

IHHN IDAHO HEALTHY HOMES NETWORK

NEWSLETTER
January 2011

This newsletter is intended to provide a recap of some of the healthy homes and lead-based paint information that we have shared in the IHHN meetings or that has come to us through various Listservs. We want to especially acknowledge the National Center for Healthy Homes and the many content providers on LeadNet and HealthyHomesNet.



Happy New Year!

NEXT MEETING OF THE IDAHO HEALTHY HOMES NETWORK

Thursday, February 10th

10:00 a.m. to noon

The guest speaker will be Leanne Simmons, Executive Director of [Idaho Voices for Children](#).

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 9TH IHHN MEETING

NIGERIA

Seventeen attendees listened intently to John Price's recounting of his trip to Nigeria. The village soils had been tainted with lead from gold mining operations and had already killed 400-500 children. One child was tested at an estimated blood-lead level of 600-700 micrograms per deciliter.



John worked with the World Health Organization and Blacksmith Institute to test soil in five villages for the presence of lead. Cultural mores meant that a female coworker had to test the interiors of homes. John also assisted with remediation work which consisted of hand excavation of soil until they reached a level testing below 500 ppm of lead. Some soil was as high as 10,000-15,000 ppm. The contaminated soil was then buried and covered in suitable pits.

The people had no understanding of lead's danger. In one village, John discovered a grain grinder that was being used to mill ore. They were successful in getting the grinder moved outside the village and away from the kids.

John described his experience as rewarding and challenging. He'd love to go back, but doubts it will be possible.

EPA

Russ Clausen of EPA reported that he had performed some inspections that will possibly end in enforcement actions.

Russ said that EPA was continuing its education efforts noting that he'd made a presentation about EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting rule to the Idaho Small Business Forum. He encouraged us to review www.leadfreekids.org.

BSU

Ingrid Brudenell reported that the BSU study on the state of blood-lead testing in Idaho is posted at: <http://hs.boisestate.edu/pdf/BLLSurveyFinalReport102410.pdf>

She said that the report represented a lot of effort even with a low 11% response rate. The majority of medical professionals believe lead is "not a problem in Idaho."

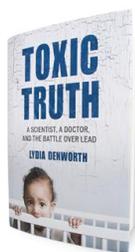
She continues to work with the Medicaid Advisory Group to provide information on why the blood-lead screening is important. A letter went to all providers during Lead Awareness Week. They plan to have a greater presence at health fairs. She said that a "walk-in" or mobile lab would be very helpful.

Others commented that the family doctor is often the biggest stumbling block to testing children. Ingrid reminded us that lead is an issue for higher income families, too.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Kara Stevens reported on the Department's activities during Lead Awareness Week. The "Runs Better Unleaded" poster was sent to all Head Start coordinators and an EPA flyer was sent to all Public Health Districts. A press release was sent out and was published in several newsletters and was posted on the Central District Health District's website.

Kara also reported that there were 350 attendees at the Early Years conference.



BOOK

Toxic Truth: A Scientist, A Doctor, and the Battle over Lead

<http://lydiadenworth.com/>

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF TEST KITS FOR LEAD IN PAINT

On December 10th, the EPA's Environmental Technology Verification Program published the reports on the Lead Paint Test Kits.

<http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/etv/este.html#pcqstklp>

EPA'S OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION SOLICITATION FOR GRANT PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection is pleased to announce the release of a solicitation for grant proposals to address children's environmental health in underserved communities by building capacity for these communities to reduce environmental exposures in child-occupied settings (e.g. homes, schools and child care centers). Funds available for award are expected to total approximately \$1.5 million, and EPA intends to award approximately 15-20 awards, each for an amount not to exceed \$100,000. The due date for initial proposals is February 18, 2011.

Assistance under this competition is available to: States or state agencies, territories, city or township governments, county governments, the District of Columbia, federally recognized American Indian

Tribes, possessions of the U.S, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private nonprofit institutions, and 501(c)(3) organizations. For complete information regarding this Request for Initial Proposals, visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oceph/ochpweb.nsf/content/grants.htm>, or contact Margo Young at (206) 553-1287 or young.margo@epa.gov.

BUYER BEWARE: HIGH LEAD LEVELS IN USED ITEMS

A new study has found that many previously owned items available for purchase throughout the United States – such as toys, home décor items, construction salvage, kitchen utensils and jewelry – contain surface lead concentrations more than 700 times higher than the federal limit.

<http://www.ktvz.com/oregon-northwest/25977091/detail.html>

LEAD IN MOST U.S. HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTS POSES HAZARD FOR KIDS

Sorry, this comes a bit late. Fifty-four percent of holiday lights tested in a U.S. study have more lead than regulators permit in children’s products, with some strands containing more than 30 times those levels.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-08/lead-in-most-u-s-tree-lights-poses-hazard-for-kids-group-says.html>



USEFULNESS AND LIMITATION ON HAIR-LEAD ANALYSIS

Hair Analysis: A Potential for Abuse

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ad-com/polfind/Hlth-Ethics.pdf>

Summary report--hair analysis panel discussion: Exploring the State of the Science.

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/hair_analysis/index.htm |

LEAD A POISON AT ALL LEVELS, DOCS SAY

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/health/kwan-lead-level-children-blood-112407574.html>

OSHA WILL BE TARGETING RRP JOBSITES

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oie6OObSVIw>



LEAD-SHOT PELLETS CONTINUE TO POISON SWANS

One of the Lower Mainland's great wildlife tragedies continues to unfold with the mysterious deaths, this fall, of dozens of swans due to poisoning from lead-shot pellets once legal for hunting waterfowl.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Lead%20shot%20pellets%20continue%20poison%20Oswans%20along%20border/4001810/story.html>

TREATING BEDBUGS ISN'T A DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT

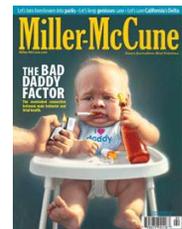
If dreaded bedbugs invade, don't make a run for the store pesticide aisle. Bedbugs have developed resistance to almost half of the 300 pesticides listed for their control. Rampant misuse of pesticides has led to home explosions and illnesses from over-exposure to toxic chemicals

<http://bit.ly/i8P1GK>

THE BAD DADDY FACTOR

Over the last half-century, few researchers even considered the possibility that men played a role in prenatal health. It would turn out to be a scientific oversight of significant proportions. A critical mass of research demonstrates that environmental exposures – from paints to pesticides – can cause men to father children with all sorts of abnormalities.

<http://www.miller-mccune.com/health/the-bad-daddy-factor-25764>



MOST PESTICIDE POISONINGS HAPPEN AT HOME

Most pesticide poisonings don't occur on farms or in workplaces, as might be expected. Rather, they happen at home, typically resulting from misuse or accidents, an Oregon study finds.

http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2010/12/most_pesticide_poisonings_happ.html

MOMS SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY TIED TO GIRLS' PUBERTY

Women who smoke heavily during pregnancy tend to have daughters who start menstruating months earlier than the daughters of women who didn't smoke while pregnant, a new study finds.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B253C20101203>

TINY BLOOD VESSELS SHOW POLLUTION, HEART DISEASE LINK

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101130/hl_afp/healthenvironmentuspollutionheart



CONSUMER REPORTS WARNS ON MERCURY IN CANNED TUNA

Pregnant women and children have long been warned that they should be wary of eating certain kinds of seafood because of the risk of mercury contamination. It's a real threat -- mercury is a neurotoxin, and exposure in-utero at high levels can damage an infant's developing cognitive skills.

<http://healthland.time.com/2010/12/07/consumer-reports-warns-on-mercury-in-canned-tuna/>

CAL-EPA'S AIR RESOURCES BOARD WEBSITE

You can download a presentation dealing with cellular inflammatory responses to indoor air pollutants. There are many other presentations in the archives, as well.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/seminars/seminars.htm>

IDAHO IS 9TH HEALTHIEST STATE!

Idaho ranks higher than all surrounding states except Utah.

<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/measure/2010/overall.aspx>



SECONDHAND SMOKE TIED TO KIDS' POOR MENTAL HEALTH

Kids who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to struggle with mental health problems, suggests a large new study of British children.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6B75VR20101208>

SKI WAX CHEMICALS BUILD-UP IN PEOPLE'S BLOOD, POSES RISKS

Ski wax can expose users to perfluorochemicals that build up in their bodies and carry potentially serious health risks. Racers, in particular, covet waxes with high amounts of fluorinated compounds because they make skis and snowboards go faster. But that extra speed could come at a cost.

<http://bit.ly/eEPUOo>



THE NATIONAL PREVENTION COUNCIL SEEKS YOUR INPUT

Guided by this public input, which included comments at the Stakeholders Conference, the National Prevention Council has now developed a preliminary set of Draft Recommendations.

http://www.healthcare.gov/center/councils/nphpphc/draft_recommendations.pdf

The Council wants to hear directly from all stakeholders, including local, state, and community-based organizations, as well as those in the public and private sectors, about the various aspects of the strategy posted on the web.

You can provide valuable insights into the Strategy's development. Please submit your input through our public input site <http://www.hhs.gov/news/reports/nphps.html>
Comments will be accepted until January 13, 2011.



NEW AND IMPROVED TRACKING 101 IS NOW AVAILABLE

Access the course through National Environmental Health Association's e-Learning Website.

<http://nehacert.org/moodle/course/category.php?id=22>

Tracking 101 gives an overview of the major components of Environmental Public Health Tracking. Topics include the National Tracking Network and Program; surveillance and epidemiology; tracking data; GIS; and communication. This version features updated information, improved design, and printable resources. Free continuing education credits from CDC are available for nurses (CNE), certified health education specialists (CECH), and others (CEU). NEHA credits are also available.

LEAD PAINT RRP ADVISOR NEWSLETTER—CORRECTION!

Our apologies! The link in IHHN's December newsletter did not work for subscribing to Torf Environmental Management's Lead Paint RRP Advisor Newsletter. Mark Torf suggests scribing by emailing him at: leadpaint@torf.us



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES START WITH HEALTHY AND GREEN HOMES WORKSHOP – FEB 2-3 IN SEATTLE

A two-day workshop hosted by EPA and PNWIS focuses on the connections between the homes and communities where we live in and the impact they have on our health. Guest speakers and attendees from health, housing, green building, and sustainability will come together to share what has worked and what the future looks like. Better housing results in better health. Opportunities to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available.

Topics include:

- Why It Pays to Build Green
- Sustainable Solutions Beyond Weatherization
- The Living Building Challenge and 2030 Challenge
- ENERGY STAR and Indoor Air Quality Designed Homes
- Resource Conservation Management



Registration Fees: \$200 if registered by January 14, 2011. [\$250 if registering after January 14th]
For More Information visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/airpage.nsf/Air+Toxics/healthygreenhomes>, or contact Susan Titus at 206-553-1189 or titus.susan@epa.gov.



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

3RD ANNUAL NW ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE – FEB 11 IN PORTLAND

Topics will include: Environmental Justice, Community Health, Healthy Aging, Green Chemistry, Built Environment, Chemical Policy, and Food Systems. All are invited to attend, particularly Allopathic and Naturopathic Health Practitioners, Public Health Professionals, Advocates, Researchers, Urban and Regional Planners and Students. For more information, please visit http://www.oconline.org/3rd_nwehc.

TRIBAL HEALTHY HOMES TRAINING – FEBRUARY 23-25 IN AUBURN, WA

Travel Scholarships Available! Space is limited so register today! The daily agenda will be kept fluid to accommodate hands-on demonstrations and local presenters. This training will not only provide a

comprehensive overview of healthy home/safety issues; but also emphasize testing/assessment equipment and protocols, as well as low cost mitigation for health issues. All the information and registration form can be found at <http://www.tribalhealthyhomes.org/washington.htm>, or you can contact Debbie Albin at (406) 994-3782 or deborah.albin@montana.edu.

2011 NATIONAL HEALTHY HOMES CONFERENCE – JUNE 20-23 IN DENVER

It's never too early to start planning!!

<http://www.healthyhomesconference.org/>



OTHER LINKS:

Idaho Healthy Homes Network - <http://www.hud.gov/local/id/library/healthyhomes/IHHN.cfm>

Subscribe the Healthy Homes Network Listserv-

http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup.cfm?listname=Idaho%20Healthy%20Homes%20Network&list=ID_AHO-HH-NETWORK-L

HUD's Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control - <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>

EPA – www.epa.gov/lead

RRP Outreach materials – www.epa.gov/getleadsafe

EPA TIPS AND COMPLAINTS FORM --

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/leadpaint/RenovationRepairPaintComplaintForm.html>

EPA Lead-Safe Certification Program Outreach to Consumers --

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/pubs/lscp-consumers.htm>

OSHA – www.osha.gov

National Center for Healthy Housing - <http://www.nchh.org/Home.aspx>

Alliance for Healthy Homes - www.afhh.org

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Product Recalls -

<http://cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prerel.html>

LeadNet – international listserv on lead and lead poisoning; to subscribe - Leadnet-on@mail-list.com

To search LeadNet Archives - <http://archive.mail-list.com/leadnet>

User Name = leadnet

Password = lswp (The User Name and Password are case-sensitive.)

For parents of a lead-poisoned child: www.alphalead.org

Tamara Rubin's (Portland, OR) website: <http://www.mychildrenhaveleadpoisoning.com>