

Issue Area (6):

Lead Poisoning

- I. Goal Statement:** To prevent lead exposure to children from racial and ethnic communities, and to assure access to screening for those children who are potentially at risk for exposure.

Action Items:

- A.** Develop new funding streams to support lead poisoning prevention efforts. Create new partnerships with State divisions and organizations in the public and private sector. Explore legislative changes that would generate new revenue through collecting fees on certain types of real estate transactions to fund prevention efforts such as repainting older, high-risk houses.
- B.** Assure that funding for Local Health Departments (LHD's) is sufficient for funded collaborations/contracts with community-based organizations that are organized to serve racial and ethnic communities. Fund health promoters through LHD's. Fund community-based organizations to build infrastructure and capacity to provide culturally appropriate lead poisoning prevention and education services. Assure that community-based organizations can pay a living wage in order to recruit and retain qualified employees.
- C.** Work with Oregon Health Division's Lead Program and the Office of Multicultural Health to develop assurances with the Conference of Local Health Officials (CHLO) to assure that testing and investigation services are culturally and linguistically competent.
- D.** Convene a subcommittee of the Task Force to review the findings of the OHP Pilot Lead Screening Project among children living in high-risk communities. The subcommittee shall make recommendations based on the report regarding future screening protocols for OHP Children. The recommendations shall also take into consideration the HCFA and CDC guidelines for lead testing of children.

POLICY	BUDGET	LEGISLATIVE	RESPONSIBLE
X	X	X	OHD-Lead Program (lead division)
X	X	X	Oregon Health Division (lead division)
X			OHD-Lead Program (lead division), OHD-Office of Multicultural Health
X		X	OHD-Lead Program (lead division), Oregon Medical Assistance Program

II. Goal Statement: Improve the information available on the scope and impact of lead poisoning on communities of color in Oregon.

Action Items:

- A.** Fund studies of the prevalence of lead paint in pre-1978 housing throughout the state. The Multnomah County studies provide a framework for conducting other studies.

- B.** Monitor lead screening data and utilize information in reviewing current policies and making changes as necessary in the policies of DHS and other state departments and divisions (i.e. Oregon Housing and Community Services Department).

- C.** Fund testing for uninsured/underinsured children, follow-up investigation and mitigation education for any child with elevated blood lead levels, and referral to care when indicated.

- D.** Utilize strategies that assure efficient service delivery to populations at risk for lead poisoning by integrating blood-lead screening services into community immunization clinics, health fairs, and community-based testing clinics. Use health promoters who come from the community in order for them to outreach to communities of color that naturally congregate in places such as churches, Migrant Head Start clinics, etc.

POLICY	BUDGET	LEGISLATIVE	RESPONSIBLE
	X		Oregon Health Division (lead division), Oregon Housing & Community Services
X			OHD-Lead Program (lead division), Oregon Housing & Community Services
X	X		Oregon Health Division (lead division)
	X		Oregon Health Division (lead division)

III. Goal Statement: Increase targeted outreach and education strategies through the use of traditional and non-traditional activities to prevent lead poisoning.

Action Items:

- A.** Initiate a cooperative educational program with state and local education departments and local health departments to increase the knowledge level of special education programs and teachers on the prevention of lead poisoning.
- B.** Provide culturally appropriate information to racial and ethnic communities on the risks created by exposure to pottery with lead-containing glazes. Work with community groups and retailers to reduce lead poisoning caused by exposure to pottery.
- C.** Develop a program to test rental houses and apartments for lead and require that those with unhealthy levels of lead be repainted.

POLICY	BUDGET	LEGISLATIVE	RESPONSIBLE
X			OHD-Lead Program (lead division), Dept of Education, Dept of Human Services
X			OHD-Lead Program (lead division)
X	X		OHD-Lead Program (lead division), Dept of Consumer & Business Development

IV. Goals Statement: Fund development of rural and urban models for comprehensive pilot intervention programs in targeted geographic areas (e.g. large neighborhoods or small communities) where the prevalence of older housing and poverty indicate potential risk to children from racial and ethnic communities.

Action Items:

- A.** Provide funding to develop the capacity for community involvement in the development of the prevention efforts and include resources for full process and outcome evaluation. For example: structure components to include an intensive community awareness/mobilization strategy; household risk assessment; on-site testing; referral to care as needed; education and tools necessary for household lead exposure reduction (e.g. CLEARCorp Resident Intervention Model); referral to low-income lead remediation programs; follow-up with parents/guardians. Move or expand the pilot interventions into additional areas at risk if the program is successful.

- B.** Work directly with Tribes and urban Indian programs to develop culturally appropriate models for prevention and treatment.

POLICY	BUDGET	LEGISLATIVE	RESPONSIBLE
X	X		OHD-Lead Program (lead division)
X			Dept of Human Services (lead department), Oregon Health Division