

**The National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 25 – 31, 2009.  
You can help TN LEAP give Tennessee children strength against lead poisoning!**

Countless children are being unnecessarily poisoned in their homes. Not by medications or household cleaning supplies, but by the lead-based paint commonly found in the pre-1978 houses where they live or visit. The harmful effects of childhood lead poisoning are permanent and can include lowered I.Q., learning disabilities, violent and/or aggressive behavior, growth delays, speech delays, and it has been linked to Attention Deficit Disorder.

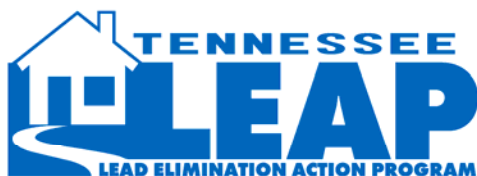
Lead-based paint hazards are especially dangerous because they can be virtually invisible. They can be found in peeling paint on walls and windows. And they can also be found in the undetectable lead dust created by deteriorating lead-based paint and in the dirt where children often play. It takes a very small amount of lead dust to cause permanent damage to a child's brain and nervous system, especially those under the age of 6.

Currently, action must be taken if a child's blood lead level is 10 µg/dl or higher and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 250,000 United States children under 6 have lead levels higher than this. And recent studies indicate that levels below this standard are just as dangerous to children under 6.

But there is hope. While there is no cure for childhood lead poisoning we can work together to fight the main cause of this senseless disability. As a health care provider you not only have the direct contact with many families at-risk for childhood lead poisoning, but also the respect and influence necessary to educate parents on its terrible effects and its prevention.

The Tennessee Lead Elimination Action Program (TN LEAP) at Middle Tennessee State University has HUD grant funding to help low-income families who may not be able to provide a lead-safe home for their children. Please refer ANY family with a child under 6 who lives in or visits pre-1978 homes to TN LEAP; an elevated blood lead level is not required for qualification. Families interested in TN LEAP services should contact our office at (865) 244-4350 or toll-free at (866) 686-5327.

Childhood lead poisoning is absolutely preventable. If a child under the age of 6 lives at or frequently visits a home built before 1978, they are at risk for lead poisoning and steps should be taken to prevent any permanent damage. The first step is knowledge. The second is action. Please help TN LEAP make childhood lead poisoning prevention a serious concern for Tennessee families. Every child deserves a lead safe home and chance at a healthy life. Thank you for your part in protecting Tennessee children during this week of childhood lead poisoning prevention and every day.



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