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2007

Lead Safe St. Louis Report to the Community



Lead Safe St. Louis
City of St. Louis

A collaborative team of City Agencies:
Building Division
Communications Division
Community Development Administration
Health Division
Problem Properties Court

Hotline: 314-259-3455
www.lead safestlouis.org

- △ **Screening prevalence rate dropped to a record low of 4.4% of children with blood lead levels at or above 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$), reflecting a 65% reduction over 2003's rate (and more than 30% reduction over 2006's rate)**
- △ **Only 85 children had blood lead levels at or above 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ in 2007 compared to 217 in 2003**
- △ **More than 76% of children tested in 2007 had blood lead levels below 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ compared to 52% in 2003**
- △ **Met HUD goals in all categories – attained Green Status entire year**
- △ **Building Division completed a record number of remediation projects - 519**
- △ **City programs exceeded HUD Benchmark Goal of 429 units by 100 units**
- △ Continued proactive vs. reactive approach to inspection and remediation as units are processed on a primary prevention basis versus secondary prevention: More than 75% of requests for lead inspections were primary prevention, and less than 25% of requests resulted from a child with a blood lead level at or above 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ (EBL) prior to request for service and EBL cases received priority response
- △ Enrolled more than 500 units into Window Replacement and Multi-Family Rehab Programs – both primary prevention programs
- △ Unit pricing system developed for Certified Lead Abatement Contractors now used exclusively allowing all contractors to have jobs at the same time: as of 12/31/07 there were 40 jobs assigned to the various 10 contractors – significantly decreasing the time it takes from financial application approval to job completion
- △ Increased contractor capacity by 43% with the addition of three new certified contractors in 2007
- △ Expanded the lead inspection crew from 9 to 11 inspectors to accommodate the increased inspection load brought about by the success of the Window Replacement and Multi-Family Rehab Programs.
- △ Established partnership with BJC OB/GYN Clinic – Heavy Metal Project – where primary prevention referrals are made for Medicaid pregnant women's homes to be remediated prior to birth of child – student nurses in Fall 2007 internships recruited 32 pregnant women for lead inspections
- △ Established partnership with City's Drug Court – after completion of a 12 month program, the Building Division is contacted to screen units before moms are reunited with their children and placed in a unit
- △ Nearing completion of the development and implementation of a new, state of the art, web-based operating system for all participants in City's Lead Program
- △ Children whose blood lead levels fall between 5 and 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ were targeted for lead inspections with a special "5 to 9 Canvassing" program. These children are not classified as EBL according to CDC, but these blood lead levels show evidence of lead exposure – 1377 children in 8 City Neighborhoods were sought with 445 contacts and 143 inspection referrals made
- △ LSSL Hotline received a record number of calls requesting lead inspections: 243 of 293 calls
- △ 22 families were permanently relocated to lead safe homes in 2007
- △ LSSL's community collaborations were showcased at an EPA Region 5 and 7 Conference highlighting the collaborative efforts of the Enforcement Committee of the Mayor's Task Force
- △ More than 50 lead abatement contractor staff attended a "Contractor Appreciation Day" during Lead Safe Kids & Homes Recognition in October receiving free blood lead testing and a continental breakfast
- △ LSSL collaborated with Angie's List, a national consumer organization, during their Lead Paint Education Tour in October offering blood lead testing and lead safe work practice training
- △ In response to the hundreds of toy and consumer recalls, the Outreach and Education Committee of the Mayor's Task Force spearheaded a revision of the program's "Test for Lead" poster – "Don't play games with your child's health," reminds parents that the greatest risk of lead poisoning is deteriorating lead-based paint
- △ New ads "Don't Toy with Your Child's Health" were produced by the City's Communications Division

Supported by:

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