

# LEAD *Educator*



KERN COUNTY CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Fall/Winter - 2015

## LEAD in the NEWS



**Kern County  
Childhood  
Lead  
Poisoning  
Prevention  
Program**

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93306

**~Contact Us~**

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*Dear Medical Providers,*

***RE: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Week October 25-31, 2015***

*As you know, lead poisoning can permanently impair a child's intellectual and social development. There is no known safe blood lead level. Lead was used in paint and gasoline until it was banned. Children living in any pre-1978 housing could be exposed to dangerous levels of lead from old lead paint and from contamination of soil and dust by old leaded gasoline. Children receiving services from government assisted health programs are also considered at risk for lead exposure. Many at-risk children have not been tested for lead.*

*Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is being observed throughout California during the week of October 25-31, 2015. Our theme this year is **"Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning. Learn Where Lead Can Be"**. We will take this opportunity to work closely with local media outlets to inform parents of at-risk children of the importance of blood lead testing.*

*Because this campaign may generate questions from parents, we are sharing the enclosed Lead Poisoning Prevention Week fact sheet. This can be a useful tool to address parent questions about childhood lead issues. Local resource numbers and the state lead website, [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb), are listed. We have also included sample copies of lead materials available from our program. If you have any questions, please call us at the number below.*

*We appreciate your concern and efforts to identify and screen children who are at risk for lead poisoning. Please call Kern County Public Health Services Department, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 661-321-3000 or 661-868-0360 if you have questions.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lead Program Coordinator  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention*

# CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

## Fact Sheet

### 1. Lead is harmful to children.

Lead can damage a child's brain and nervous system. Lead poisoning is especially dangerous for children under the age of six because their rapidly growing and developing bodies absorb more lead. It can cause permanent learning and behavioral problems that make it difficult for children to succeed in school.

### 2. A blood lead test is the only way to know if a child has lead poisoning.

Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick. Children at highest risk for lead exposure are those in government assisted health programs and those who live or spend time in older housing. Old housing may have deteriorating or disturbed lead-based paint and lead-contaminated soil and dust.

Children at risk of lead exposure should be tested at both one and two years of age. Additionally, children three to six years old, at risk, who were not tested at ages one and two years old, should have a blood lead test. Parents can talk to their child's doctor about getting tested for lead.

### 3. Most children get lead poisoned from deteriorating lead paint in homes built before 1978 or from soil containing lead from gasoline residue when the following occurs:

- Lead-based paint chips or peels;
- Lead-based paint is disturbed during repairs or renovations;
- Lead contaminates soil along roadways, near buildings, and homes;
- Lead dust from paint and soil accumulates in and around homes;
- Lead dust settles on bare soil around the home where children play; or
- Lead dust settles on toys, fingers, and other things children put in their mouths.

### 4. Other sources of childhood lead poisoning include:

- Handmade ceramic tableware, especially imported ceramics decorated with lead-based glaze or paint;
- Some toys, jewelry and other painted objects;
- Traditional home remedies including Azarcon, Greta, and Pay-loo-ah;
- Traditional cosmetics including Kohl and Surma;
- Some imported candies and food products; and
- Work clothes, shoes, and workers exposed to lead on the job. A few of the jobs with exposure to lead are lead smelting, making or recycling batteries, and repairing radiators.

5. Good nutrition helps children's bodies resist lead poisoning.

Serve three meals and two healthy snacks to children each day including:

- Calcium-rich foods (milk, cheese, yogurt, and tofu),
- Iron-rich foods (lean meats, beans, iron-fortified cereals and grains, nuts and seeds, and dark green vegetables), and
- Vitamin C rich foods (fresh, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables).

6. Parents and caregivers can also prevent childhood lead poisoning by:

- Wiping clean or taking off shoes before entering the home
- Washing children's hands and toys often
- If lead-based paint is on any surface inside or outside of the home,
  - Wet mop and wash surfaces often;
  - When painting or remodeling, always follow "lead-safe" work practices:
    - Use plastic sheeting on the ground and furniture while working;
    - Wet surfaces before sanding and scraping;
    - Wet mop the area with an all-purpose cleaner at the end of the day.

7. Don't take lead home from your job.

- Change into clean clothes and shoes before getting into your car or going home. Bag dirty clothes and shoes.
- Wash your face and hands with soap and water before leaving work.
- Take a shower and wash your hair as soon as you get home. It is better to shower at work if you can.
- Wash work clothes separately from all other clothes. Run the empty washing machine again after the work clothes to rinse the lead out.

8. Free blood lead testing is available for most children.

Children who receive services from Medi-Cal or Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) are eligible for free testing. Private health insurance plans also usually pay for the test.

To find out about eligibility for Medi-Cal call: 1(800) 880-5305.

9. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the local health department can provide more information.

Kern County Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program  
1800 Mt. Vernon Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Melvina Terry, PHN II  
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# Welcome New Staff!

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program would like to introduce Imelda Ceja-Butkiewicz, Project Specialist. Imelda has worked for the past 16 years in various special projects: Medi-Cal Outreach, Kern Access to Children's Health (KATCH), Dental, Surveillance, Immunizations, HIV/AIDS and Refugee Program. Imelda will be working on lead education activities, which include Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in October. Imelda will also be working with CHDP Providers, community based organizations and consumers regarding lead health education needs.



## Childhood Lead Poisoning Report Kern County January 2015 - August 2015

*Number of New Cases – 6. Number of Elevated Blood Lead Levels - 13 of these were 15-19 mcg/dl, 21 were 10-14 mcg/dl and 221 were 5-9 mcg/dl. Primary Source: lead in paint and dust*