

Arizona—Impact Statement

Each year, approximately 100 children in Arizona are newly diagnosed with lead poisoning. The Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) officials follow up on these cases as funding permits. Scientific research indicates the need to start helping even more children with blood lead levels below the current action level.

Arizona has maintained a surveillance system since 2007 to capture and aggregate the results of blood tests for lead. The surveillance data enables Arizona DHS to identify high-risk areas for lead poisoning and track patterns over time.

CDC funding enables this program to respond to emerging lead threats. For example, in some cases, multiple children in the same family may have elevated blood lead levels. The program's environmental health professional conducts an environmental inspection to identify a lead hazard in the home or child care facility. Arizona's lead program also tested numerous spices imported from Asia.

The program also creates opportunities for outreach in the forms of quarterly meetings and educational presentations.

Arizona's lead program receives no Medicaid reimbursement for environmental investigations, case management, or any other lead poisoning prevention-related services.

In 2010, CDC funding paid for 1.5 full-time positions. In 2011, Arizona's lead program is receiving \$417,000 from the CDC. The CDC funding level will support full-time staff positions statewide. Arizona's lead control program benefits greatly from CDC funding; if the Senate version of the appropriations bill is adopted as law, the program itself could be eliminated by FY12, resulting in job loss and a reduction in vital services. Without the surveillance data, there will be no way to treat the existing threat or track a possible resurgence in blood lead levels.