



AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

INCORPORATING LEAD POISONING HOME SCREENINGS INTO HOME VISITOR PROGRAMS

Walworth County, Wisconsin

THE PROBLEM

After reviewing childhood lead poisoning data on the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking portal, Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services staff learned about 2% of children tested were poisoned. However, when they looked at 2010-2014 data by census tract, they found many pockets of the county where the percentage of kids poisoned was significantly higher, with two census tracts that doubled the state average of 9%.

WHAT WALWORTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DID

One strategy health department staff used to address these neighborhoods was training people who are already going into homes for other programs. With funding from the Taking Action with Data grant, staff were able to train over 50 community home visitors, including representatives from Birth to Three, Functional Family Therapy, and Early Head Start programs, as well as the local Open Arms Free Clinic. These groups assess a family’s lead risk with a questionnaire. If the family is at risk, they conduct an in-home screening for lead hazards.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

As a result of the program, partners are identifying at-risk families and completing home assessments. Establishing these relationships with home visitor programs has allowed health department staff to extend their reach and identify more families who might be exposed to lead risks and provide primary prevention services for childhood lead poisoning prevention. Moving forward, health department staff will offer an annual refresher training for home visitor program staff.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTY'S CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING DATA AT THE CENSUS TRACT LEVEL:

dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

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Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-01999A (10/2017)
This project funded by the Tracking team's *Taking Action with Data* program.

