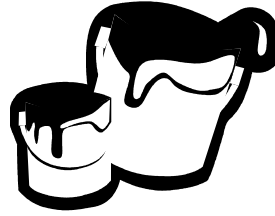


Lead Poisoning



True Story

A two-year-old child was identified with high levels of lead in his blood, even though he lived in a home built in the 1990's and showed no signs of being ill. Further investigation determined that the child was attending child care in a home with peeling lead-based paint. The child was at risk for developmental delays.

-From the files of the Polk County Health Department

The Facts

- Increased lead levels can cause delays in mental and social development.
- In Iowa, 10 percent of children statewide test positive for lead poisoning. In some counties the rate is as high as 25 percent.
- Homes built before 1960 have the highest levels of lead in the paint.
- 60 percent of Iowa homes were built before 1960. Lead-based paint was banned in the U.S. in 1978.
- All Iowa children under 6 years of age should be tested for increased lead levels annually.

What You Can Do

- Have your child tested.
- Check your home for lead paint hazards.
- Eat right – good nutrition reduces the risk of absorbing lead.
- Do not store food in glazed pottery, which may contain lead.
- Check drinking water for lead levels in homes where there are old pipes.
- **Do not try to remove lead paint yourself.** Call your local health department for a referral.

For more information call:

Iowa Department of Public Health at 800-972-2026.

National Lead Information Clearinghouse at 800-424-LEAD.



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.