



## Myths and Facts About Lead Poisoning

**Myth:** Lead poisoning is an inner city problem

**Fact:** Children from all geographic areas, rural and urban are at risk. Lead paint can be found on walls of old homes, but also on toys imported from other countries.

**Myth:** If a child has lead poisoning, he will act sick.

**Fact:** Most children with lead poisoning do not act sick.

**Myth:** Lead poisoning has no long lasting effects

**Fact:** Lead poisoning causes behavior changes, hearing loss, and learning disabilities.

**Myth:** A large amount of blood is needed for the lead poisoning test.

**Fact:** The lead poisoning test is a simple finger stick in which a small amount of blood is sent to a laboratory. This test can be done at the doctor's office, health department or hospital clinic.

**Myth:** Lead poisoning is no longer a problem since lead has been removed from gasoline.

**Fact:** Lead is found in many other places or objects, such as painted surfaces, dirt, dust, industrial air pollution, colored newsprint, pottery and water.

**Myth:** Lead poisoning is a problem only with people who work in lead industries.

**Fact:** Children under the age of six years are the main one who are poisoned by lead.



## Prevent Lead Poisoning

- See your doctor yearly and ask for a lead test for your child ages six months to six years
- If you have any peeling or flaking paint in your house, contact your local health department to have it checked.
- Do not allow your child to chew or suck painted surfaces such as woodwork, porches, old toys, crib rails, and other old furniture.
- Repair any holes or cracks in the plaster walls and repaint them with lead free paint.
- Since most children explore their world by putting things in their mouths, keep the area where they play clean.
- Damp dust and damp mop – since soil and dust contain lead, it is important for children and adults to wash their hands before eating.
- Feed you family well balanced meals which include the following: meats, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and enriched breads and cereals. This will keep them healthy.

For more information, write to:

Ohio Department of Health

Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

246 N High Street

Columbus, OH 43266