

LEAD Educator



KERN COUNTY CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Spring/Summer - 2012



**Kern County
Childhood
Lead
Poisoning
Prevention
Program**

1800 Mt.
Vernon Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
93306

~Contact Us~

Melvina Terry,
PHN, II
CLPPP
Coordinator,
661-868-0360
Email: terrym@co.kern.ca.us

**Amanda
Kammen,** MPH
Health
Educator
661-868-0495
Email:
kammena@co.kern.ca.us



LEAD in the NEWS

PUCKER UP

Lead was in the news recently, notably for the levels found in lipstick. While women who wear lipstick were concerned, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there is no cause for alarm. The FDA recently conducted a test of lead levels in many lipsticks currently on the market. The findings show the levels of lead found were extremely low and no cause for concern. Lead generally gets into lipstick during the manufacturing process, and some lipstick pigments may also contain lead. Regardless of how the lead arrives in the lipstick the FDA says, "that the products do not pose any threat to health."



WASH AWAY THE LEAD

Many children are lead poisoned through hand to mouth activity. The lead dust is transferred from hands or toys that the child puts in their mouth. The most inexpensive way to prevent some of the transfer of lead dust is "hand washing." Young children should wash their hands before meals, bedtime, naptime, and anytime children play outdoors. Wash the child's hands in warm soapy water. Sing a song like the Alphabet song or Happy Birthday twice to ensure hand washing is long enough to get the hands very clean.

If your child has toys and a teething ring falling on the floor, be sure to rinse it off before giving them back to your child. Regularly clean your child's toys paying special attention to those that are used outside or on the floor. Soft toys which may get dirty can be washed in the washing machine.

Hand washing is one of the simplest ways to prevent lead. Also it facilitates a decrease in lead levels for those children with lead elevation.

Lead Recalls and Resources Available Online:

<http://www.kernpublichealth.com/>
Double click on Child Health and Disability Prevention,
then click on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Lead Candy Information Available Online:

www.cdph.ca.gov/data/documents/fdblicic07.pdf

LEAD IT BE KNOWN...

Kern County Kids “At Risk”

Information from the State of California, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch shows that providers are testing “at risk” children. Below are tables showing blood level testing for children less than 21 years of age and a comparison between Kern, Fresno, and Tulare Counties.

| Year | County | BLL <4.5 mcg/dl | BLL 4.5 – 9.4 mcg/dl | >9.5 mcg/dl | Row Totals |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2008 | Kern | 24,863 | 1,584 | 95 | 26,542 |
| 2008 | Fresno | 21,975 | 1,578 | 244 | 23,797 |
| 2008 | Tulare | 7,473 | 361 | 72 | 7,906 |

| Year | County | BLL <4.5 mcg/dl | BLL 4.5 – 9.4 mcg/dl | >9.5 mcg/dl | Row Totals |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2009 | Kern | 23,336 | 726 | 84 | 24,146 |
| 2009 | Fresno | 21,543 | 1,901 | 277 | 23,721 |
| 2009 | Tulare | 8,498 | 369 | 61 | 8,928 |

| Year | County | BLL <4.5 mcg/dl | BLL 4.5 – 9.4 mcg/dl | >9.5 mcg/dl | Row Totals |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2010 | Kern | 24,220 | 594 | 78 | 24,892 |
| 2010 | Fresno | 23,523 | 1,473 | 200 | 25,196 |
| 2010 | Tulare | 9,731 | 264 | 55 | 10,050 |

Kern County elevated blood lead cases and their primary exposure sources followed 2009 to date:

| Year | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 (to 4-6-12) |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------------------|
| Number of Cases | 14 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| <i>Exposure Source</i> | | | | |
| Paint | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Mexican Candy | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Soil | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Home Remedy | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pottery | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Retained Bullet | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Work Exposure | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Not so Sweet



Vagabundo Paletas candy has been found to be contaminated with lead. A voluntary recall has been issued by Crown Wholesale of Paramount, California.

Pregnant women and parents of children who may have consumed this product are asked to speak with their doctor or health care provider about lead testing.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Report Kern County January, 2012 – April 11, 2012

Number of New Cases: 7

Number of EBLs: 98

- 2 were 15-19 mcg/dl
- 8 were 10-14 mcg/dl
- 88 were 5-9 mcg/dl

Primary Sources: Chipping and peeling paint, dirt