

CDC In Your Neighborhood: Childhood Blood Lead Research Study Announcement

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are conducting a research study in your neighborhood studying childhood blood lead levels. Your home may not be selected for participation but you may see teams walking in your neighborhood.

These public health initiatives will help public health officials find better ways of determining if and to what extent a community has been exposed to lead.

No specific health hazard is known for this area. These Philadelphia neighborhoods were selected because of the long-operating former John T. Lewis/Anzon lead processing facility and the legacy of industrial operations throughout the area.

The facility was involved in lead product manufacturing operations from 1849 until its closure in 1996. Most other former industrial sources of lead in the community have closed. This study will help examine if residual lead in the environment poses any concern.

For more information contact:

- Tim Dignam, National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)/CDC Epidemiologist in Atlanta at (770) 488-3622.
- Ana Pomales, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)/CDC Environmental Health Scientist in Region III at (215) 814-5716.
- Paulette Smith, Philadelphia Department of Public Health at (215) 685-2788.

Media representatives may contact the CDC Newsroom at (404) 639-6286 or media@cdc.gov with questions about the study.

To learn more about lead poisoning, including tips on how to prevent lead exposure, visit CDC's Lead Poisoning Prevention web site at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead.

Who:

PDPH, CDC, and EPA teams (teams will be wearing agency study identification)

When:

Tuesday, July 15 through Saturday, July 26, 2014
11:00 am to 8:00 pm

What:

For selected homes, the study teams will offer to collect:

- Blood samples from children younger than 6 years old
- Samples of tap water, indoor dust and outside soil

Where:

Portions of zip codes 19125, 19134, 19133, 19122 and 19123

Why:

To determine if young children in your community have been exposed to lead