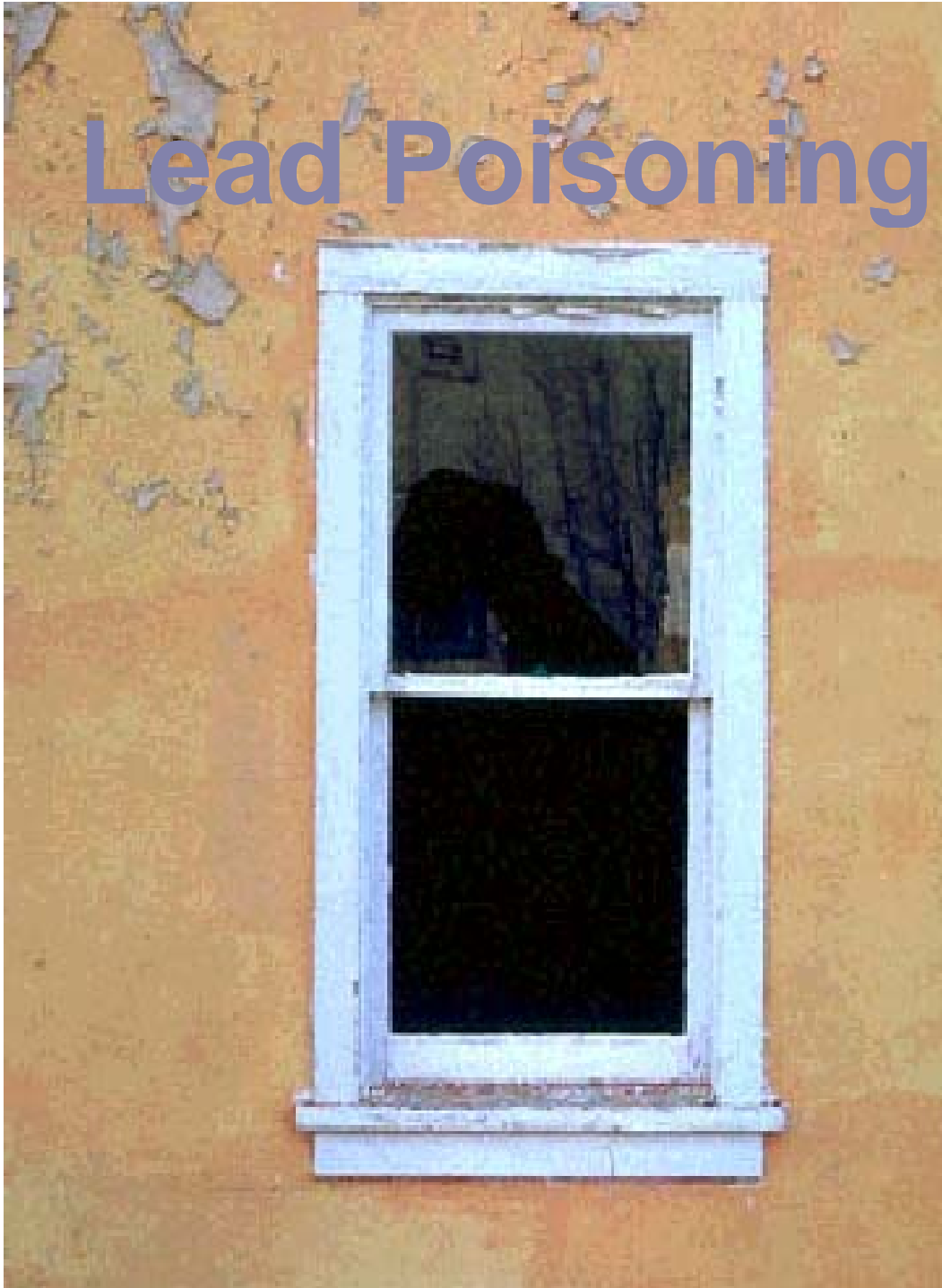


Lead Poisoning PREVENTION

What Everyone Should Know

Lead Agency
Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
Funded by
NJ Department of Community Affairs
NJ Department of Health and Senior
Services



What is Lead?

- A highly toxic, heavy metal element
- No living thing needs it
- Used in many products



Where is Lead Found?

- **Lead Based Paint**
- **Soil**
- **Water**
- **Occupations & Hobbies**
- **Food and Cosmetics**
- **Household Items**
- **Folk Remedies**



Major Source of Lead Poisoning

- Lead paint banned in homes in US in 1978.
- Lead dust is produced from lead paint as the paint gets older or damaged
- Lead dust invisible



Lead Poisoning

- A serious but **preventable** health problem
- Lead is easily absorbed into the body
- Can cause problems in the brain, nervous system and body.
- Children under the age of 7 and pregnant women are at greatest risk
- Even children who *seem* healthy may have high levels of lead in their blood

How Kids Get Lead Poisoning

- **Ingestion**
 - Hand to mouth activity
 - Paint dust, paint chips, contaminated soil, drinking water, food
- **Breathing**
 - Breeze
 - Renovations
 - May inhale fumes if paint is heated
- **During pregnancy**



An X-ray image of a child's abdomen, showing the spine and internal organs. Numerous small, dark, irregular specks are scattered throughout the abdominal cavity, representing lead paint chips. The text "THE POLLUTION WITHIN" is overlaid in white capital letters across the center of the image.

THE POLLUTION WITHIN

Lead paint chips speckle the gut of a two-year-old Cleveland girl. Phased out decades ago, lead paint is still injuring children who swallow it.

10/06
National
Geographic

**Even
small amounts of lead
can lead to
permanent damage
to the brain and
nervous system**

Effects of Lead in Children

- **Behavioral and Emotional problems**
 - hyperactivity, ADD, ADHD
 - anger, aggression, depression
 - discipline problems
- **Learning problems**
 - lower reading, vocabulary, and math scores in school
 - school absenteeism, delinquency
 - poor attention span
- **Brain Damage**
- **Speech and language difficulties**
- **Lower IQ**

Other Effects

- **Headaches**
- **Hearing problems / hearing loss**
- **Anemia**
- **Kidney damage**
- **Delayed or slowed development**
- **Joint pains**
- **Stomach cramps**



Consequences of High Exposure

Children exposed to high levels of lead can suffer:

- **Seizures / Convulsions**
- **Unconsciousness**
- **Coma**
- **Death**

Lead Effects in Pregnancy

- **Lead crosses the placenta**
- **Lead stored in bones may be released into blood (and carried through blood to fetus)**
- **Prematurity**
- **Low Birth Weight**
- **Miscarriage or Stillbirth**



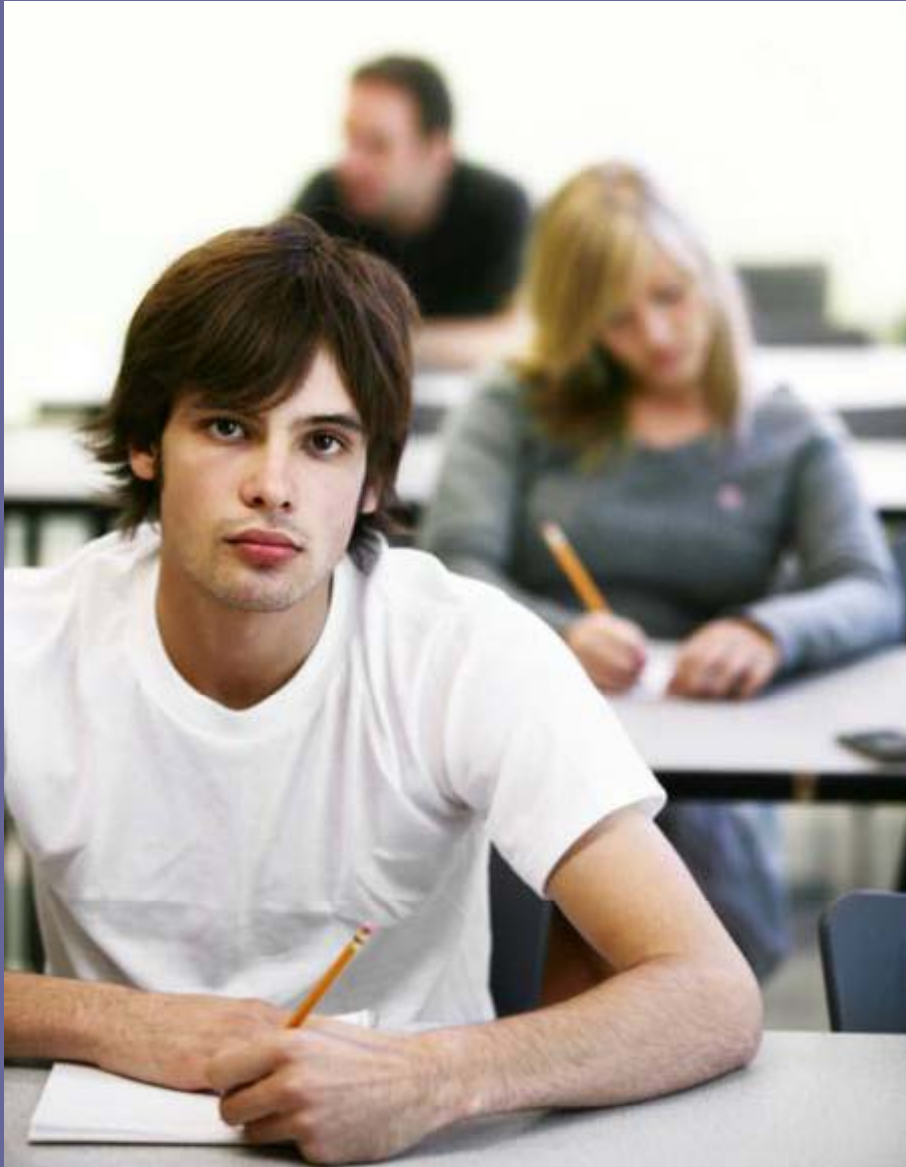
Symptoms of Lead Poisoning

- **Symptoms rare and common to other childhood ailments:**
 - Stomach aches and cramps
 - Headaches
 - Joint and muscle pain
 - Fatigue and sleep disorders
- **Most lead-poisoned kids show **NO symptoms** until damage is already done**
- **Can be difficult to convince landlords and parents**

Lead poisoned children are **6 times** more likely to have learning disabilities



Jessica Wolpaw Reyes (2007) "Environmental Policy as Social Policy? The Impact of Childhood Lead Exposure on Crime," *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*: Vol. 7: Iss. 1 (Contributions), Article 51.



**Lead
poisoned
children are
7 times more
likely to drop
out of high
school**

**Lead poisoned
children are
robbed of nearly
\$200,000 in
lifetime earnings
because of lost IQ**



When lead poisoned children suffer, we all suffer

- **Higher taxes**
- **Cost of Special Education**
- **Higher Medical Insurance**
- **Welfare / Social Service Program costs**
- **Criminal Justice System**
- **Quality of Life for Society**

What Can You Do?

- **Test Your Home**
- **Test Your Child**
- **Always use lead-safe cleaning and lead-safe renovation practices**

Testing Children for Lead

- Lead-poisoned children rarely show obvious symptoms
- A blood test is the **only** way to know whether your child has lead poisoning
 - Finger stick (Capillary / filter paper)
 - Venous draw



A simple blood test can prevent a lifetime spoiled by the irreversible damage cause by lead poisoning.

Who Should Be Tested?

All children must be tested for lead at:

- **9-18 months (best at 1 year), and**
- **18-26 months (best at 2 years)**
- **Any child under the age of 6 years who has never been tested for lead should be tested **immediately**.**

Other Risk Situations for Testing

Testing recommended at other ages if your child:

- Lives in or regularly visits a house / daycare built before 1978
- Lives with / frequently visits an adult whose job or hobby involves lead (painters, home improvement workers, fishermen, etc.)
- If another child in the home tests positive for lead

All children are at risk for lead poisoning

If a Child Has Elevated Blood Lead

- Check child's environment for sources of lead
 - Remove as many sources as possible
 - Use prevention strategies
- or*
- Remove child from sources
 - Chelation
 - Hospitalization



How To Protect Your Children

- Reduce risk from lead paint
- Keep home clean with *Special Methods*
- Good nutrition
- Good hygiene
- Get lead out of drinking water
- Don't bring lead into the home
- Remove paint safely and don't remove lead paint yourself
- **GET CHILD TESTED**
- **Know the Number**

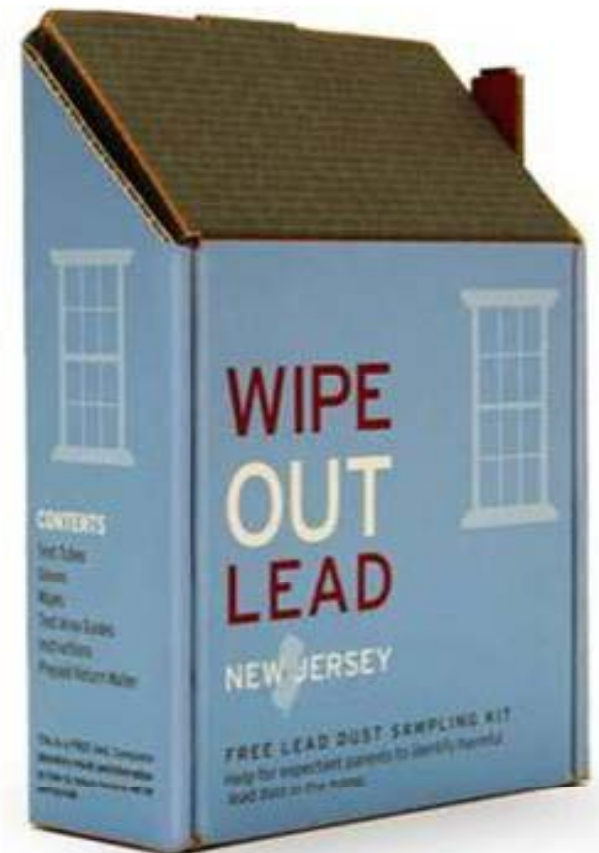
Wipe Out Lead New Jersey

- **A primary prevention approach to reduce childhood lead poisoning**
- **Provides free ‘do-it-yourself’ testing kits to identify lead hazards in the home**
- **Provides community education on lead poisoning**
- **Has information on state programs to assist homeowners and property owners with lead abatement**

Lead Dust Testing Kit

Free kits are available to

- New Jersey families who are expecting or have young children in the home or who regularly visit
- Home or apartment built before 1978, or age is not known



A Quick Process

- Obtain the WOL NJ Test Kit and sample two areas of home
- Complete Return Form and mail with samples in provided envelope
- Samples processed at a certified lab
- Results arrive in mail within 3 weeks.

The image shows a 'RETURN FORM LeadSmart™' from BTS Laboratories. The form is titled 'RETURN FORM LeadSmart™' and includes the BTS Laboratories logo. It features a 'Pre Paid Kit - For Lab Use Only - Do Not Charge' section with a 'Take Sample Here' button. The form contains several fields for user information: Name (Last, First, Middle), Office Address, City/State/ZIP, and Phone (Home, Office, Cell, Fax). There is also a section for 'Date Sample Taken' and a 'DISCLAIMER' section. The form is designed to be completed and mailed back to the lab.

What if lead is found?

- **WOL staff will send prevention information.**
- ***If lead levels are high**, WOL staff will call with more information**
 - **Recommend blood tests for children**
 - **Education on nutrition, hygiene, special cleaning**
 - **Referrals to other agencies (WIC, EI, DCA, HD, etc.)**
 - **Interim Controls**
 - **LHCA fund loans**

***The Federal Govt. defines hazardous as $> 40\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for floors and $> 250\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for windowsills.**

Resources

- **Wipe Out Lead NJ** **1.888.722.2903**
- **Family Health Line** **1.800.328.3838**
NJ Dept of Health and Senior Services
- **County or City Health Departments**
- **Southern Regional Lead** **1.856.665.6000**
Poisoning Coalition
c/o Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative

The Path is Clear

Together we can protect children from lead

