

Ohio—Impact Statement

Each year, approximately 1800 children and 900 adults are newly diagnosed with lead poisoning in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and county health department officials follow up on these cases, inspect the homes, and order repairs to units with lead hazards. ODH issues an average of 260 abatement or lead hazard control orders annually, completing approximately 170. Scientific research indicates the need to start helping even more children with blood lead levels below the current action level.

ODH maintains a surveillance system to capture and aggregate the results of blood tests for lead. Using this system, ODH has accumulated over 2.2 million blood test records since 1994. The surveillance data enables the ODH to identify high-risk areas for lead poisoning and track patterns over time, as reflected in their 10-Year Lead Report and Healthy Homes Community Analysis. The data is also used to support grant requests, projects for multi-offenders, and local point source studies.

ODH also tracks companies and individuals trained in the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule, the most important legislation enacted by EPA in the last 20 years. ODH has engaged in several outreach activities to educate the public about the dangers of lead-based paint and the importance of working lead-safe.

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 CDC-funded environmental health professional conducts an environmental inspection to identify a lead hazard in the home or child care facility.

ODH received approximately \$1.22 million in FY10, which paid for 12 full-time staff positions for grantees and 31 sub-grantee jobs ODH was also able to support nine subcontracts with a cumulative value of \$600,000 using these funds. The FY11 funding level is \$594,000 (less than half of the previous year), resulting in a major reduction in scope. The entire program is in jeopardy in FY12 if the Senate version of the appropriations bill is adopted as law. Elimination of or severe cutbacks to the program in FY12 will result in job loss and further reduction in essential services. Without the surveillance data, there will be no way to treat the existing threat or track a possible resurgence in blood lead levels.