

Baltimore County Lead and Asthma Environmental Case Management Program

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Baltimore County's Environmental Case Management Team

- Supervisor
- Public Health Nurse (PHN) Case Manager
- Four Community Health Workers (CHW)

Overview of Program

- Our program addresses Childhood Lead Poisoning and Asthma
- Lead case referrals are automatically sent to our Program from Maryland Department of the Environment
- Asthma referrals are received through the CRISP hospital database for children who have had ER visits with a diagnosis of asthma

Eligibility

- Children are eligible if:
 - They receive or are Medicaid eligible
 - They reside in Baltimore County
 - They are under the age of 19
 - They have a blood lead level of 3.5 mcg/dl or greater and/or moderate to severe asthma
- Enrolled families can receive up to 6 home visits

Lead Case Management

- Children who don't meet program eligibility requirements are followed by a CHW in our telephone case management program
- Education and resources are sent to family via email or standard mail
- Lead inspection is performed by MDE

Lead Poisoning Program

- Lab results are received from MDE for any child with a lead level > 3.5 mcg/dl
- Family is contacted to attempt enrollment in the program. If they enroll, an initial home visit is scheduled
- During initial visit, a home environmental investigation is completed by CHW/PHN to try and identify potential source of lead exposure
 - This is usually done prior to official investigation by MDE

2023/2024 Data

- COVID 19 Pandemic impacted the lead program across the state until July 2023
- Children were significantly delayed in getting required vaccines as well as lead testing
- In FY 23, our program did 76 home visits for children with lead poisoning
- Already in FY 24, we have done 82 home visits for children with lead poisoning, and still have 5 months to go in FY 24

Data

Since July 1, 2023:

- 59 New Lead Poisoning Cases
- BLL: 3.5-4.9 mcg/dl: 11
- BLL: 5-9 mcg/dl: 33
- BLL: 10-20 mcg/dl: 13
- BLL: >20 mcg/dl: 2

- Our combined lead and asthma program averages 40-50 home visits/month, with an average of 12 to 15 of them being for lead
- Our lead and asthma program averages 120 enrolled families/month, with 30% of them being lead cases
- Hot spots in Baltimore county for most lead poisoning cases:
 - Essex, Middle River, and Dundalk (East Side)
 - Halethorpe and Reisterstown (West Side)

Home Visiting

- Education and resources are given to help reduce exposure to lead
- Removal of potential lead sources is encouraged
- Dietary information is reviewed
- Proper cleaning techniques are reviewed
- Safety issues/hazards in the home are addressed
- Durable supplies are given
 - HEPA vacuum, green cleaning kit, mop and bucket, integrated pest management, and door mat

- If child's blood lead level (BLL) is greater than 20 mcg/dl, child is referred to Infants and Toddlers for evaluation
- Pediatrician is also contacted to verify if referral to Mount Washington Pediatric Center has been made
- Referrals to Infants and Toddlers are also made for any child with a BLL > 3.5 who has developmental delays

Sources of Lead

- Lead Paint - any home built before 1978
- International spices
- Ceramic dishes and pottery
- Toys, jewelry, arts and craft supplies
- Clothing
- Makeup
- Ceremonial powders and oils
- Food

Lead Abatement

- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- Lead Safe Baltimore County

Questions?

- Lead Asthma Phone: 410-887-4410
- Email:
leadasthma@baltimorecountymd.gov