

Eliminating Lead Poisoning in Underserved Rural Communities in the United States



National Center for Healthy Housing
Healthy Homes Training Center

Lead-Safe Work Practices Training

National Center
for Healthy
Housing
(NCHH) and
Cooperative
Extension in:

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Montana



National Center for Healthy Housing

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation based in Columbia, MD
- Develops practical cost-effective techniques to protect children from residential environmental hazards
- National Healthy Homes Training Center partnership with Cooperative Extension



Environmental Health and Housing Programs

- Family and Consumer Sciences
- HUD-approved Lead Safe Work Practice trainings for contractors and consumers



Why are these trainings important?

- Homes built before **1978** may contain lead-based paint.
 - Remodeling and renovation jobs can create dust and paint chips that contain lead.
 - Most common cause of lead poisoning is dust from deteriorating paint from older housing
- If a home contains lead paint, it is important to work **lead-safe** to protect workers and others from lead poisoning.



Who is at risk from lead?

- Lead is a neurotoxin
- Most vulnerable
 - Babies
 - Young children
 - Pregnant women and their unborn babies



How does lead affect health?



■ Children

- Brain damage
- Decreased IQ
- Lifelong learning and behavior problems
- Slowed growth
- Hearing loss

■ Adults

- High blood pressure
- Fatigue
- Reproductive problems
- Loss of sex drive



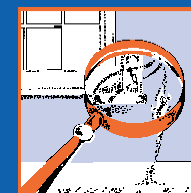
At-risk populations

- Lead paint hazards are especially high in older, low-income housing
- 16% of low-income children living in older housing are lead poisoned
- 80% of children receiving Medicaid have high blood lead levels



What Is Being Done About Lead?

- Ban in Residential Housing
 - Lead-based paint was banned from residential use in 1978
- Pre-Renovation Education Rule
 - Contractors must distribute a pamphlet
- Disclosure Rule
 - Buyers/renters receive information about lead



**Protect
Your
Family
From
Lead In
Your
Home**



EPA United States
Environmental
Protection Agency
CPSC United States
Consumer Product
Safety Commission
HUD United States
Department of Housing
and Urban Development

U.S. EPA Washington DC 20460
U.S. CPSC Washington DC 20207
U.S. HUD Washington DC 20410

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Recent legislation

- Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) March, 2008
 - Requires contractor certification in HUD-approved lead safe work practices when working on pre-1978 housing
 - Cooperative Extension working with NCHH to teach these courses



HUD Projects

- HUD has funded lead paint hazard control grants to address reduction of lead in housing stock in the past decade
- Exist in 200 cities across the country
- However, rural areas have not been adequately addressed
- NCHH applied and received EPA grant to reach out to rural areas and partnered with Extension to deliver



Outreach Strategies

- Place articles in county newspapers and newsletters;
- Talk to local community leaders;
- Contact local organizations;
- Appear on local radio and TV shows;
- Put information on state and county websites; and
- Health and civic fairs.



Extension Service Partners

Typical partners:

- Health Department
- Local builders/remodelers
- Community groups



Successful Outreach

Louisiana: Partnership with ACORN

Montana: Indian Housing Authority
and Health Service.

Alabama: AU School of Building
Sciences



A Model for Success

- Tradition of research-based informal education to all citizens in a state
- Established infrastructure (staff, funding)
- Extensive grassroots relationships
- Frequent partnering with local groups
- Commitment to evaluation



Anticipated Project Results

- Project goes to February 2009
- 2,000 do-it-yourselfers
- 280 contractors
- 50 extension staff trained
- Continued results after grant ends



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