**SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE ABOUT LEAD POISONING AND CONTRACTOR INFORMATION**

**Media Contacts**

Local Health Department

Contact person and phone number

E-mail address

**Correct Lead Hazards in Your Home Using Lead Safe Work Practices**

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 25-31, 2015

From 2012 – 2014, nearly 15,000 children under age 6 living in Wisconsin have blood lead levels high enough to cause significant damage to their health. Major sources of lead exposure among Wisconsin children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in homes built before 1978.

Despite the continued presence of lead in the environment, lead poisoning is entirely preventable. “In (health department jurisdiction) in the last three years, there were (number) children under age six, or (data visualization like “one in ten children tested), that have lead in their bodies that could interfere with their development,” said (name here), health officer for (jurisdiction) Health Department. “We are concerned about their health and their future.”

Wisconsin’s Lead-Safe Renovation Rule is a tool to protect children living in older homes. Lead was banned from household paint and varnish in 1978, but many older homes still have lead-based paint that turns into dust and becomes airborne during renovation. The rule requires that homeowners hire a certified lead-safe renovator when disturbing paint. Go to the *Lead-Safe Wisconsin* website for a [list of lead-safe renovation contractors](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/contractor/leadsafecompany.pdf).

To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the (health department), along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW), October 25 to 31.

This year's NLPPW theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," underscores the importance of testing your home for lead, testing your children for lead, and learning how to prevent lead poisoning’s serious health effects.

Parents can reduce a child’s exposure to lead in many ways. Here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

1. **Look out for chipping paint in your home.** Use lead-safe work practices or hire a lead-safe renovator when working on your home.
2. **Test your kids for lead.** Even if your young children seem healthy, ask your doctor to test them for lead.
3. **Learn the facts about lead.** Preventing lead exposure is easy, find out more by contacting us.

We can provide you with helpful information about preventing childhood lead poisoning, (phone number) or (website address). Also for more information, contact the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 608-266-5817, go to the [*Lead-Safe Wisconsin*](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead) website.