

Harris County

HCPHES

Public Health & Environmental Services

Hermia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director
2223 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027
Tele: (713) 439-6000
Fax: (713) 439-6080

Rita Obey
Director
Office of Public Information
2223 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027
Tele: (713) 439-6246
Fax: (713) 439-6362

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Contact: Sandy Kachur
(713) 439-6292

Martha Marquez
(713) 439-6193

FREE Home Lead Inspections and Removal for Families Who Qualify
National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 23-29, 2011

In 2009 in Harris County, 72,821 children under 6 years of age were tested - 340 children were found to have elevated blood lead levels. As parents, we want to keep our children safe and healthy. However, some dangers may not be obvious, such as lead poisoning, whose harmful health effects could last beyond childhood.

The results of lead poisoning can be very serious. In children younger than six years of age, lead poisoning can cause learning or behavior problems, and even brain, liver and kidney damage. Lead can pass from a mother to her unborn baby and may put her at risk for miscarriage or hurt the baby's brain, kidneys, and nervous system. In adults, high levels of lead may cause headaches, stomach problems, vomiting and tiredness.

How can a child be at risk for lead poisoning? **One of the major sources of lead poisoning is found in household paint from homes built before 1978.** Lead-based paint is unsafe if it peels, chips or cracks. Small children are at a higher risk of lead poisoning because they may eat paint chips or put their hands that may be covered with lead dust into their mouth. Small children are at greater risk because their systems are still developing and their bodies absorb more lead. Even people who seem healthy can have high levels of lead in their bodies. Fortunately, lead poisoning is preventable through proper handling.

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) joins forces with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies across the country to observe National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) from October 23-29, 2011. The theme for this year's campaign is *"Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future"*.

Protect your children and family from lead poisoning! You may qualify for **FREE** lead inspection and removal from your home through the HCPHES Lead Hazard Control program. If you live in Harris County, outside the City of Houston, in a single family property built before January 1, 1978, contact HCPHES Lead Hazard Control Program to schedule a home inspection appointment at **(713) 274-6374**.

For more information on the HCPHES Lead Hazard Control Program log onto www.hcphe.org.