Tackling the Problem of Environmental Lead Exposures in Waco and McLennan County

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McLennan County:
- 22 incorporated cities
- 236,028 residents, more than 50% in Waco
- 39,000+ children, ~35% in poverty

Environmental Lead in McLennan County:
- 1.3% of children have lead concentrations in their blood higher than 10 µg/dL
  - Texas: 0.6%
- 60.2% of housing was built before 1980
  - Texas: 46.8%
McLennan County:
2011 population: 238,564
2010, children 0-6: 19,856

Tested for lead: 6,374 (32%)
Above guideline: 84 (1.3%)
(State average is 0.6%)

Bexar County: 0.8%
Harris County: 0.4%
El Paso: 0.5%
Tarrant: 0.4%
Tested (0-5): 373

≥10 µg/dL: 1.9% (7)
5-10 µg/dL: 7.8% (29)
Tested (0-5): 736

≥10 µg/dL: 1.8 % (47)
5-10 µg/dL: 6.4 % (13)
Pilot Sampling for McLennan County

- Focused on areas where rates are highest
- “Shotgun” approach
Outreach Program

**Goal:** to design and implement an outreach model for educating at-risk communities about lead poisoning prevention

**Partners**
- Baylor University, Piper Center for Child Development
- Waco McLennan County Health District
- Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Waco Family Health Center
Outreach Program

• **Training events:**
  • Child and Family Advocates
  • Head Start Instructors
  • Environmental Health Inspectors
  • Medical Residents

• Parents of at-risk children
  • Avance
  • Head Start parents
Mantenga los Niños Seguros del Envenenamiento por Plomo

Keep Kids Safe from Lead Poisoning

A Presentation for Parents
September 25, 2013

Provided by Avance, Waco-McLennan County Health District, and Baylor University
1. Name at least 3 ways lead poisoning affects children
2. Name at least 3 sources of lead
3. Name at least 2 ways children get lead in their bodies
4. Name at least 3 things parents can do to protect
Upcoming Projects

Community-Based Participatory Research

1. Environmental lead levels in McLennan County and recruitment of a study group

2. Understanding how children come into contact with lead, and ending these exposures

3. Collaboration among community organizations and other stakeholders to disseminate information
Community-Based Participatory Research

1. Environmental lead levels in McLennan County and recruitment of a study group
   • Examine previous studies on children’s blood lead
   • Conduct wide-scale studies of lead in the environment

**Goal:** Identify and recruit specific children and families who have contact with lead in their environment
Community-Based Participatory Research

2. Understanding how children come into contact with lead, and ending these exposures
   • Identify sources of lead
   • Work to remove sources of lead
   • Measure success in children and environment

Goal: Identify the places where lead is a problem, and change the equation for children in Waco
Community-Based Participatory Research

3. Collaboration among community organizations and other stakeholders to disseminate information
   • Build community relationships
   • Connect families at risk to support
   • Permeate the community with lead awareness

Goal: Empower the community at large, at-risk populations, and stakeholders to make broad-scale changes in environmental public health