department of Energy, audits low-income homes and identifies energy inefficiencies. Then it provides free upgrades, such as energy-efficient lights and appliances, energy-saving windows and wall insulation.

Chu toured the Milwaukee home with Gov. Jim Doyle, observing the improvements and lauding the jobs created by an infusion of cash.

"It's very important that all of America get on this mind-set that we can actually save money, save energy, make homes warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer," he said. "And we are looking very actively at all programs to overcome that capital investment."

The tour came one day after Wisconsin received \$141.5 million in federal stimulus money to help pay for such weatherization efforts.

Homeowner Barbara Ostovich, 69, is a widow whose Social Security payments just cover her expenses. Her free upgrades included a new furnace, which she said saved her \$100 on her energy bill.

"This is such a wonderful program," she said. "I noticed right away how much warmer the house is, and I can really use the money I'm saving."

Within two months, workers also insulated her home's exterior walls and attic and bought a new refrigerator. The improvements will save Ostovich \$1,700 per year in energy costs, Doyle said, making back the \$5,000 cost in three years.

To qualify for the funds, a family of four must make less than about \$44,000 a year. Doyle said his goal is to figure out how to expand the program to more homeowners.

"We're looking into that, into how we can maybe help them with the upfront costs," he said.

Chu and Doyle were flanked at a news conference by a number of contractors whose companies perform the home improvements. One said he has already hired 25 new people and expects to hire another 75 by September.

About 400,000 Wisconsin residents are eligible for upgrades. Only about 125,000 have actually received them because the program had limited funding in recent years, according to Doyle's office.

About 8,250 upgrades are typically done per year, but the federal stimulus money will allow the state to double that number, Doyle said.

Along with lowering energy costs and creating jobs, the program helps the environment by decreasing the amount of carbon dioxide created in energy production, Chu said.

"In every way this is beneficial," he said. "It's important to keep looking for ways to expand it."



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State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

**Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care, and Job Creation Committee Informational
Hearing on Lead Paint Hazards**

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Secretary Karen Timberlake**

March 18, 2009

Chairman Carpenter, Senator Coggs, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Job Creation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. In Wisconsin we care about our families, our homes and our children. Governor Doyle knows Wisconsin and he has made children, health and education high priorities for his administration. We all want to protect our children. As Secretary of the Department of Health Services I acknowledge that too many Wisconsin children have already been harmed by lead paint hazards.

In Wisconsin we are making progress to protect children from lead exposure.

We are testing more children and finding those who are lead poisoned so we can intervene and fix the source of their exposures. The primary source of lead exposure for Wisconsin children is old lead paint. When lead paint fails because of weather, friction and impact, it crumbles and turns to dust, causing exposure to children through normal hand-to-mouth behavior.

A common misconception is that lead paint hazards are specific to Milwaukee and other urban areas. This is not true. The problem is statewide. Lead-poisoned children are found in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties. I have maps for each of you showing cumulative data about lead poisoning in your communities.

Lead poisoning causes damage that extends over a lifetime. Childhood lead poisoning damages the brain and nervous system, kidneys, heart and red blood cells leading to:

- Learning Disabilities
- Lowered I.Q.
- Hyperactivity
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Speech Delay
- Hearing Loss
- Slowed or Reduced Growth
- Behavioral Problems
- Violent or Aggressive Behavior

In addition adults who were exposed to lead as children:

Are less likely to graduate from high school.
Will earn less over the course of their lifetimes.
Are more likely to engage in violent crime and to have criminal records.

1 West Wilson Street • Post Office Box 7850 • Madison, WI 53707-7850 • Telephone 608-266-9622 •
dhs.wisconsin.gov

Protecting and promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin

Lifetime cumulative lead exposure also weighs heavily on older adults. There is strong evidence that lead exposure increases the risks for high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, stroke, kidney damage and premature death. Sadly too, the cumulative burden of lead stored in bone has also been related to losses of cognitive function in older adults.

Wisconsin is a national leader in lead poisoning prevention. Wisconsin has established a strong plan to eliminate lead poisoning and has brought together a dynamic group to oversee the State's progress towards eliminating lead poisoning.

- DHS has established strong data sharing relationships between the BadgerCare Plus and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs leading to improved testing rates.
- DHS provides health care providers with individualized performance data about blood lead testing rates for the children under their care.
- BadgerCare Plus HMOs are eligible for incentive payments if they make improvement gains in age appropriate blood lead testing rates for children enrolled in their health plan.
- Wisconsin health care providers are able to improve age appropriate blood lead testing for children by testing for lead poisoning in their office with a simple finger-prick test, and by reviewing lead results as they come available on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry later this year.

However, while we have made gains in identifying children exposed to lead paint hazards, we need to do more. Over 44,000 Wisconsin children have been poisoned by lead paint since 1996. Because of the damage done by exposure to lead paint hazards, many of these children are now struggling to succeed in our schools.

While only thirty-one percent of Wisconsin homes were built before 1950, we find that 90% of Wisconsin's lead poisoned children live in homes built before 1950. Housing age is the single strongest risk factor that predicts lead poisoning in Wisconsin children.

In Wisconsin we know how to stop this tragedy. A decade ago, Wisconsin participated in a HUD sponsored national research program to study how to control lead paint hazards safely. We learned from this research that replacing windows works as part of a coordinated whole house strategy. By replacing windows and controlling the other sources of lead dust hazards, we can stop the lead exposure that threatens our children's futures.

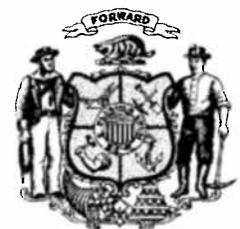
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included nearly \$100 million for the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program. As a national leader and a state with a significant lead problem, we are confident Wisconsin will receive a good share of that funding sometime within the next few months. These grants will allow us to control lead hazards in hundreds of homes across the state and protect more children.

I thank you for your concern for this important public health issue. I am pleased to learn your fellow legislators in the Assembly and Senate housing committees have expressed interest in this issue. If we work together to make homes safe for children and to improve our housing infrastructure, we can stop lead paint from threatening our future. If we create lead safe housing we can stop this disease.

Thank you.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Public Hearing on Proposal to Reduce Lead Paint Poisoning March 19, 2009

Problem:

--Many of Wisconsin's homes that were built before 1950 contain lead.

--Children ingest lead and become poisoned.

Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Data Site Information

2004 – Becky is one of 5444 children, under the age of 6 that was lead poisoned.

2005-2007--10,691 more children in the same age group, were lead poisoned.

--Repairs are very costly and often times work needs to be completed in a very small amount of time, leaving very little opportunity to apply for any funding programs.

--Over \$12,000.00 in repairs were required to make our home lead safe.

--Twenty-eight windows were replaced.

--There was no housing program funds available to us and no time to apply.

Solution:

--Create a low interest, revolving window replacement loan program from a very small surcharge that is added to paint purchased from retailers in Wisconsin.

--Windows are the best place to start because

-- old windows tend to cause the most lead dust when opening and closing,

-- they are easily accessible to younger children,

-- they make old homes safer and more energy efficient.

--If low interest rate loans are available, then property owners will replace the windows before a problem arises.

--The demand for windows will go up and there will be more opportunities for jobs in the window manufacturing industry.

This legislation will be a...

Win for the Children!

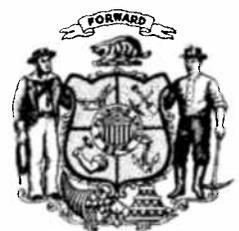
Win for Window Manufacturing!

Win for Wisconsin!

Please address your questions to: Pamela Strittmater 608-317-3678
ptstritt@aol.com



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



I'm the father of 3 daughters who were lead-poisoned during a home remodeling project we undertook in 1991 in DeForest, in northern Dane County. I had sanded and scraped lead painted windows and exterior trim prior to repainting the house we had just bought. But in the process I unknowingly contaminated our home and poisoned our children. It simply didn't occur to me that lead dust could be so toxic.

Once while sanding the storm windows and screens I became extremely ill and began vomiting - a symptom of lead poisoning. Weeks later we slowly discovered what had happened because of my wife's insistence on getting the girls' tested for lead. But by then it was too late - they were already poisoned. Our youngest - who had just celebrated her first birthday - had lead in her blood 6 times the safe level. Testing showed lead contamination was off the charts in the areas where I had worked on the storm windows and screens.

My wife Ann and I became advocates when we learned there was limited awareness of the problem and few resources to address it. We learned too that thousands of children living in poor quality housing are exposed to lead on a daily basis - often for years - without the catalyst of a remodeling project. We learned that lead affects urban and rural kids, kids of both political parties and of all income levels.

It took months of medical treatment and 7 years before my youngest daughter's lead levels returned to normal. Today she complains of numbness in her arm, and has problems with memory, concentration and focus. She often struggles for common words and "loses the train of thought" when speaking or listening to others. We've been more fortunate than many - we met families whose children have severe learning disabilities, behavior problems, and even mental retardation as result of lead exposure.

Wisconsin has come a long way because of the efforts of so many. Much more is done now to find and respond to poisoned kids and to remediate contaminated homes and apartments.

But we have often been REACTIVE – testing kids and cleaning homes only AFTER a child is poisoned, investing in children only AFTER the injury.

As a dad whose children benefited from the blood testing and medical treatment our fundamental ^{objective} goal is not more blood testing and medical treatment of children after they've been poisoned.

As a homeowner who benefited enormously from the efforts of our Public Health Departments I can say that our fundamental ^{objective} goal is not increased interventions after homes have been contaminated.

And as a parent who values teachers and education, I can say our fundamental ^{objective} goal is not more special education to remedy the injuries to our daughters and sons after they've been poisoned.

These are all important needs but only if we don't address the problem before children are poisoned
Our fundamental ^{objective} goal is to get lead hazards OUT of our homes and apartments so our children, and our children's children, cannot be injured in the first place.

This has always been the key to this problem. There has never been any other solution that protects kids.

By finally creating a loan fund so homeowners and landlords can replace dangerous and inefficient lead painted windows, we proactively remove the main hazard in older buildings before children can be injured. Now that is real progress!!

It's time we took this step.

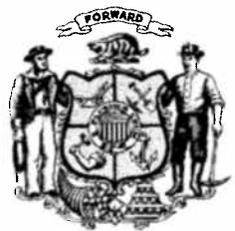
Ten years ago the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control studied the issue over many months and recommended that loans be provided to property owners to remove lead hazards in older buildings. Many property owners want to take this step but cannot afford to do so. Unfortunately the loan fund wasn't created and

we lost 10 years in which we could have been doing more to eliminate lead hazards.

It's also the RIGHT time to take this step.

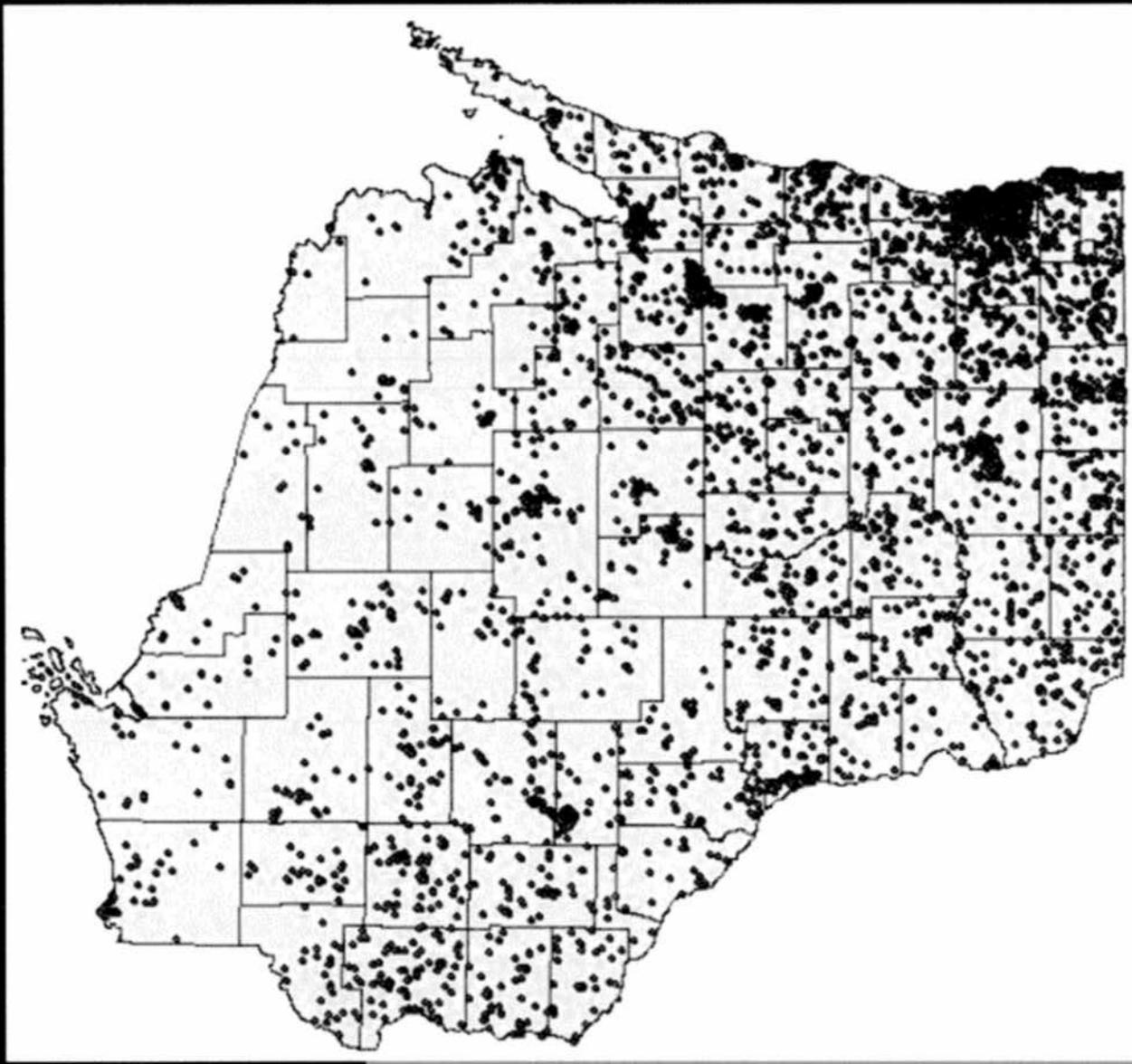
Not only will the loan fund protect kids - it will stimulate manufacturing, create jobs, reduce energy use, lower utility bills, and increase property values. And as loans are paid back the fund will grow so more properties can be addressed.

A day will come in the future when doctors will find no lead poisoned children in Wisconsin. When that day arrives it will be the result of decisive steps we took now to remove the source of the danger. Creating this loan fund IS a decisive step. It offers an opportunity we cannot pass up to finally get the lead out.



The Legacy of Lead

- Lead poisoning can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, the heart and red blood cells leading to:
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Lowered I.Q.
 - Hyperactivity
 - Attention Deficit Disorder
 - Speech Delay
 - Hearing Loss
 - Slowed or Reduced Growth
 - Behavioral Problems
 - Violent or Aggressive Behavior
- Lead poisoning can persist and have long-term impacts;
- Impacts can be minimized if identified early enough for effective intervention.



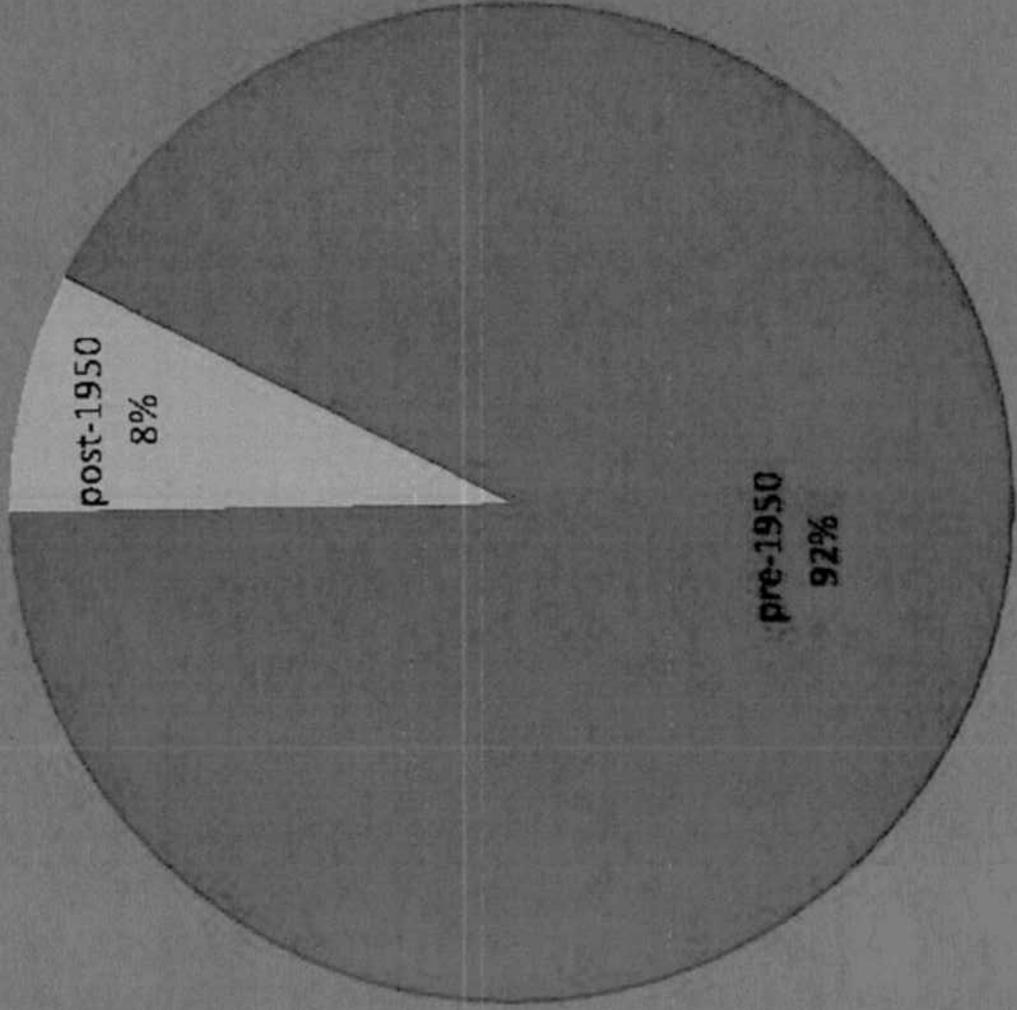
Statewide Problem

More than 44,000 Children
Lead-Poisoned Since 1996

Red dots represent addresses
associated with one or more lead-
poisoned child younger than six



Percent of Lead-Poisoned Children by Age of Housing

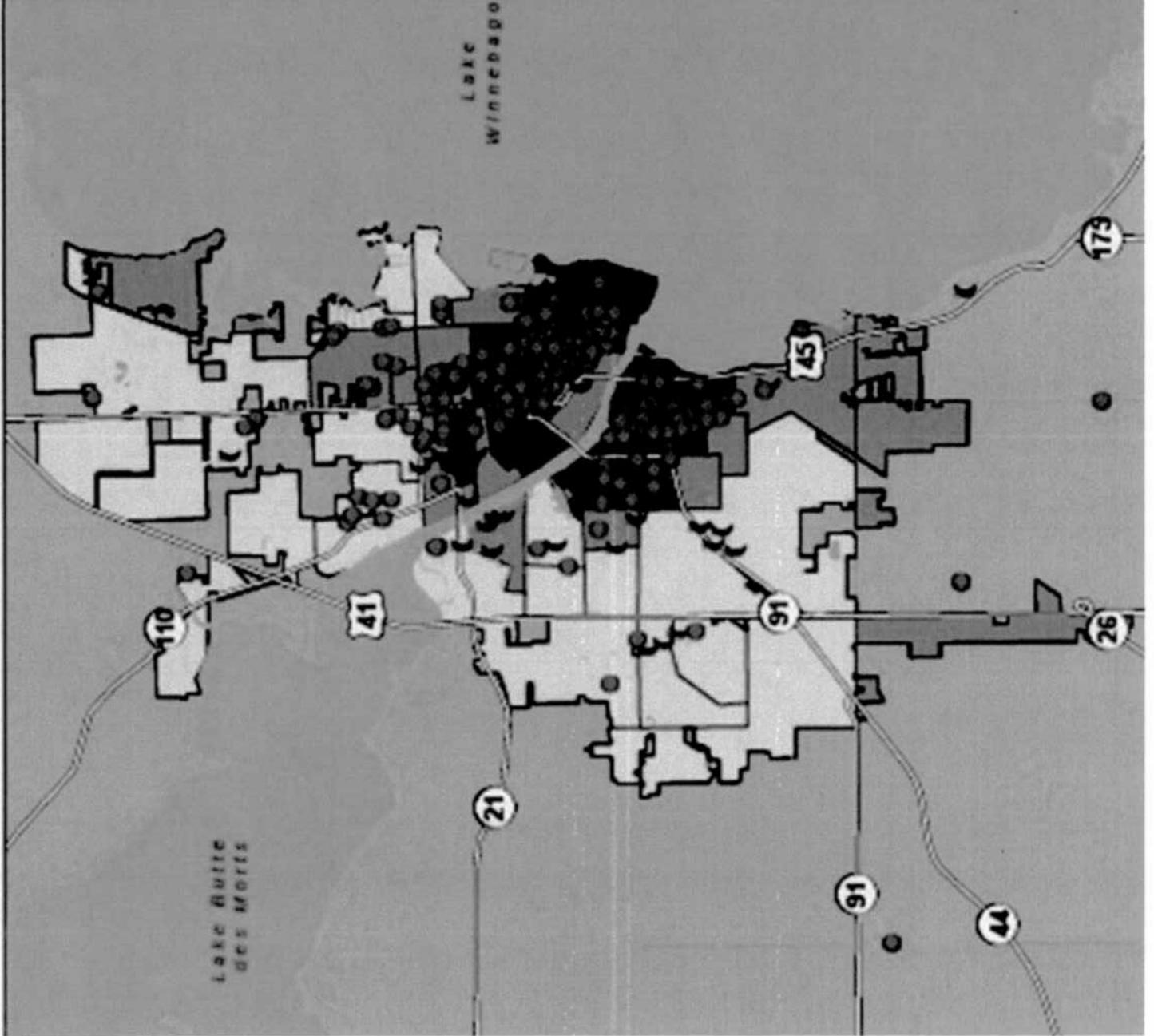


Association of Lead Poisoning with Older Housing

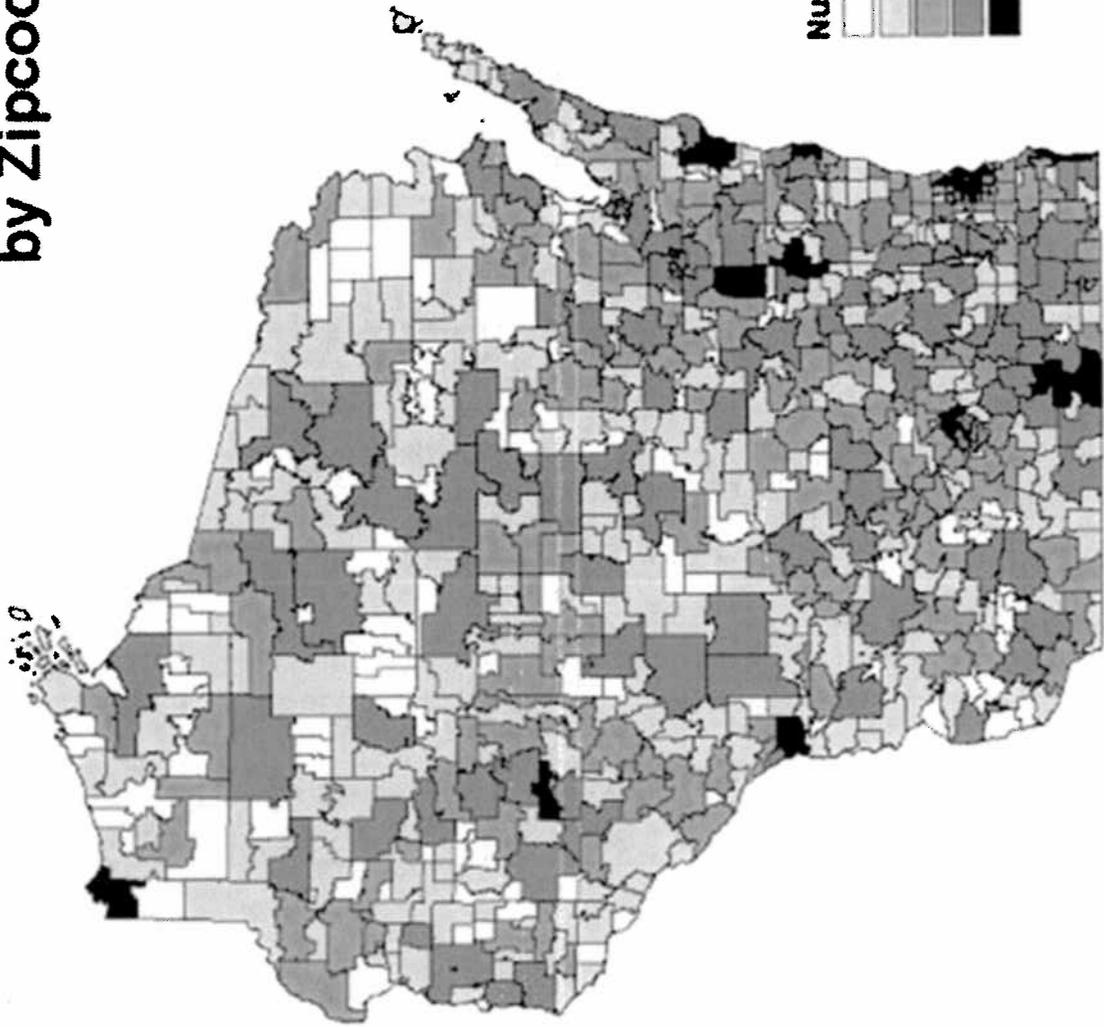
City of Oshkosh Census Tracts

Red dots represent addresses associated with one or more lead-poisoned child younger than six

Background colors show percent of pre 1950 housing: Darkest shade indicates more than two-thirds of the housing was built prior to 1950; lightest shade indicates less than one-third built prior to 1950



Number of Pre-1950 Housing Units by Zipcode

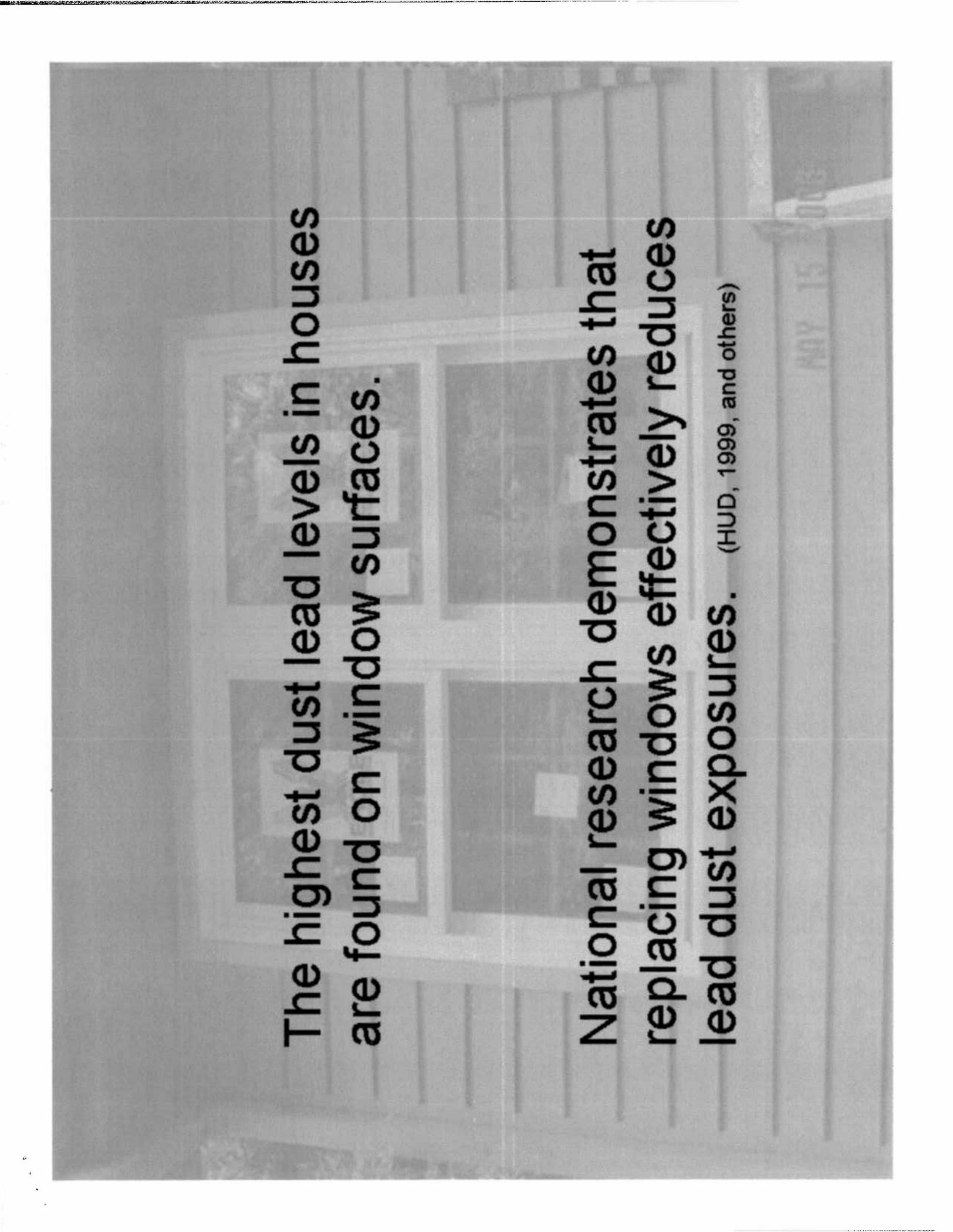


Number Units Built pre-1950

0 - 200
200 - 500
500 - 1000
1000 - 5000
5000 - 15000

Cities With the Highest Percent of Children with Lead Poisoning

City	Percent Lead Poisoned	City	Percent Lead Poisoned
Waldo	9.8	Cassville	5.1
Milwaukee	9.1	South Wayne	5.1
Norwalk	6.6	Reeseville	5.0
Bagley	6.3	Blanchardville	5.0
Dalton	5.9	Avoca	5.0
Hazel Green	5.8	Racine	5.0
Hurley	5.8	Shullsburg	4.7
Gratiot	5.4	Cascade	4.4
Sheboygan	5.2	Horicon	4.3
Lancaster	5.1	Browntown	4.3



**The highest dust lead levels in houses
are found on window surfaces.**

**National research demonstrates that
replacing windows effectively reduces
lead dust exposures.** (HUD, 1999, and others)





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- Lead Related Jobs and Hobbies
- The Famous Benjamin Franklin Letter on Lead Poisoning

The Famous Benjamin Franklin Letter On Lead Poisoning

Phila July 31, 1786 (To Benjamin Vaughan)

Dear Friend,

I recollect that when I had the great Pleasure of seeing you at Southampton, now a 12 month since, we had some Conversation on the bad Effects of Lead taken inwardly; and that at your Request I promis'd to send you in writing a particular Account of several Facts I then mention'd to you, of which you thought some good Use might be made. I now sit down to fulfil that Promise.

The first Thing I remember of this kind, was a general discourse in Boston when I was a Boy, of a Complaint from North Carolina against New England Rum, that it poison'd their People, giving them the Dry Bellyach, with a Loss of the Use of their Limbs. The Distilleries being examin'd on the Occasion, it was found that several of them used leaden Still-heads and Worms, and the Physicians were of the Opinion that the Mischief was occasion'd by that Use of Lead. The Legislature of the Massachusetts thereupon pass'd an Act prohibiting under severe Penalties the Use of such Still-heads & Worms thereafter. Inclos'd I send you a Copy of the Act, taken from my printed Law book.

In 1724, being in London, I went to work in the Printing-House of Mr. Palmer, Bartholomew Close as a Compositor. I there found a Practice I had never seen before, of drying a Case of Types, (which are wet in Distribution) by placing it sloping before the Fire. I found this had the additional Advantage, when the Types were not only dry'd but heated, of being comfortable to the Hands working over them in cold weather. I therefore sometimes heated my Case when the Types did not want drying. But an old Workman observing it, advis'd me not to do so, telling me I might lose the Use of my Hands by it, as two of our Companions had nearly done, one of whom that us'd to earn his Guinea a Week could not then make more than ten Shillings and the other, who had the Dangles, but Seven & sixpence. This, with a kind of obscure Pain that I had sometimes felt as it were in the Bones of my Hand when working over the Types made very hot, induc'd me to omit the Practice. But talking afterwards with Mr. James, a Letter-founder in the same Close, and asking him if his People, who work'd over the little Furnaces of melted Metal, were not subject to that Disorder; he made light of any Danger from the Effluvia, but ascrib'd it to Particles of the Metal swallow'd with their Food by slovenly Workmen, who went to their Meals after handling the Metal, without well-washing their Fingers, so that some of the metalline Particles were taken off by their Bread and eaten with it. This appear'd to have some Reason in it. But the Pain I had experienc'd made me still afraid of those Effluvia.

Being in Derbshire at some of the Furnaces for Smelting of Lead Ore, I was told that the Smoke of those Furnaces was pernicious to the neighboring Grass and other Vegetables. But I do not recollect to have heard any thing of the Effect of such Vegetables eaten by Animals. It may be well to make the Enquiry.

In America I have often observed that on the Roofs of our shingled Houses where Moss is apt to grow in northern Exposures, if there be any thing on the Roof painted with white lead, such as Balusters, or Frames of dormant Windows, &c. there is constantly a streak on the Shingles from such Paint down to the Eaves, on which no Moss will grow, but the Wood remains constantly clean & free from it. --We seldom drink Rain Water that falls on our Houses; and if we did, perhaps the small Quantity of Lead descending from such Paint, might not be sufficient to produce any sensible ill Effect on our Bodies. But I have of a Case in Europe, I forgot the Place, where a whole Family was afflicted with what we call the Dry-Bellyach, or Colica Pictonum, by drinking Rain Water. It was at a Country Seat, which being situated too high to have the Advantage of a Well, was supply'd with Water from a Tank which receiv'd the Water from the leaded Roofs. This had been drank several Years without Mischief; but some young Trees planted near the House, growing up above the Roof, and shedding their Leaves upon it, it was suppos'd that an Acid in those Leaves had corroded the Lead they cover'd, and

furnish'd the Water of that Year with its baneful Particles & Qualities.

When I was in Paris with Sir John Pringle in 1767, he visited La Charite, a Hospital particularly famous for the Cure of that Malady, and brought from thence a Pamphlet, containing a List of the Names of Persons, specifying their Professions or Trades, who had been cured there. I had the Curiosity to examine that List, and found that all the Patients were of Trades that some way or other use or work in Lead; such as Plumbers, Glasiers, Painters, &c. excepting only two kinds, Stonecutters and Soldiers. These I could not reconcile to my Notion that Lead was the Cause of that Disorder. But on my mentioning this Difficulty to a Physician of that Hospital, he inform'd me that the Stonecutters are continually using melted Lead to fix the Ends of Iron Balustrades in Stone; and that the Soldiers had been employ'd by Painters as Labourers in Grinding of Colours.

This, my dear friend, is all I can at present recollect on the Subject. You will see by it, that the Opinion of this mischievous Effect from Lead, is at least above Sixty Years old; and you will observe with Concern how long a useful Truth may be known, and exist, before it is generally receiv'd and practis'd on.

-- I am, ever,

Yours most affectionately

B. Franklin

(Benjamin Vaughan was a youthful admirer and close friend of Franklin, who was 80 years old when he wrote to Vaughan. The letter press copy of Franklin's communication is in the Library of Congress, the holograph not having survived. The letter is reproduced here with the original capitalization and spelling.)

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