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# Lead Safe St. Louis Annual Report

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PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY  
AT THE

## City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen October 29, 2004

**Goal:** The goal of the Lead Safe St. Louis Program is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the City of St. Louis by 2010.

The Lead Safe St. Louis plan addresses this goal by shifting the focus of the City's efforts from secondary to primary prevention, incorporating strategies that include working with partners across the City to assist with education and outreach to homeowners, landlords, teachers and parents with children at risk, universal blood lead testing for all children under 6, proactive remediation of lead risks in City homes, enforcement of applicable laws, and providing leadership for city and community efforts.

Given limits in the City's budget, the City also seeks additional resources to carry out these strategies.

**Progress and accomplishments:** Progress and accomplishments have been achieved in the following six (6) key areas:

- Partnership
- Education & Outreach
- Blood Lead Testing
- Inspection/Remediation/Clearance Activity
- Enforcement
- Resource Expansion

### **PARTNERSHIP:**

- **The Mayor's Lead Safe St. Louis (LSSL) Task Force** was created in January 2004, with community partners serving on the following committees: Outreach/Education, Community Partnerships, Contractor Development, Housing, Legislative, and Enforcement.

- **Formal partnerships with community and faith-based organizations:** Memoranda of understanding and working relationships have been established with the following community and faith-based organizations: Grace Hill, St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition, Health & Environmental Justice, Catholic Commission on Housing, Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services, Midtown Catholic Community Services, St. Louis City Rental Property Owners Association, St. Louis Area Housing Providers Association, SW Garden Property Owners Association, St. Louis Association of Realtors, St. Louis Real Estate Investors Association, Affordable Housing Commission, Child Day Care Association, Children’s Health Forum, Southside Day Nursery, Interfaith Partnership of Metropolitan St. Louis & Faith Beyond Walls, West Side Missionary Baptist Church, Area Resources for Community & Health Services, Carpenters’ District Council, Painters District Council No. 2, LTD Environmental Services, YEHS/YouthBuild St. Louis, Safety First At Home, Inc., and Missouri Policy Fellows Program.
- **Medical community:** The City Health Department has established working relationships with the following: HealthCare USA, St. Louis University School of Public Health, Children’s Hospital, Cardinal Glennon, ConnectCare, Family Care Health Center, Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, and Peoples Health Center.
- **St. Louis Public Schools:** The City has established a partnership to investigate, through risk assessments, Pre-School and Kindergarten areas of 59 elementary schools for possible lead-based paint hazards, and work with school administration to establish a short, medium and long-term prioritization plan to address lead hazard reduction in the schools. Assessments were completed in August 2004.
- **State and Local Agencies:** Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, City Department of Human Services, and City Courts.

**EDUCATION & OUTREACH:**

- **Lead Safe St. Louis Hotline:** The hotline—**314-259-3455**—has been operational since August 2004. To date, fifty-three (53) calls have been received—twenty-eight (28) for general information, nine (9) requests for

inspections, five (5) requests for blood tests, and eleven (11) registration requests for the upcoming HUD Lead-Safe Work Practices Training on October 30, 2004. All requests have been or are being addressed.

- **Website:** [www.leadstlouis.org](http://www.leadstlouis.org) is online and being enhanced with links to electronic educational material, training opportunities, compliance assistance opportunities, health fairs, blood testing, and a registry of available lead-safe housing.
- **Health Fairs/Training/Educational Events:** Between January and September of 2004, the Lead Safe St. Louis Team has partnered with community and health-based organizations to attend a record number of fairs and events, tracking over 5,700 contacts/attendees, dispensing educational materials, providing hands-on demonstrations of cleaning and lead-safe remodeling and work practices. The Health Department has coordinated special educational outreach efforts with the City Schools: Careers on Wheels, expectant mothers at the Meda P. Washington School, and parochial school nurse education and training. In February 2004, the Health Department initiated a HEPA vacuum loan program to assist households with cleaning. To date, 91 families have been assisted and requests are increasing (a new US Conference of Mayors grant application has been submitted to expand this program).
- **Blood lead testing:** The Health Department is focused on achieving compliance with the State's Universal Testing requirement for ALL children under age 6 by coordinating outreach to the medical community—outreach includes participation in Grand Rounds sessions, appealing to parents through health fairs, media outlets, day cares and schools, and enhanced use of the Lead Van.
- **Lead Safe Kids & Homes Week:** Week-long education/outreach events are being held in conjunction with National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 24-30, 2004. (See separate agenda.)

### **BLOOD LEAD TESTING:**

- Total number of children less than 6 years old that should be tested annually (Universal Testing goal): approximately 28,000

- Total number of children tested, January – September, 2004: 10,092 [Note: This number represents a collaborative endeavor between the City Health Department and the medical community].
- Percentage of children tested January – September, 2004: 36% (at the current rate of testing, we project 48% by year-end, a 6% increase over 2003)
- Percentage of children tested with EBLs > 10ug/dl: 13% (down from 14% in 2003, 15% in 2002, and 16% in 2001).
- Of the total number of children with EBLs in the City, the Health Department is handling the bulk of the case management of those children.

### **INSPECTIONS/REMEDIAION/CLEARANCE ACTIVITY:**

- All City-related inspection/remediation/clearance activity consolidated under management of the City's Building Division in January, 2004.
- Five (5) Building Inspectors trained and certified as Risk Assessors for the new CDA Healthy Home Repair Program (complete building and lead inspections done on housing units) in July 2004. Nineteen (19) additional Building Inspectors being trained and certified as Risk Assessors using funds from a special \$500,000 federal appropriation.
- Total referrals to Building Division for inspections January – September, 2004: 830.
- Total referrals to Building Division for EBLs (> 15 ug/dl): 369 (44% of total—remaining 54% of referrals are primary prevention referrals)
- Total number of housing units inspected for lead risks by Building Division January – September, 2004: 911
- Total number of visual inspections of housing units in Housing Conservation Districts where no visual lead paint hazards were observed, January – September, 2004: 12,912.
- Total housing units cleared as lead-safe, January – September, 2004: 763
  - By formal risk assessments (where no lead hazards were found): 430
  - By remediation (Building Division Detoxification Crews, certified lead abatement contractors or owners): 333
- Total number new lead-safe housing units (new construction permits issued): 320
- Total housing units eligible for the Lead Safe Housing Registry: 1,083

(NOTE: Review of existing housing units substantially rehabilitated since 1978 currently in progress. Units will be added to registry when review is complete.)

**ENFORCEMENT:**

- Total number of violation notices issued (housing units requiring remediation) January – September, 2004: 473 (361 were complied or in the process of being complied).
- Total number of referrals to Problem Property Court, Special Lead Paint Dockets for non-compliance: 112

**RESOURCE EXPANSION:**

- City applied for and was awarded a \$2.6 million HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant in March, 2004 for the remediation of 150 owner-occupied units and 100 rental units by March, 2007. Total housing units remediated and cleared under this grant to date: 47. City received “green light” first and second quarter reports from HUD.
- City applied for and was awarded a \$100,000 Grant from the United States Conference of Mayors in June, 2004 for a citizen ombudsperson, website development, media campaign development, and consulting services over the next year.
- City applied for and was awarded a \$3 million 2004 HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant (renewal of 2001 Lead Hazard Control Grant) in September, 2004, for the remediation of 600 housing units by March, 2008, and to continue the lead poisoning prevention and case management functions in the Health Department.
- City applied for and was awarded a \$4 million 2004 HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant in September, 2004, for the remediation of 360 owner-occupied and 240 rental housing units by March, 2008.
- Additional grant applications submitted to the Missouri Foundation for Health in July, 2004 and the US Conference of Mayors in October, 2004.