

# Children's Environmental Health

Protecting Children From Harmful Environmental Contaminants

April 7, 2012



ENVIRONMENTAL  
FINANCE CENTER



# Presenters

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Program Manager

Environmental Finance Center



# Agenda

- Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?
- Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done
- Community Spotlight: Town of Edmonston
- Submission Requirements
- Resources and Tools



# Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?

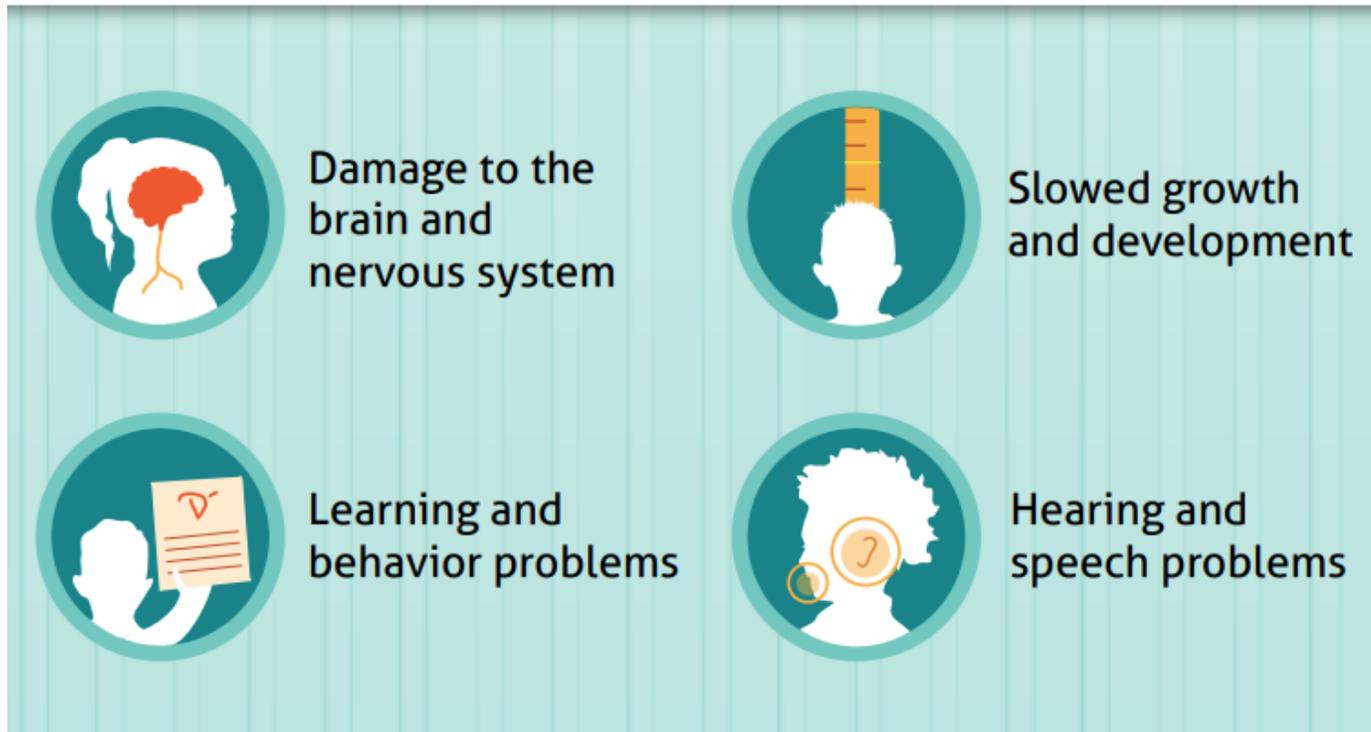
- Sustainable community: long-term wellbeing of its residents and the environment
  - Children are especially sensitive to environmental hazards
  - Children's activities increases exposure
  - Low-income/communities of color have greater risk



# Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?

**Lead Poisoning:** the major environmental health threat to children  
lifelong impacts

Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health.



Source: CDC



# Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?

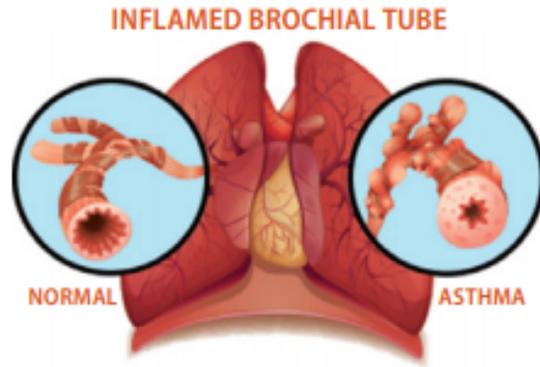
**Lead Poisoning:** 100 % preventable

Lead can be found throughout a child's environment.



# Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?

## Asthma



Asthma is one of the leading causes of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism in children



Source: EPA



# Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?

## Asthma Triggers

### Indoor



Mold



Wood Smoke



Dust Mites



Cats and Dogs



Secondhand Smoke



Nitrogen Dioxide



Cockroaches and other pests



Chemical Irritants

### Outdoor

- Transportation-related pollutants
- Pollen
- Cold air



# Why is Children's Environmental Health Important?

## • Community Awareness → Children

- Reducing exposure to lead
- Reducing exposure to asthma triggers

## • Co-Benefits

- Reduced emergency room/school absenteeism (asthma)
- Reduce learning disabilities (lead)
- Increase parent's economic productivity
- Reduce economic burden (Lead \$5,600)

## Healthier



# Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

## How do you complete this Action?

- What is the environmental threat of most concern to your community?
  - Lead and/or asthma, other?
  - Focus on prevention
    - Lead poisoning prevention
    - Asthma attacks prevention
- What members of the community do you want to reach out to?
  - Parents/caregivers
  - Landlords/tenants



# Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

## How do you complete this Action? (cont.)

### Identify already existing outreach mechanisms

- In-person events occurring in the community
  - local (health) fair
  - family/elementary school events
  - community events
  - houses of worship
- News outlets
  - Traditional (newsletters, local radios)
  - Social media outlets (i.e. Facebook page)



# Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

## How do you complete this Action? (cont.)

### Organize an event

- Choose your topic
- Decide what type of event to organize.
  - Town Hall (Asthma and lead)
  - Education session (i.e. Healthy homes parents/caregivers/tenants on healthy homes)
- Identify an organization or local expert who can make a presentation during a community event.



# Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

## How do you complete this Action? (cont.)

- Who should be involved?
  - Municipal representative, and/or
  - Program coordinator (comm staff, green team member)
  - Other comm members (parents/caregivers, local healthcare providers)
- Challenges:
  - How to make sure you are reaching vulnerable populations
  - Identifying the best resources for the community
  - Funding for printing materials/event organization/



# Community Spotlight

## Town of Edmonston, Prince George's County

Event:



EDMONSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS:

MASKS REQUIRED

TRUNK OR TREAT

MUSIC

FREE CANDY

OCTOBER 30, 2020- 7 PM TO 9 PM

EDMONSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
5005 52ND AVE  
EDMONSTON, MARYLAND 20781



United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Office of Air and Radiation

EPA/402-F-99-005  
July 1999



Clear Your  
Home Of  
Asthma Triggers

YOUR CHILDREN WILL BREATHE EASIER



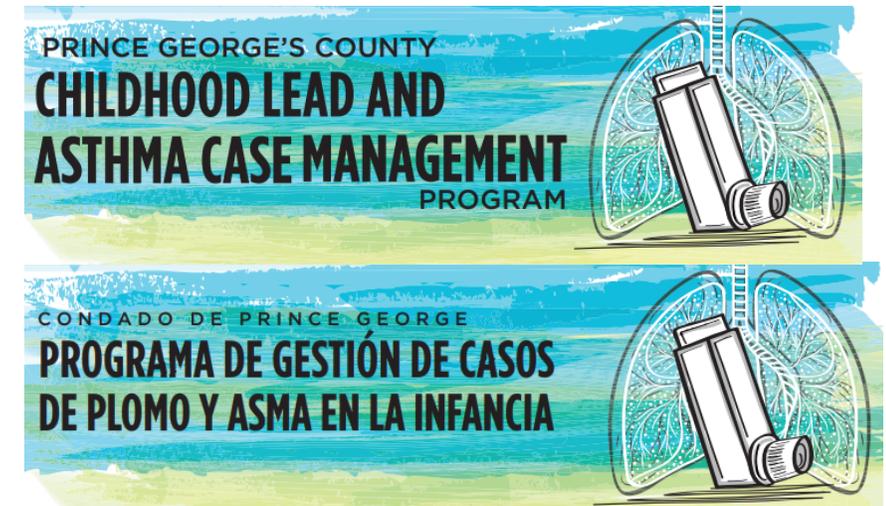
United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Office of Air and Radiation

EPA/402-F-99-005D  
July 1999



Mantenga  
su hogar libre  
de los factores  
que pueden  
provocar  
el asma

¡SUS NIÑOS RESPIRARÁN MEJOR!



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
CHILDHOOD LEAD AND  
ASTHMA CASE MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM



CONDADO DE PRINCE GEORGE  
PROGRAMA DE GESTIÓN DE CASOS  
DE PLOMO Y ASMA EN LA INFANCIA



# Community Spotlight

## Town of Edmonston, Prince George's County (cont.)

### Town Hall



Picture: noattacks.org

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT: ASTHMA AND LEAD POISONING**  
**LA SALUD DE LOS NIÑOS Y EL AMBIENTE: ASMA Y CONTAMINACION POR PLOMO**

A FACEBOOK LIVE TOWN HALL EVENT

ZOOM MEETING STYLE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH 7PM – 60 MINUTE LIVE CAST

Moderators: Mayor Gant -Town of Edmonston, MD  
Demetrious Harris – Chief of Police, Town of Edmonston

Panelists: Dr. Lois Wessel – FNP, DNP.  
Dr. James Conti – MD. Georgetown University/Medstar Washington Hospital Center  
[Ludeen Green](#), ESQ. Green and Healthy Homes Initiative



# Submission Requirements

## Minimum Action Standards

- Outreach and promotion: TBD

Required uploads:

- Articles in local newspapers or municipal newsletter
- Screenshots of website or social media
- Educational materials distributed during an event

- In person/virtual event: TBD

Required uploads:

- Promotional flyers/sign up list/pictures
- Links to recording of virtual event



# Resources and Tools

- Green and Healthy Homes Initiative:  
<https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/>
  - Free trainings and educational session for communities in Maryland
  - Lead prevention/healthy homes
  - Lead funding toolkit
  - Maryland program
- Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE)

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/nursing/macche.html>



Interest in GHHI is growing rapidly as elected officials, policymakers, nonprofits and community leaders recognize the enormous potential of the GHHI model to create positive change.



# Resources and Tools

- Maryland State Resources

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Pages/CHIPEnvCaseMgmt.aspx>

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/LeadPoisoningPrevention/Pages/parents.aspx>



**HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN EXPOSED TO LEAD?**

There is a new program in Maryland to help families with lead poisoning. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with Maryland Department of Health, will pay for the removal of lead from the home or apartment where the child lives or spends time, at no cost to the homeowner or renter.

**ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST**

- Under the age of 19 years
- Blood lead levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more
- Eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIP)
- Visit (for 10 more hours per week) or live in the home/apartment with a lead problem

For more information about the program:  
**866-703-3266**  
or your local health department



# Resources and Tools

- Asthma event planning kit:

[https://www.scgcorp.com/images/assets/portfolio-detail/portfolio-detail-slider-it-2016\\_AAM\\_EventPlanningKit\\_1.27.16\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.scgcorp.com/images/assets/portfolio-detail/portfolio-detail-slider-it-2016_AAM_EventPlanningKit_1.27.16_FINAL.pdf)

- Lead planning kit:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-06/documents/national\\_lead\\_poisoning\\_prevention\\_week\\_2020\\_partner\\_information\\_kit.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-06/documents/national_lead_poisoning_prevention_week_2020_partner_information_kit.pdf)

- US EPA Protecting Children's Environmental Health <https://www.epa.gov/children>

- EPA document ordering

- Online <https://www.epa.gov/nscep/looking-epa-documents-only-available-print>
- Phone: Region 3 Public Information Center 215-814-5122)

- Other Resources:

- Children's Environmental Health Network <https://cehn.org/>
- US HUD Guide <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/HH/documents/SAFEANDHEALTHYHOME.PDF>
- CDC Lead <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/leadpoisoning/index.html>

National Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Week (October)

National Asthma Awareness  
Month (May)



# Questions?

## Thank You!

Pia Iolster

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