

# Why does Lead Poisoning matter?

- Affects children and pregnant women.
- Implicated in behavioral problems.
- Can lead to learning disabilities.
- Severe cases can cause severe cognitive problems and even death.
- Children with elevated blood lead levels are more likely to be involved with Juvenile Justice System and 7x more likely to drop out of high school.



# Screening

- Screening should focus on high-risk groups. (Medicaid, old-housing stock)
- Screening should be preformed early... 9 months to 2 years of age.
- Screening does not necessarily lead to treatment.



# Screening

- Screening does not lead to treatment?
  - Cognitive effects of lead poisoning are not reversible.
  - The deleterious effects of lead poisoning occur at any level.
  - Screening is useless?





# Extent of the Problem?

- Depends on who you ask!!
  - Who is collecting the data?
  - What is being compared?
  - How do different communities compare with regard to demographic data.



# PA-NEDSS 2003

County	Number Screened	BLL > 10	%BLLs > 10	Rank
Allegheny	4,641	274	5.9%	2
Berks	2,197	203	9.2%	4
Chester	697	35	9.0%	3
Dauphin	991	183	18.5%	7
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>8</b>
Montgomery	1,273	70	5.5%	1
Philadelphia	12,651	2,240	17.7%	6
York	207	24	11.6%	5
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>45,784</b>	<b>5,016</b>	<b>11%</b>	

# CDC 2005

County	Number Screened	BLL > 10	%BLLs > 10	Rank
Allegheny	7,467	190	2.5%	3
Berks	3,149	135	4.3%	5
Chester	908	19	2.1%	2
Dauphin	2,794	142	5.1%	6
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>4</b>
Montgomery	2,290	34	1.5%	1
Philadelphia	38,373	3,206	8.4%	8
York	2,669	168	6.3%	7
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>99,776</b>	<b>4,918</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	



# Childhood Lead Poison Program 2006

	Number Screened	BLL > 10	% BLLs > 10
Lancaster City	343	47	13.7%
Lancaster County	188	24	12.8%
Total	531	71	13.4%



# LGH Lead Screening 2007

Numbers Screened	BLL > 10	% BLL >10
180	0	0

# US National Average 2006

1.21 %



# What does this mean for Lancaster?

- We have anywhere from 3-20 times the national average of lead poisoned children.
- There is a serious discrepancy in the data.
- Lead poisoning is a serious issue that needs addressing.
- We are failing in addressing this important need.



# How can a County Public Health Department help?

- Generate better data through collaboration.
- Coordinate screening efforts to target at-risk children.
- Apply political pressure to municipalities to enhance, enforce and strengthen lead abatement laws.
- Educate providers about screening.



# A Tale of Two Cities

- Maryland and Baltimore have very strong Lead Abatement Laws.
  - All dwellings built before 1950 must be registered with the Department of the Environment.
  - Registered dwellings must comply with Full Risk Reduction Standard by passing a lead dust wipe test or inspection focusing on peeling paint or by stripping, covering or removing paint from window sills.



# A Tale of Two Cities

- Landlords must meet the full Risk Reduction Standard upon each change of tenants before the property is re-rented.
- Must re-comply if a tenant becomes pregnant or a child has a lead level  $>15$ .
- Property must be certified by inspection.
- Registration renewed annually.



# A Tale of Two Cities

- Registration renewed annually.
- Registration open to public inspection.
- If landlord undertakes renovation that will disturb paint > 3 square feet every effort to keep “persons at risk” away from renovation.
- If renovation will last more than 24 hours, landlord must relocate tenants to a “safe” location.
- Landlords must not “retaliate” against tenants who inform property owner of Lead Law.





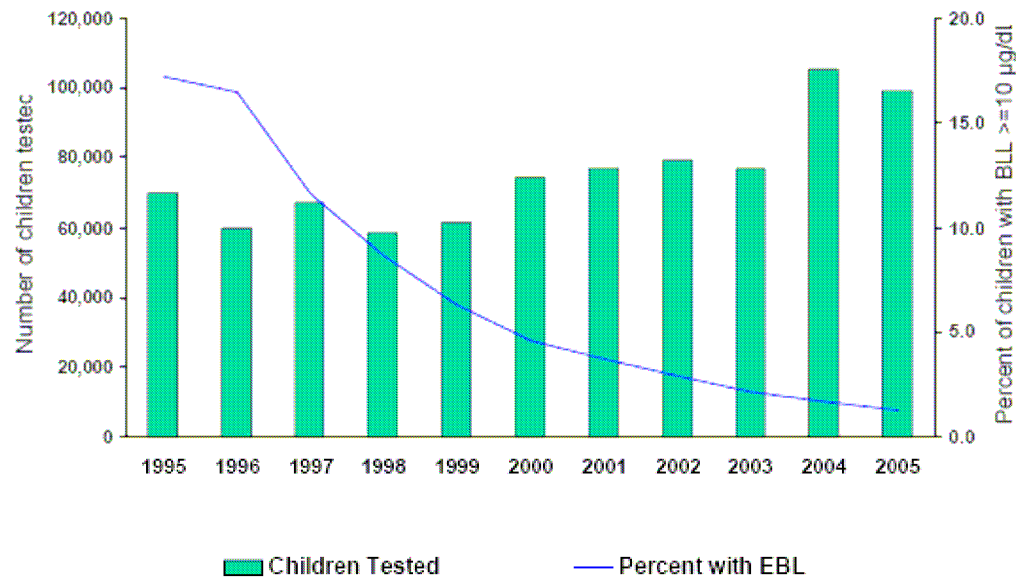
# What happens in Lancaster?

- Known “lead” properties are often re-rented without tenant knowledge of danger.
- Landlords often threaten eviction if tenant makes lead issue public.
- Landlords are given “reasonable time” to abate lead hazards.
- Lead Story.



# Maryland and Lead

Number of Children 0-72 Months Tested for Lead and Percent Reported to Have Blood Lead Level  $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ : 1995-2005



# Is it time?

- To combat lead poisoning in Lancaster?
- To insure children in the county do not face a disadvantage later in life?
- To provide more resources to this devastating problem?

