Influencing Healthy Homes Public Policy

Ruth Ann Norton, President and CEO, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Greg Payne, Director, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

September 10, 2015
Purpose of Webinar

• Share background on lead poisoning policy work led by GHHI
• Provide examples of local, state and national policy work that has supported healthy housing interventions
• Discuss strategies for implementing recommendations from 2012 CDC Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Report in local and state lead poisoning prevention policies
Part 1: Lead Poisoning Prevention Policies

A History of Accomplishments & New Policy Strategies

Ruth Ann Norton, President and CEO

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Policy Strategies in Baltimore & State of Maryland

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning was developed in 1986 as a result of the efforts made by a volunteer-group called Parents Against Lead (PAL) in Baltimore City.

The Coalition was determined to systematically alter the landscape of lead poisoning in Maryland through new strategies, creative resources, and reliable leadership in impacted communities to end childhood lead poisoning.
In 1993, over 12,908 children in Baltimore had elevated blood lead levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Tract</th>
<th>% of children tested and found to have 10 ug/dl or higher blood lead levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806-Broadway/ East Oliver</td>
<td>82.23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>807-Broadway/ East Oliver</td>
<td>70.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>808-Middle East</td>
<td>65.15%</td>
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Policy: Part of Comprehensive Strategy

Windows of Opportunity
Comprehensive Action Plan (2000)

- Increase capacity for primary intervention
- Increase enforcement of lead safe laws
- Change critical public policies
- Increase public education & awareness
- Establish effective relocation program
- Create functional sustainable partnerships
- Leverage private resources
Collaboration is Key

Foundations

COALITION TO END CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

Local Health Departments

Community Partners

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Converging local, state and federal partners
Forged Commitments from Political Leaders

“We will inspect. We will prosecute. We will demolish. We will care for children in every neighborhood...we will put our resources where our future lies—protecting our children’s health.” —Mayor Martin O’Malley
State Actions Achieved

MDE Enforcement in over 400 properties annually since 2001


Property Inspection Certificates now required to be given to tenants HB1052 (2000)

Increased Funding for Lead Hazard Reduction Grant/Loans (2000)

Testing and Screening for all pre-school children – HB1138 (1997)

Rent Escrow – Lead Risk Reductions now required HB1068 (1997)

Preventive Clean Up in units – HB760 (1994)
State Actions Achieved

Clean Hands Bill - Restricting Rent Court access to non-compliant rental property owners - HB1245 (2004)


Required Ethics Disclosure of Rental Property Ownership by State and City Lead and Housing Inspectors – HB1318 (2004)


Closed Lead Dust Testing Loophole – HB1163 (2001)
State Actions Achieved

- Improves Maryland law by requiring mandatory lead dust testing to meet Maryland’s Risk Reduction inspection standard for older rental properties - HB1033 (2011)
- Prohibits the sale and use of leaded plumbing materials in Maryland - HB372 (2010)
Maryland Legislation – HB644 (2012)

- Expands the definition of “Affected Property” under the Maryland Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law to include rental properties built from 1950-1978.

- Authorizes MDE and/or a local jurisdiction to order lead abatement in any CHILD CARE CENTER, FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, OR PRESCHOOL FACILITY where there is a lead poisoned Person at Risk.

- Authorizes MDE to enforce a lead abatement order issued by a local jurisdiction or health department.

- Increases the registration fee with MDE for affected rental units to $30.00 per unit, per year.

- Authorizes MDE to seek authority to enforce the EPA Renovation, Repair, and Repainting Rule in Maryland.

- Requires lead-dust clearance testing for properties undergoing renovation activities in Maryland covered by the EPA RRP Rule.
Progress in Baltimore City

- The number of lead poisoned children annually in Baltimore City has decreased **98%** since 1993
- Children under age 6 with elevated lead levels

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>12,908</td>
<td>194</td>
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Progress in Maryland

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<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>14,546</td>
<td>355</td>
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2012 CDC Lead Poisoning Recommendations

1. Eliminated “level of concern”

2. Established a childhood BLL reference value based on 97.5\textsuperscript{th} percentile of the population BLL in US children ages 1-5 [now 5µg/dL] to:
   a) Identify children
   b) Identify environments with lead hazards

3. Develop and implement a national primary prevention strategy to ensure no US children live in or spend significant time in homes, buildings, other environments exposed to lead hazards
CDC Lead Poisoning Recommendations

4. **Clinicians** serve as a reliable source of information on lead hazards, taking primary role in educating families about prevention
   
   a. Environmental assessments prior to BLL screening

5. **Clinicians** notify family and monitor health status of children with confirmed BLL $\geq 5\mu g/dL$
   
   a. until environmental investigation/remediation complete

6. Where no mandatory reporting, **clinicians** to
   
   a. ensure reporting of all BLLs at or above reference value to local/state health and housing agencies
   
   b. collaborate with agencies to provide appropriate services and resources to children/families
7. **Education** on **primary prevention** in homes and child-occupied facilities to eliminate hazards before children are exposed.
   
a. Targets families, providers, advocates, public officials

8. Develop **primary prevention infrastructure**:
   
a. Encourage data sharing between health and housing
b. Develop and enforce preventive lead-safe housing standards for rental and owner occupied properties
c. ID funding for lead hazard remediation
d. Provide families with information so they can protect their children from home environment hazards
CDC Lead Poisoning Recommendations

9. Work with elected officials, health, housing and code enforcement agencies to ensure adoption of a suite of primary prevention policies to protect children from lead exposure in their homes.

10. Adopt primary prevention strategies to reduce environmental exposures in soil, dust, paint and water before children are exposed

   a. Emphasize environmental assessment to ID and remediate lead hazards before children’s BLLs are at/above reference value
CDC Lead Poisoning Recommendations

11. **Multi-family housing**: if lead hazards trigger actions in any unit, apply the same actions to all similar but untested units in the complex unless risk assessment shows no hazards are present.

12. Encourage **health outcomes research** focused on interventions that can maintain child BLLs below reference value.

13. **Research priorities**:
   a. improve use of screening data,
   b. develop point-of-care analyzers,
   c. improve knowledge of epigenetic mechanisms of lead action.
LD1115

Greg Payne, Director
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition
LD 1115

• Incorporated into Maine’s 2015-16 and 2016-2017 biennial state budget
• Lead poisoning redefined so as to align with federal CDC recommendation: confirmed BLL that is injurious... “using reference levels no higher than the 97.5th percentile of blood lead levels in children established by a national health and nutrition examination survey adopted by the”... federal CDC.
• Property owners who fail to follow abatement orders not only commit a Class E crime but are now also subject to a civil fine of up to $500 per day.
LD 1115

• All penalties and awards and awards collected through this new administrative fine process must be deposited into the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund (spent on education and prevention activities).

• Includes about $1.2m (mostly through Fund for Healthy Maine dollars) in new annual funding for 8 new positions at the state CDC and additional contracted lead inspections.
Questions?

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