Childhood Lead Poisoning Briefing

April 21, 2023
Outcomes

• Increase awareness on the prevalence and disparities of childhood lead poisoning

• Increase understanding on the health impact of lead poisoning and on the benefits of preventing childhood lead poisoning

• Increase awareness of efforts to prevent and respond to childhood lead poisoning
Lead is Toxic
Lead Exposure

- Paint
- Soil
- Water
- Hobbies and work
- Imported food, cosmetics, medicines, & consumer products
Lead Paint in Homes (U.S.)

Percent of Homes with Lead-Based Paint

- **1960-1977**: 24%
- **1940-1959**: 69%
- **Before 1940**: 87%

Source: EPA, Oct 2021
Age of Housing pre-1980 | 2021
Percentage of Housing Built Prior to 1980 by Wisconsin Census Tract

- **> 85.9%**
- **> 71.5 - 85.9%**
- **> 57.8 - 71.5%**
- **> 44 - 57.8%**
- **> 26.6 - 44%**
- **0 - 26.6%**
Data
Number of Wisconsin Children Under Age 6 Tested and Found to be Lead Poisoned by Year, 2001–2022

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Percent of Wisconsin children under age 6 lead poisoned by race and ethnicity, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Childhood Lead Poisoning Data Explorer
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Children's Lead Poisoning Data Explorer

Select a Map

Percent Poisoned

Compare Map

Off  On

Find address or place

Percent Poisoned 2018-2021

Percent of Children Under 6 Years Old Poisoned with Blood Lead Levels of 10ug/dl or by Wisconsin Census Tract

> 12.6%
> 5.6 - 12.4%
> 2.08 - 5.6%
> 1 - 2.08%
0 - 1%
Data suppressed

About this data:
While no safe blood lead level (BLL) in children has been identified, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) uses a blood lead reference value to identify children with higher levels of lead in their blood compared to other children. The current CDC blood lead reference value is 5.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dl). However, in the data

Wisconsin Department of Health Services 11
Available Data
Percent of Children Lead Poisoned

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Number of Children Lead Poisoned
Number of Children Tested for Lead
Percent of Homes Built Pre-1950

Prior to 1950, it was common for lead-based paint to be used inside and outside homes. Living in a home with peeling, chipping, cracked, or peeling lead-based paint can be hazardous.
Percent of Homes Built Pre-1980

[Map showing the distribution of homes built pre-1980 in Wisconsin]

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Percent of Households That Are Housing Insecure
Percent of Households Occupied by Renters
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Level
Percent of Children Without Health Insurance

Childhood Lead Poisoning Data Explorer

Uninsured Population

Find address or place

Percent of Population Under 5 Years Old without Health Insurance by Wisconsin Census Tract

- > 39%
- > 23.5 - 39%
- > 14.2 - 23.5%
- > 7.3 - 14.2%
- > 3.9 - 7.3%
- 0 - 2.3%

About this data:
When children do not have health insurance, they are less likely to receive the routine medical care they need and are more health compromised.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Layers
Senate Districts
Assembly Districts
Local Health Department Boundaries
Tribal Boundaries
Lead Contractors
Ability to Compare
Data in Action
Statewide Impact

Percent Poisoned | 2018-2021

- > 12.4%
- > 5.8 -12.4%
- > 2.08 -5.8%
- > 1 -2.08%
- 0-1%
- Data suppressed
Statewide Impact

Percent Poisoned | 2018-2021

- > 12.4%
- > 5.8 -12.4%
- > 2.08 -5.8%
- > 1 -2.08%
- 0-1%
- Data suppressed

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
High Risk Areas Within a Community

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Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Connection to Housing Stock

**Percent Poisoned | 2018-2021**
- > 12.4%
- > 5.8 - 12.4%
- > 2.08 - 5.8%
- > 1 - 2.08%
- 0 - 1%
- Data suppressed

**Age of Housing pre-1950 | 2021**
- > 67%
- > 49 - 67%
- > 34.6 - 49%
- > 22 - 34.6%
- 10.4 - 22%
- 0 - 10.4%
Connection to Poverty

**Percent Poisoned | 2018-2021**

- > 12.4%
- > 5.8 - 12.4%
- > 2.08 - 5.8%
- > 1 - 2.08%
- 0 - 1%
- Data suppressed

**Child Poverty | 2021**

- > 83%
- > 66.6 - 83%
- > 50 - 66.6%
- > 33 - 50%
- > 16.6 - 33%
- 0 – 16.6%
Connection with Poverty

Children Tested | 2018-2021

- > 708 – 1,341
- > 421 – 708
- > 250 – 421
- > 137 – 250
- 1 – 137

Child Poverty | 2021

- > 83%
- > 66.6 - 83%
- > 50 - 66.6%
- > 33 - 50%
- 16.6 - 33%
- 0 – 16.6%
Data in Action

- Identify where the risk of lead exposure is greater
- Target efforts to control lead hazards before they poison children
- Target blood lead testing where children are at higher risk for poisoning
- Connect children with lead poisoning to recommended services
- Monitor progress towards eliminating childhood lead poisoning
- Identify and monitor trends in sources of lead exposure for children
Maria Beltran’s Story
Prioritize Prevention

- **Funding** to fix lead hazards in housing before children are lead poisoned
- **Policies** that ensure lead-safe housing and child care facilities
- **Education** for families so they can protect their children from lead
Governor’s Budget

• $17.1 million – **Lead Poisoning Prevention and Response** budget item will require an environmental lead investigation at \( \geq 3.5 \text{ mcg/dL} \) and will increase public health funding

• $9.2 million – Children with a blood lead level of \( \geq 3.5 \text{ mcg/dL} \) are eligible for **Birth to 3 Program** services and increase funding for county programs
Governor’s Budget

• $200 million – Funding to support DNR’s lead service line replacement program for municipal water systems

• $100 million – Investment in WHEDA’s Workforce Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to renovate and repair older homes, including lead remediation.
Questions?
Thank you for participating!