

LEAD Educator



KERN COUNTY CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Fall/Winter 2010



Contact Us

Kern County
Childhood
Lead
Poisoning
Prevention
Program

1800 Mt.
Vernon Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
93306

CLPPP
Coordinator,

Melvina Terry,
PHN, II
868-0360

LEAD Educator
edited by:

Kathy
Van Reusen,
Ed.D., CHES

Senior Health
Educator
868-0247



LEAD in the NEWS

REMINDER FOR CHDP PROVIDERS

Just a reminder that as of December 17, 2008, providers should be following the new state guidelines which recommend follow up for children with blood lead levels of **5 mcg/dl and up**. The old guidelines started at 10 mcg/dl.

The new guidelines provide specific action for BLLs starting at 5-9 mcg/dl. At this level, the provider now should consider retesting in six months (rather than one year), particularly if the:

- BLL is approaching 10 mcg/dl;
- child that is less than two years of age;
- child is at high risk for lead exposure; or
- test was done at the start of warm weather (when BLLs tend to increase).

The provider should also consider ordering neurodevelopment screening, adding a notation of the BLL to the child's medical record for future neurodevelopment monitoring, and testing other family members.

The Kern County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is currently following **all** elevations of **5 mcg/dl and up** until the level shows a downward trend, is lost to follow-up, or the family is non-compliant with requests for follow-up. A packet is mailed to each new elevation or **5 mcg/dl and up** with a letter instructing the parent to return to the medical provider for retesting within a specified number of months. The packet contains information on the lead test, lead poisoning prevention, and the role a healthy diet plays in prevention of lead poisoning.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT / CLPPP NEW WEB PAGE ADDRESS!!

<http://www.kernpublichealth.com/departments/CHDP/kcclp.html>

- Medical information for providers
- EPA Guidelines for contractors
- General information and resources for the community
- State press releases on recalled candy
- A link to the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) for all other recalls related to lead

UPDATE

Who's at Risk for Lead Poisoning

Because of their behavior and physiology, children are more affected by exposure to lead than are adults.

- Children absorb more ingested lead than do adults.
- Children generally ingest lead-contaminated soil and house dust at higher rates than adults because of mouthing and hand-to-mouth behaviors.
- Children who exhibit pica, a compulsive hand-to-mouth behavior and repeated eating of nonfood items, are at greatest risk.
- Children have a higher breathing rate than adults, breathing in a greater volume of air per pound.
- Being shorter than adults are, children are more likely to breathe lead-contaminated dust and soil as well as fumes close to the ground.
- In addition, the percent of lead absorbed in the gut, especially in an empty stomach, is estimated to be as much as five to 10 times greater in infants and young children than in adults. (Alexander et al. 1974; Chamberlain et al. 1978; James et al. 1985; Ziegler et al. 1978 as cited in ATSDR 1999)
- Gastrointestinal absorption of lead in children is increased by iron, calcium, zinc, and ascorbate deficiency. (Mahaffey et al. 1990 as cited in AAP 1993)

New CLPPP Public Health Aid

Rudy Cordero was hired in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) in March, 2010. As a PHA, Rudy follows up and educates clients whose children have been reported to have a blood elevation between 5 and 14.5 mcg/dL (or up to 19.4 mcg/dL). Rudy also assists the program at health fairs and speaks fluent Spanish.



Rudy started working in Public Health in 2003 as a Public Health Aid in the KATCH (Kern Access to Children's Health) Program, where he assisted clients with applications to receive health insurance for their children.

In 2006, Rudy transferred to the Dental Program and assisted clients without health care so their children could receive dental education and treatment.

Previous to working in public health, Rudy worked in diabetes education at the Buck Owens Wellness Center at San Joaquin Hospital.

LEAD WEEK THEME - 2010

*"Lead Free Kids for a
Healthy Future"*

OCT. 24-30

See the "Fact Sheets"
(English and Spanish)

Childhood Lead Poisoning Report Kern County

January – July, 2010

Number of New Cases – **7**

Number of EBLLs – **197**

Primary Source: Chipping and peeling paint