President's Task Force on Environmental Risks and Safety Risks to Children: Lead Exposures

Purpose

The Lead Exposures Subcommittee coordinates interagency efforts to better understand and prevent childhood exposure to lead and associated disease and disabilities by implementing the goals of the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts and makes recommendations to the President's Task Force on federal strategies to prevent these exposures and effects.

The goals of this subcommittee are to:

- Disseminate information on lead exposure and its effects to broad audiences including policy makers, healthcare providers, the public and other stakeholders
- Coordinate and disseminate an inventory of federal actions to reduce childhood lead exposures

There are no safe levels of lead in the blood, and the effects of lead poisoning can be permanent. Despite significant declines in childhood lead exposure due to regulatory action in the United States, lead exposure remains a significant health concern for children, causing serious neurological, cognitive, and other effects.

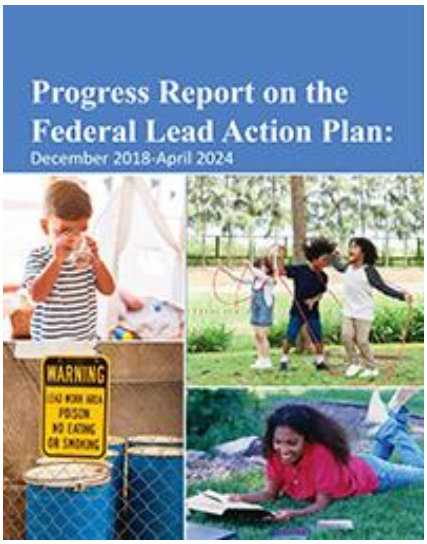
Today, about 3.3 million U.S. families with a child under age 6 live in a home with components, such as windows, doors, stair railings, and porches, that contain lead-based paint. Children can be exposed to dangerous levels of lead when this paint chips or flakes off and is breathed in or eaten. Additional exposure sources include water from lead pipes, contaminated soils, and some imported products, such as goods, toys, cosmetics, and jewelry. Certain jobs and hobbies may also be sources of childhood exposure.

CDC uses a blood lead reference value of 3.5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (µg/dL) for children under age 6 to help identify children with BLLs higher than most children's levels. There are about 500,000 children in the United States with BLLs at or above the reference value.

Accomplishments

Progress Report on the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts (2024)

The 2024 Progress Report on the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts is the first published update on the advancements made through the plan during 2018-2024 to protect children's health. It includes a list of federal efforts to reduce childhood lead exposures and mitigate related health impacts. The report details actions such as efforts to reduce exposures to lead in paint, dust, drinking water, soil, food, consumer products, and air pollution.

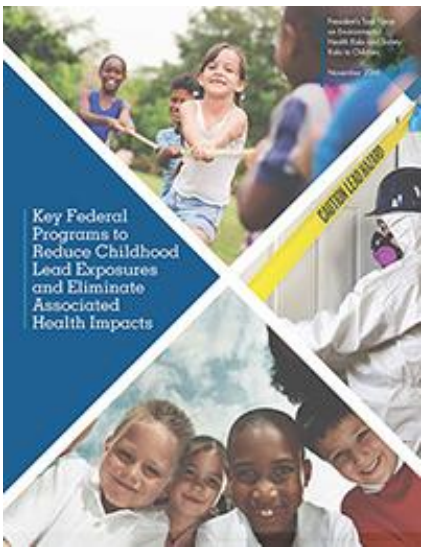


Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts (2018)

The Federal Lead Action Plan is aimed at reducing lead exposure through collaboration in the federal government and with a range of stakeholders, including states, Tribes, and local communities, along with businesses, property owners, and parents. The Action Plan helps the federal government work strategically and collaboratively to reduce exposure to lead and improve children's health.

Key Federal Program to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts (2016)

This report of the President's Task Force catalogs federal efforts to understand, prevent, and reduce various sources of lead exposure among children. The report provides a starting point for a comprehensive federal lead strategy and will enable increased coordination and collaboration among federal agencies to further protect the nation's children.

Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning: A Federal Strategy Targeting Lead Paint Hazards (2000)

In 2000, the Task Force released a set of recommendations aimed at eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States. The report focuses primarily on expanding efforts to correct lead paint hazards, a major source of lead exposure for children.