How We Learned to Get the Lead Out Locally

APHA Webinar
Working Together to Address Lead Exposure
April 26, 2016

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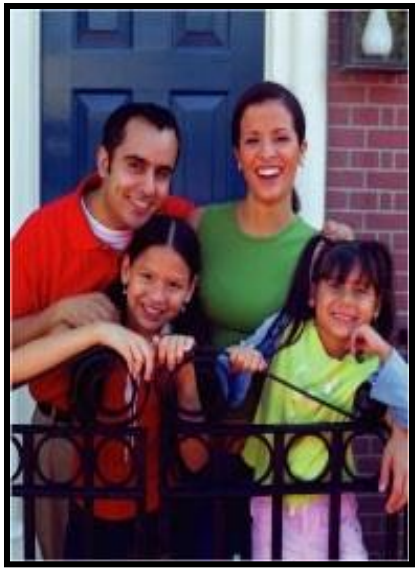
April 2016

Isles' Mission

To foster self-reliant families…



And healthy, sustainable communities

Isles Vision

- Remove lead as a threat in less than a generation
- Change system from treating children to removing the source: beyond kids as lead detectors
- Lead paint chips and dust in homes greatest threat
- *Community development = public health*

Working Together: Bridging Silos

- Health
- Housing
- Social services
- Community development
- Water
- Public Works
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Advocates
- Local, state & federal agencies
- Elected officials
- Private sector

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Isles' Broad-Based Mission

For over 35 years we have asked: what are most effective ways to get to self-reliance and healthy communities?

Early work: community gardening, housing redevelopment.

Lead and healthy homes was not on community development radar.

Why Isles and Lead Poisoning Prevention?

- Community gardening introduced us to lead; that led us to explore brownfield cleanup--.
- Residents asked, “What impact have brownfields had on our health?”
- Very limited local health data

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Environmental Health Profile

- Developed an environmental health profile, including analysis of local and state health and environmental data

- Conducted our own survey of resident attitudes, knowledge and behaviors related to environmental health

- Completed soil and dust sampling--homes were the primary source of hazards!

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Initial Findings (2000)

- Incidents of high lead levels and asthma
- Few residents, leaders or local experts understood the connection between environment and health
- Discovered that community development and health are natural allies

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What To Do?

- We started small…Didn't depend on big funding from HUD or foundations

- Built the case:
  - trained environmental asthma counselors;
  - tested homes for lead hazards, mapped results
  - Analyzed lead screening data

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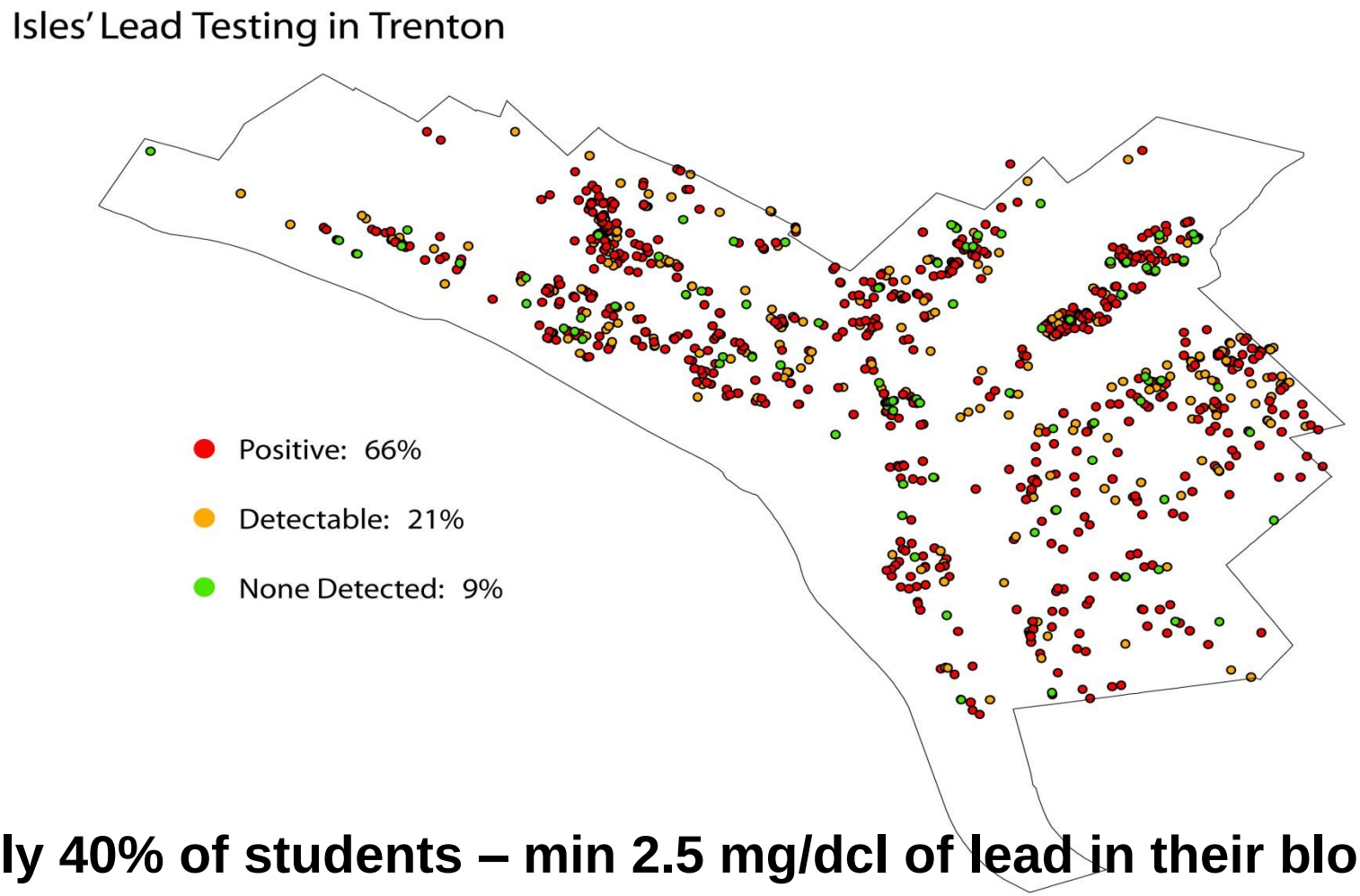
Homes with Hazardous Lead



Nearly 40% of students – min 2.5 mg/dcl of lead in their blood

Nearly 18% of students >5 mg/dcl

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Analysis of BLLs

% children starting K from all tests, ages 0 -6, compared to % of children tested in a single year.

	Cumulative*	Cumulative*	Annual rate**
	Of all Children tested before entering K, all years, the % with BLL >/=2.5 ug/dL	Of all Children tested before entering K, all years, the % with BLL >/=5 ug/dL	Of all Children tested in a SINGLE year, the % with BLL >/=5 ug/dL
Camden			
2012-13	42.4	13.2	5.6
2011-12	55.5	17.9	7.8
Irvington			
2012-13	64.9	19.6	11.1
2011-12	73.1	28	12.6
New Bruns			
2012-13	48.8	10.6	4.6
2011-12	62.2	16.8	n/a
Newark			
2012-13	53.9	14.1	6.4
2011-12	61.6	16.9	8.3

* Data provided to isles study by NJ DOH --see separate attachment --single highest level per child.

New Housing Rehab Skills

- NJ DCA invited us to be the first community developer to make homes lead safe.
- Why? Cities were not meeting benchmarks; Isles had experience and trust of community
- Retrofitted 39 homes, learning to make homes lead safe at less than $10,000/unit
- Learned that much of lead derived from friction surfaces (windows and doors)

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Connecting to Energy

- Became weatherization subcontractor for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Learned to integrate HH with energy efficiency

- Found effective ways to do this, helped by state redevelopment funds

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NJ Strategic Plan for Healthy Housing

- Asked to coordinate a NJ strategic plan for healthy housing

- Completed a plan that bridged silos—called for coordination among health, housing, social services, environment agencies --- state and local governments

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NJ Healthy Homes Training Center

- Established a satellite training center of the National Center for Healthy Housing to train professionals in healthy homes; conduct lead and healthy home assessments; train in lead safe work practices, and more.
- 3,000 community development organizations nationally can potentially do this work alongside health and housing authorities.

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How to Get Started

- Form a lead and healthy homes advisory committee
  - Stakeholders from across disciplines
  - Consider how to better coordinate services to protect your children

- Create a Lead and Healthy Homes Plan for your state and/or city that BRIDGES SILOS.

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Request Better Data

- Perform annual lead surveillance—especially in high risk communities
- Map the data
- Report data cumulatively
- Require health departments to connect to mayors and school superintendents

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Influence Policy

- Lead Safe Certificate bill: test homes for hazardous lead—dust and water-- at time of rental turnover. (Aizer and Currie study)
- Support on-demand inspections
- Create housing courts to enforce laws
- Seek new sources of funding

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Community Health Workers

- Train home visitors to educate, assess homes, and coordinate resources to remove hazards – before a child is affected.
- Home visitors can visit homes on a regular basis.

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Water and Soil

- Test water in homes
- Test water in schools
- Test soil in yards and parks where children play

Lead paint in housing is the primary source of lead exposure for young children.

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Engage Educators

- New training can inform educators on real impacts of low level of lead
- Explain lead surveillance data
- Adopt policies for interventions during early childhood. CDC report http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/Educational_Interventions_Children_Affected_by_Lead.pdf

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Education Impacts

Studies on Lead and Educational Outcomes

4 µg/dL at 3 years of age	Increased likelihood learning disabled classification in elementary school Poorer performance on tests	More than 57,000 children 35,000 children	North Carolina[1] Connecticut[2]
5 µg/dL	30% more likely to fail third grade reading and math tests More likely to be non-proficient in math, science, and reading	More than 48,000 children 21,000 children	Chicago[3] Detroit[4]
Between 5-9 µg/dL	Scored 4.5 points lower on reading readiness tests	3,406 children	Rhode Island[5]
≥10 µg/dL	Scored 10.1 points lower on reading readiness tests	3,406 children	Rhode Island[5]
Between 10 and 19 µg/dL	Significantly lower academic performance test scores in 4th grade	More than 3,000 children	Milwaukee[6]
≥ 25 µg/dL	$0.5 in excess annual special education and juvenile justice costs	279 children	Mahoning County Ohio[7]

What does it take to do this work?

- innovate
- collect and analyze local data to define problem
- build bridges & relationships across sectors
- connect to community
- train in lead and healthy homes work
- advocate

Contact

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