

Lead-Free Kids

Governor Evers' budget invests in the health and well-being of every Wisconsinite. It includes efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning and to support children affected by lead poisoning. Lead dust on windows, floors, and other surfaces can get on a child's hands or toys, and then in their mouths. That's why children under the age of six are most susceptible to the effects of lead poisoning and those effects can last a lifetime.

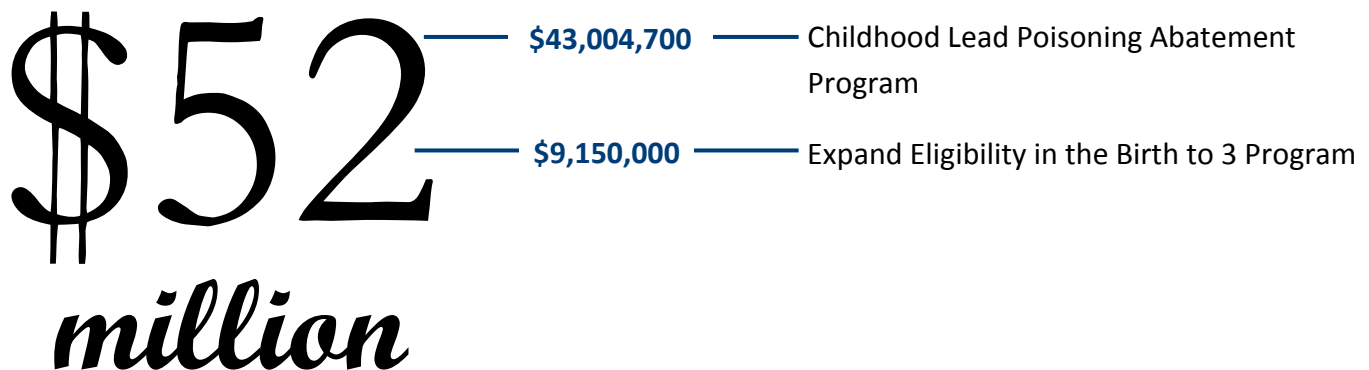
Get the lead out

Lead paint is the leading cause of lead poisoning in Wisconsin children. The budget would leverage federal funding to support lead abatement in approximately 1,000 homes a year. Lead abatement will address health disparities, improve the quality of housing, and keep future generations from lead exposure. The program will train and license workers in their own communities to help remove lead paint in homes, creating jobs, and enhancing worker's future economic potential.



The budget invests in the Birth to 3 Program by expanding eligibility to include kids who have lead poisoning at the intervention level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of 5 mcg/dL or greater. The program works with eligible families at the county level with a team of specialists that includes physicians; occupational, physical, and speech therapists; and early educators to help the affected child reach developmental goals in how they play, speak, learn, and behave.

Investments in lead-free kids



A statewide problem

In the last 20 years, more than 220,000 Wisconsin children under age six have been identified with too much lead in their bodies.

Older buildings

The federal government banned the consumer use of lead-based paint in 1978, which means houses built before that year likely have lead-based paint that can chip or become dust.

Valued partners

DHS works with local health departments, health care providers, the WIC program, and schools to reach children who could be affected by lead.