



Who We Are: COEC at CEET

About Us

The Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC) works to provide research information from the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology's (CEET) research team to community, professional, and public health decision-makers in order to improve clinical and public health. CEET receives grant support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (P30ES013508). Concerned with the effects on vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, and underserved populations, the COEC develops models and approaches to community environmental health. The COEC brings community concerns to the Center to guide environmental research ideas that affect the community's health. Some community environmental problems are investigated using Community-Based Participatory Research, making the citizens the scientists.

For more information go to our website:

<http://www.med.upenn.edu/ceet>

Or to the CDC Lead Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>

Follow us on Social Media!

Like Us on Facebook!
COEC @ CEET



Follow Us on Twitter!
@UPennCEET_COEC



1316 BRB II/III
421 Curie Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-898-6221



Lead: It's Still a Problem

Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC)

Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET)

What is Lead?

Lead is a heavy metal and basic chemical element. Lead is also a poison. It can slow mental and physical growth and make you very sick. For these reasons, knowing where lead might show up in your environment can help you to avoid contact with it!

Childhood lead poisoning is still one of the most important health issues in the United States today. According to recent CDC estimates, 890,000 U.S. children age 1-5 have elevated blood lead levels. Lead poisoning can be so subtle that the affected child may not show any clear physical signs. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend screening all children at age 1. Children living in high risk areas or populations for lead exposures should be screened until age 5.



What happens if a child is lead poisoned?

Slowed growth, hearing loss, learning problems, behavioral problems.

66% of Homes in the US Still Contain Lead.

Sources of Lead and What You Can Do

House Paint

- Homes built before 1978 likely contain lead-based paint and old paint flakes off.
- Don't sand off old paint. Let your landlord know about chipping paint.
- Wet mop and dust often.

Soil

- Soil (dirt) near heavily-used streets, old homes, old factories, and even playgrounds may contain lead.
- Wash hands after playing outside.
- Hand sanitizer does not remove lead.

Drinking Water

- Lead may get into drinking water when materials used in plumbing contain lead. Well water can become contaminated at anytime.
- Run the water for 10 minutes before drinking, cooking, or making baby formula.
- Test well water annually.

Others

- Lead is also found in some imported children's toys, candy, and cosmetics.
- Be aware of the items you are buying and consuming.



Are you pregnant or thinking about having a baby? You should get tested for lead too!

Beginning December 21, 2012, the Lead Paint Disclosure and Certification Law requires Philadelphia landlords to ensure that property rented to families with children 6 years and younger is lead safe.

Removing lead paint should be done by professionals who will prevent the lead from contaminating the home. Residents should not live in homes where lead paint is being removed.

The only way to know if your child has been poisoned is to get them **tested!** Blood lead levels greater than 5 ug/dL are elevated.

Have your child tested by their doctor or healthcare provider, or contact the health department to find out where they offer free testing for children and pregnant women!

Did You Know?

- Lead poisoning is a very common problem for young children.
- Lead tastes sweet, which makes children, want to eat it.
- Peeling lead paint especially from windows ends up on floors.
- Children under the age of 3 are at high risk because they crawl or play on the floor.

Lead poisoning contributes to violent behaviors in adolescence.