



Healthy Homes
Healthy Children

Lead Update

May is Lead Poisoning Prevention Month!

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May is Lead Poisoning Prevention Month in Rhode Island. This year's theme is the prenatal prevention of lead poisoning, and there will be multiple opportunities for professionals and the general public to learn about this important topic.

We will be kicking off Lead Month 2004 with our annual Awards Event at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick on May 6th. The event will include a keynote address by Dr. Morri Markowitz, an expert in prenatal lead poisoning from New York City, a review of the implementation process underway for the new Lead Hazard Mitigation Act, and presentation of the Excellence Awards.

Dr. Markowitz will be giving another presentation on the morning of May 6th called "Prenatal Lead Poisoning: Cause for Concern?" at the OB/GYN Grand Rounds at Women and Infants Hospital.

Other events during Lead Month will focus on raising general awareness about lead poisoning, prenatal prevention, and the new lead law. The "We Care Lead Fair," which is free and open to the public, will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 10am to 2pm at the West End Community Center, 109 Buckling Street in Providence. The fair will include information sessions about the new law. There will also be two free lead poisoning information sessions open to the public, one on May 4th, 2:30 - 5:30pm at the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, 747 Broad Street in Providence, and the other on May 18th, 9 - 10am at the United Methodist Church on Broad Street in Providence.

In addition, the Lead Program staff has been conducting site visits to obstetric practices in Rhode Island during April and will continue to do so throughout May.

If you would like to schedule a comprehensive presentation for medical professionals, agency staff, pregnant women and/or parents, contact Ann Gottert at 222-7681 or AnnG@doh.state.ri.us.

Rhode Island Department of Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
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Lead Hazard Mitigation Law Resources Now Available

Various materials for rental property owners and for tenants about the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law are now available from the Housing Resources Commission (HRC). For rental property owners there is a comprehensive booklet available that describes their rights and responsibilities under this new law. For tenants, there is a "Tenant Rights and Responsibilities" information sheet available. All materials are available in English and Spanish. For copies, call the HRC hotline at **1-800-570-0768**. The materials are also available on the web at www.hrc.ri.gov/mitigation.html.

Single fact sheets for current owners, new owners, and owners of 10 or more properties are also available should an agency want to specifically target one of these audiences. Agencies may request multiple copies of any of the materials, for appropriate distribution to constituents or clients, and should direct all requests to Simon Kue at 450-1349.

In addition, the 3-hour Lead Hazard Awareness Class, which all rental property owners of pre-1978 properties will be required to take, are now available. This course will teach owners or their designated persons how to identify and safely correct lead hazards in their rental properties in order to comply with the law. For a list of courses available call **1-800-570-0768** or go to www.hrc.ri.gov.

The Department of Health Releases Lists of Property Owners with Outstanding Lead Hazard Violations

The RI Lead Poisoning Prevention Law, as amended by the RI Lead Hazard Mitigation Law, now requires the Department of Health to maintain three public lists in order to inform the public about rental properties that may pose a high risk for lead poisoning. The Department of Health has now released two of these three lists.

The first list, entitled "Ongoing Violations," contains owners who have an outstanding 2nd Notice of Violation with the Department of Health. Each owner in this list owned rental housing at the time a child living at his/her property was significantly lead poisoned, and has not corrected lead hazards found on that property as required by the Department of Health. The second list, entitled "Highest Risk Premises," includes properties that the Department of Health has declared unsafe for habitation by children under the age of six. Each property on this list has had at least two children significantly lead poisoned while living at the property. Because owners will have an assigned period of time to obtain a Lead Safe Certificate before being placed on the list, there are currently no properties in this list. The third list, entitled "Properties with Multiple Poisonings," is still under legal review and will become available as soon as possible. This list contains properties that have been the source of multiple lead poisonings and that don't have a current Lead Safe Certificate.

The lists are available at <http://lead.health.ri.gov>. Contact information is provided for people who have questions about the lists and for property owners who believe that they and/or their property should not be listed.