

Building Blocks for Primary Prevention: Protecting Children from Lead-Based Paint Hazards

Collaborations, Partnerships, and Incentives

INTRODUCE INCENTIVES FOR LEAD SAFETY INTO CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Cost considerations: Staff will need to conduct a four-hour site visit to evaluate each facility for lead-based paint hazards and other hazards.

Timing issues: It will take 6-12 months to establish the program, build support for it, and develop materials. Full implementation usually will take an additional year. Child care facilities are busiest—and therefore unavailable—during August and September when children are returning to school or enrolling.

Feasibility of Implementation: Moderate. The program is feasible but to reach the child care facilities most in need of support and oversight, the program should ideally be part of a larger effort to improve health conditions within all child care facilities. In addition, the program is difficult to implement if narrowly focused on lead hazards. Most child care facilities view asthma triggers such as mold, cockroaches and dust mites as a bigger concern. Therefore, services that address a broad mix of environmental hazards will be more readily accepted.

POTENTIAL OBSTACLES/BARRIERS

Lead hazards are most effectively addressed in the context of a broader evaluation of environmental hazards, especially mold and moisture; pests and pesticides; and carbon monoxide.

Communities need to be prepared to identify potential resources to address lead hazards and provide technical assistance to help facilities obtain and use those resources.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care at 800-598-5437
<http://nrc.uchsc.edu>
2. First National Environmental Health Survey of Child Care Centers by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
www.hud.gov/offices/lead/techstudies/NatlChildCareSurvey_V1_Lead.pdf

ILLUSTRATION #1 OF STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

In 1999, IDEM developed a 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities to publicly recognize facilities that go beyond the minimum legal requirements. If the operators or management of the facilities agree to identify and address a variety of environmental hazards, IDEM conducts a no-cost lead risk assessment and provides a comprehensive manual that addresses all compliance requirements related to environmental hazards. In 2002, FSSA modified its regulations for child care centers (larger operations) at 470 IAC 3-4.7-100 to require that peeling paint on any interior or exterior surface or on any equipment be made inaccessible to children if it contains lead until the peeling material is analyzed by a lab and an approved abatement plan is carried out.

Jurisdiction or Target Area: Indiana

Primary Actor: Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) & Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA) – Child Care Health Section

Secondary Actor(s): N/A

Staffing utilized: 0.25 full-time equivalent staff at IDEM to establish and facilitate program start-up.

Other resources utilized: FSSA added responsibilities to existing inspectors.

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Factors essential to implementation: Positive recognition of leadership as well as commitment to providing sustained technical support.

Limitations/challenges/problems encountered: A recognition program typically attracts facilities in good shape; the best practices may only get to implementation at scale after the recognition program has set the stage for a regulatory mandate for the best practices.

Magnitude of Impact/Potential Impact: 41 child care centers, 14 child care homes, and 3 ministry-based child care facilities currently participate in the recognition program.

Potential for replication: High. Readily applicable by any jurisdiction that licenses child care centers.

Contacts for Specific Information

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References for additional information

1. Indiana Department of Environmental Management – 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child-Care Facilities
www.in.gov/idem/kids/5star/index.html.

ILLUSTRATION #2 OF STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

In 1992, Maine passed a law that requires all licensed child care facilities to have a lead inspection prior to licensing. In 1998, the Maine CLPPP program partnered with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Maine Daycare Licensing Bureau to design a workable lead inspection process. All state daycare inspectors conduct a preliminary lead assessment as a prerequisite for licensing. The daycare inspectors use a rated checklist that the Maine CLPPP and DEP programs developed. If the total number on the checklist passes a designated threshold, the daycare inspector orders a full lead inspection by a state-licensed lead inspector.

If a full lead inspection is required, it is scheduled and paid for by the Daycare Licensing Bureau. If lead hazards are identified, the daycare owner is required to abate to at least a lead-safe level. The Daycare Licensing Bureau has some funds available if daycare owners are unable to afford to do the abatement work. To ensure lead safety compliance, state daycare inspectors repeat the preliminary lead assessment as part of an annual daycare inspection for all licensed daycare facilities in Maine.

Jurisdiction or Target Area: Maine

Primary Actor: Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

Secondary Actor(s): Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Maine Daycare Licensing Bureau

Staffing utilized: 0.5 FTE.

Other resources utilized: Maine's law was changed in 1998 to allow CLPPP, DEP, and the Daycare Licensing Bureau to carry out this strategy. The Maine approach to this strategy also utilizes a small funding source within the Daycare Licensing Bureau.

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Factors essential to implementation: Cooperation from DEP and the Maine Daycare Licensing Bureau and availability of a small funding source were essential to the implementation of this strategy.

Limitations/challenges/problems encountered: The initial resistance to the provision required designing the implementation to accommodate daycare providers' concerns about cost.

Magnitude of Impact/Potential Impact: All licensed daycare centers in Maine are currently in compliance with lead safety standards. The Maine Daycare Licensing Bureau establishes compliance through periodic inspections, with assistance from DEP.

Potential for replication: Moderate. Applicable by any jurisdiction that licenses child care centers and has funding and cooperative partners to help establish and maintain the program.

Contact for Specific Information

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References for additional information

N/A