
Lead Safe St. Louis Annual Report

Updated for Year Ending December 31, 2005

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 the 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** continued to meet quarterly in FY 2005, with community partners serving on the following committees: Outreach/Education, Community Partners, Contractor Development, Housing, Legislative, and Enforcement.
- 🏠 **Formal partnerships with community and faith-based organizations:** Representation on committees, the task force, and special projects include the following community and faith-based organizations: Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition, Catholic Commission on Housing, Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services, Midtown Catholic Family Services, St. Louis City Rental Property Owners Association, St. Louis Area Housing Providers Association, Southwest 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, SSDN, Interfaith Partnership of Metropolitan St. Louis /Faith Beyond Walls, Area Resources for Community & Health Services, Health and Environmental Justice, Carpenters' District Council, Painters District Council No. 2, YEHS/YouthBuild St. Louis, Missouri Policy Fellows Program, Jewish Community Relations Council, Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, International Institute of St. Louis, Operation Weed and Seed, Benton Park West Neighborhood Association, Incarnate Word Foundation, Block Link, St. John's Mercy Ministries, United Way St. Louis Cares, Team Depot of Home Depot.
- 🏠 **Medical community:** The City Health Department and LSSL program has established working relationships with the following; HealthcareUSA, Community Care Plus, Mercy Health Plans, St. Louis University School of Public Health, Children's Hospital, Cardinal Glennon, ConnectCare, Family Care Health Centers, Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, Peoples Health Center, St. John's Mercy Health Center.

- Ⓛ **Schools:** The City continues its partnership to provide clearance testing to the preschool and kindergarten areas of public elementary schools for possible lead-based paint hazards, and to continue in the prioritization plan to address lead hazard reduction in the schools. Outreach, education, and testing are offered to public, private, parochial, and charter elementary schools in the City. The goal is to offer testing in each school at least once per year. For example, recently when an elevated blood lead level case was investigated at Horace Mann Elementary School, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program staff tested 165 students and staff in two days. The results of the testing identified only five students who are over the age of six with slightly elevated blood lead levels ($\geq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ but $< 15 \mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$, the level at which environmental investigations are performed). **Federal, State, and Local Agencies:** U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, City Department of Human Services, City Courts, City Police Department, St. Louis Community Development Administration, St. Louis Department of Health, St. Louis Department of Public Safety and Building Division, St. Louis City Board of Aldermen, St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry.
- Ⓛ The City's programs have been recognized by the Safe and Healthy Homes and Communities Initiative, a joint project of HUD, EPA, and CDC. The City is recognized for its 3 innovative ordinances to achieve lead safe compliance: 64690 which provides authority for the City to cite property owners with lead hazards in homes, day care centers and schools; 64699 which established the Lead Remediation Fund from building permit fees; and 64701 which established a relocation fund from Medicaid fees and court fines. Because enforcement has been identified as one of the valuable tools in reducing childhood lead poisoning, these Federal entities have worked through City agencies to identify property owners in violation of Federal laws.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH:

- Ⓛ **Lead Safe St. Louis Hotline:** The hotline—314-259-3455—has been operational since July 2004. For 2005, 237 calls were received with 61 requests for home evaluations.
- Ⓛ **Website:** www.lead safestlouis.org will be back online in the next few weeks. Grant funds from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Missouri Foundation for Health will be used to provide information, educational material, links to other sites of importance, data, and a link to the new Lead Safe Housing Registry at Socialserve.com.
- Ⓛ **Health Fairs/Training/Educational Events:** Over 7,000 contacts were made in 2005, in various events dispensing educational materials, providing hands-on demonstrations of cleaning and lead-safe work practices. 177 families were provided HEPA vacuum loans in 2005, and a new loan program has provided brochures and additional units for loan through community partners. The **Lead Safe Blocks** program was initiated in 2005, with the first block party and outreach program in April 2005 at 3300 Nebraska. 18 children in the neighborhood were tested and 17 units were inspected, 5 units were found to have no lead hazards, and 12 units are in various stages of remediation at this time. LSSL intends to repeat this outreach in other blocks around the City.
- Ⓛ **Blood lead testing:** Surveillance of blood lead testing data this year has been challenging as the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has transitioned from the antiquated STELLAR batching program to a new real-time database program called MOHSAIC. As a contractor to the MDHSS for surveillance, it is incumbent on the City to utilize this new program. The Department of Health's 2004 Annual Lead Report published in December 2005 was delayed by this transition. The transition may be responsible in part for the significant reduction in blood lead testing that occurred early in 2004 (a reduction of approximately 30% comparing January – June 2004 data to January – June 2005 data). Nevertheless, Lead Safe St. Louis mobilized with community partners and the DOH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to train and equip 13 teams to go out into the medical community for a **Physician Outreach** program. The intent of the program is to alert pediatricians and family care physicians to the reduction in testing numbers, to the State's Universal Testing requirements (all children

under age 6 in St. Louis City must be tested annually), to the availability of simpler, cheaper testing technology (filter paper testing), and to the City's lead evaluation and remediation services. In addition, a **Medical Roundtable on Lead Testing** was held earlier this week to address some of the deeper institutional challenges to Universal testing, such as insurance and enforcement limitations. For calendar year 2005 provisional numbers indicate a total of 8,855 children (31.6%) under age 6 have been tested. In 2004 47.5% were tested. The CLPPP, whose testing rates are higher than last year (1,414 in 2005 compared to 1,037 in 2004), schedules onsite testing daily in public, private, and parochial schools, day care centers and Head Start programs, WIC sites, and the International Institute.

- Ⓛ **Lead Safe Kids & Homes Week:** A separate agenda is available listing the weeklong education and outreach events held in conjunction with the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 23-29, 2005.

BLOOD LEAD TESTING:

- Ⓛ Total number of children less than 6 years old that should be tested annually (Universal testing goal): 28,053
- Ⓛ Total number of children tested, provisional 2005: 8,855 [Note: This number represents a collaborative endeavor between the City Health Department (1,414 tests, up from 1,037 in 2004) and the medical community (7441 tests, down from 12,212 in 2004)].
- Ⓛ Percentage of children tested, provisional 2005: 31.6%
- Ⓛ For 2005 the provisional percentage of children tested with EBLs ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$: 11.3%. [Note: While this is up from 2004 rate of 9.0%, it is down from the 2003 rate of 14%, 2002 rate of 15%.]
- Ⓛ The City provides medical case management for about one third of the EBLs, but follows every EBL ≥ 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ for home evaluation, and provides emergency 24 hour services for every EBL ≥ 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$.

INSPECTIONS/REMEDICATION/CLEARANCE ACTIVITY:

- Ⓛ 21 Building Inspectors have been cross trained in Lead Risk Assessment since last year, in addition to those trained for the CDA's Healthy Home Repair Program.
- Ⓛ Total referrals to Building Division for inspections for 2005: 920 (2004: 1144)
- Ⓛ Total referrals to Building Division for EBLs (≥ 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$) for 2005: 422 (46% of total—remaining 54% of referrals are primary prevention referrals) (2004: 492)
- Ⓛ Total number of housing units inspected for lead risks by Building Division for 2005: 723 (2004: 1,169)
- Ⓛ Total housing units cleared as lead-safe for 2005: 1,451 (2004: 1,060)
 - By risk assessment (where no lead hazards were found) for 2005: 239 (2004: 538)
 - By remediation (Building Division Detoxification Crews, certified lead abatement contractors, or by owners with EPA clearance testing) for 2005: 417 (2004: 420)
- Ⓛ Total number new lead-free housing units (new construction permits issued) for 2005: 1,100 (2004: 420)
- Ⓛ Total housing units eligible for the Lead Safe Housing Registry for 2005: 2,551 (2004: 1480)
- Ⓛ Lead Safe Housing Registry will be up at Socialserve.com after the first of the year, and will reflect the following 4 categories of housing:
 - Lead-based paint free
 - Lead safe
 - Lead risk reduced
 - Housing conservation compliant

ENFORCEMENT:

- Ⓛ Total number of violation notices issued (housing units requiring remediation) for 2005: 458 (2004: 459)

- ⊞ Total number of referrals to Problem Property Court, Special Lead Paint Dockets for non-compliance for 2005: 125 (2004: 107)

RESOURCE EXPANSION/GRANT PRODUCTION:

- ⊞ City applied for and was awarded a \$1.44 Million grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to add nurses for education, outreach, and testing, to add Citizen Advocates to provide continuity of services to citizens, to provide for an annual media campaign for 3 years to get the work out about testing children and homes.
- ⊞ City applied for and was awarded a \$99,665 grant from the U.S. EPA to provide education, outreach, and training to families to learn how to use lead safe work practices during repair, repainting, or remodeling their homes, and utilizes a collaboration with the Saint Louis Public Schools as outreach centers for the community in five elementary schools including remediation of associated historic iron fences. This project will be carried out under a contract with the St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition.
- ⊞ Under its three HUD Lead Hazard Control and Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grants the City continues to receive “green light” ratings for production and compliance. Homes remediated under HUD Grants for 2005: 210. (2004: 269) Note: There was an administrative transition with two new HUD grant programs introduced in 2005.
- ⊞ City collaborated with St. Louis County, and with the St. Louis Child Day Care Association on two HUD lead grant applications this year. Although not funded, the City will address HUD’s comments on funding issues, and will also look for other private funding sources for these collaborative projects.
- ⊞ Although no dollar value is associated with them, other awards and program participation received this year reflect the recognition of the Lead Safe St. Louis programs:
 - In January 2005 the CDC and Harvard School of Public Health included the new Lead Safe St. Louis Citizen Advocate service in their program, and thereby developed an evaluation tool for the innovative assistance project.
 - This past February Mayor Slay received the Champion for Children award from the Children’s Health Forum, an organization established by Dr. Benjamin Hooks and former Senator Jack Kemp, in recognition of his efforts on childhood lead poisoning prevention.
 - This past March the Lead Safe St. Louis Task Force received the EPA 2005 Children’s Environmental Health Excellence Award in recognition of the cooperation of community partners established under the Mayor’s Lead Safe St. Louis Task Force.