



# Lead & Healthy Homes Newsletter

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Trenton City Hall steps: Carmen Nunez (Catholic Charities -Perth Amboy), Donna Bordner (Wipe Out Lead NJ), Leadie Eddie (Gateway Northwest MCHN), Arlene Gilbert (Catholic Charities-Perth Amboy), Merle Weitz (WOLNJ), and Jocelyn Lapena (Southern Coalition/Camden County).

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Lead poisoning affected 4,547 New Jersey children last year, according to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Annual Report for fiscal year 2005. This number represents on 44% of New Jersey's children who were tested for lead - federal and state laws require that **all** children be tested between the ages of six to 29 months.

Elevated lead levels are attributed to attention, behavioral and learning problems, reduced IQ, and hyperactivity in children. In high levels, lead can cause coma, convulsions or death.

Parents need to be aware of lead hazards in their child's environment, request lead screens, and maintain lead-safe work practices when working on older homes. Renovation or remodeling of older homes places children at-risk for elevated lead levels if families are unaware of the toxic nature of lead.

Lead not only exists in homes built before 1971, but also in ground contamination of newer housing developments that used to be farming or agricultural lands. 30% of New Jersey's houses contain lead-based paint, which is the primary culprit of childhood lead poisoning cases.

Parents need to be lead aware for their children's sake. Make sure you have your child tested for lead—it is New Jersey law, just ask the doctor!

Lead is the number one preventable disease affecting America's children, and lead poisoning is entirely preventable.



The four lead coalitions in New Jersey collected gloves to symbolize how many NJ children had elevated lead levels in 2005.

## Old Lead, New Lead. It's all BAD Lead

If the only thing you know about lead is old paint, it's time to learn about the "new" lead hazards.

guidelines say children's jewelry should contain no more than 0.06 percent lead.

lunch boxes altogether. CEH believes that the lead is intentionally added to the vinyl (PVC) plastic as either a stabilizing agent or pigment.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued recalls on **multiple products** that contain hazardous levels of lead, including many jewelry items, children's furniture, children's clothing and toys. In February 2006, Jarnell Brown died after swallowing a Reebok charm that was 99% lead. CPSC's enforcement

Soft-sided lunch boxes also have dangerous levels of lead, due to polyvinyl chloride, and for the second year, the Center for Environmental Health has issued a list of dangerous lunchboxes.

**PARENTS:** Bring items that you want tested to the Trenton YMCA on Tuesday, December 12 from 10:00 AM—1:00 PM. Testing by Niton, refreshments by Isles. This equipment is sensitive enough to test most holiday gifts through original packaging. Call 609-341-4717 for more details.



Items that tested positive for lead in May 2006 included: Bunratty Meade ceramic bottle, casino "Mardi Gras" beads, magnetic bracelet, decorative pin, and glazed kitchen pottery. These items are not under any recall. Many Claire's jewelry items also tested high for lead.



Bill Radesovich demonstrates the Niton to Stanley J Stopa, Dr. Joseph Ponessa and Gene Elwell in Riverside, NJ May 2006.

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### Trenton Wipe Out Lead Dust Kits yielding High Lead Levels



Parents at Trinity Cathedral Preschool Academy receive Wipe Out Lead New Jersey dust kits at a lead presentation during Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention week in Trenton.

Since 2005, Trenton/Mercer County has been increasing lead dust testing, thanks to the Wipe Out Lead New Jersey program. Statistics through November 9, 2006 indicate that 301 kits were distributed in Trenton, and 169 kits returned to the laboratory.

Lead levels analyzed indicate that **67** Trenton homes tested positive for lead, and **47** of those homes contain hazardous levels of lead on either the window sill or floor. That is more than one in three homes testing positive! Levels detected ranged from the threshold of 400 micrograms per

square foot to levels exceeding 297,000 (which is over **700** times the allowable limit).

Dust kits include 2 testing wipes, 2 pairs of gloves, 2 test tubes, 2 templates, instructions in English & Spanish, and a postage-paid envelop to mail to the lab. The dust kits will indicate if there is a lead hazard present .

Participants who return dust kits to the labs in the postage-paid envelop receive a \$5 gift card from Shop Rite or Pathmark.

*If you live in New Jersey, are the parent of a child under the age*

*of 6, or are pregnant, and you live in a house or apartment that was built before 1971, you qualify for a free lead dust kit. Contact Isles' Lead & Healthy Homes Hotline for a kit at 609-341-4749.*

*If your home or apartment contains the old wooden windows that are painted, chances are they contain lead paint. By testing your house and finding lead, you may qualify for state funding to remove the lead (see article below for more information).*

# of people living in home	50% of Trenton median poverty
1	29,900
2	34,150
3	38,450
4	42,700
5	46,100
6	49,550
7	52,950
8	56,350

### New Jersey Gets the Lead Out—of Homes, Literally!

There will be 25 happy homeowners and tenants this year in Trenton. Isles received funding to do lead-safe home repairs on 25 housing units, and is pleased to say that all slots are currently full. Repairs are free with the Hybrid LICAR program, which provides up to \$10,000 per housing unit to remove lead hazards. Isles, Inc. is the first nonprofit to receive this funding.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs also is providing low interest loans through the Lead Housing Control Assistance Fund, established in 2003 by Senator Ronald Rice. Homeowners who make less than 50% of poverty level may qualify for free funding through this program. All repairs must be done by a licensed lead contractor. This program is available throughout the state of New Jersey. To receive an application for this program, visit [www.leadsafenj.org](http://www.leadsafenj.org) or contact Isles Lead & Healthy Homes hotline at **609-341-4749** to have the application mailed to you. There are also funds available for emergency relocation, if a child has high lead levels.

To qualify for these programs, you must live in a house built before 1971 that contains lead-based paint, have property insurance, and be current on your water, sewer and property taxes.



NJ Dept of Community Affairs signs on NJ Transit trains & buses remind observers about lead-based paint in homes in English & Spanish.



#### Does YOUR Home Contain LEAD?

**BTS Labs LeadSmart** - (retail \$69.99) - \$35.00. Kit includes testing for two samples (soil, dust, paint chip), includes shipping, handling & analysis.

**WaterSmart Sample Kit lead** (retail \$79.99) - \$60.00 plus shipping & handling.

Contact BTS Labs at:  
800-604-1995

[www.BTSlabs.com](http://www.BTSlabs.com)

Mention "ALPHA" for discount

Consumer Product Safety Commission—  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

American Lead Poisoning Help Association—  
[www.ALPHAlead.org](http://www.ALPHAlead.org)

ALPHA on-line support group—  
<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ALPHALEAD/>  
Isles, Inc.

[www.Isles.org](http://www.Isles.org)  
NJ Department of Community Affairs  
[www.LeadsafeNJ.org](http://www.LeadsafeNJ.org)  
Wipe Out Lead NJ

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### Isles Provides Lead Education & Counseling for Trenton Families

Isles has provided Healthy Homes and Lead prevention awareness to the Trenton area for the past two years. Beginning in October 2006, Isles Inc in Trenton is providing lead and healthy Homes education throughout the Trenton City area, thanks to a grant through NJ Department of Human Services. Classes range from pre-school children, parents, health care professionals and other concerned community groups.

Classes are instructed by Leann Howell, a parent who was personally affected by lead through her children over nine years ago. Leann has a Mas-

ters in English, with over 6 years experience instructing students from first grade through college. Since arriving in New Jersey two years ago, Leann has educated over 1,800 individuals statewide on lead prevention. She received a Lead Star Award at the 2006 National Lead & Indoor Technologies Conference in founding ALPHA.

Isles will also be offering counseling for families who are addressing lead poisoning for the first time. Families who have more questions can receive information and guidance

through the maze of state & federal programs available to them. Contact Leann at 609-341-4717 or email [LHowell@Isles.org](mailto:LHowell@Isles.org) for more information.

#### Lead Trivia:

Annie Oakley, American sharpshooter (1860-1926) is believed to have died of lead poisoning due to lead in the bullets she used for years. She taught thousands of women how to shoot & defend themselves. The story of her life was made into a musical "Annie Get your Gun" and produced on Broadway & in film.



Liz Colon (Childhood Lead Action Project, RI), Kristin Joyner (Lifetime Achievement Award, NC), and Leann Howell (ALPHA, NJ) received awards at 2006 National Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference in Charleston SC.

### AMSTI Searching for Kiddie Kollege 'Graduates' due to Mercury

On July 28, 2006 hazardous levels 27 times the acceptable level of mercury were detected at Kiddie Kollege in Franklinville, NJ. Before 2004, the building was a thermometer manufacturing plant. Mercury can affect all body systems, and children are extremely sensitive to the effects.

American Medical Saliva Testing, Inc. conducted free testing in September, in conjunction with the EPA and Dept of Health & Human Ser-

vices; three children tested had elevated levels of mercury in their systems.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection is investigating the state's 4,300 licensed daycare centers, and acknowledges that "it's most likely [DEP] will find" more on or near toxic sites.

AMSTI is forming a task force of parents, doctors and other professionals from the medical commu-

nity and are asking local hospitals, the EPA and DHHS to join them in finding the true extent of damage these children may have sustained and the care they will need to maintain a healthy life.

AMSTI asked the parents affected to establish a children's fund for donations to help in this endeavor. AMSTI will donate 10% of all on-line sales to this fund. Contact AMSTI at 856-912-245 or [www.amsalivatesting.com](http://www.amsalivatesting.com).

*"Before 2004, {Kiddie Kollege Daycare} was a thermometer manufacturing plant."*

### Lead Recalls: "Cars" Toy Bench, Summer Reading Library Toys

From the Disney movie, "Cars" toy storage benches sold at Toys "R" Us are recalled due to high levels of lead in the red paint. Manufactured in China, these sold from March 2006 - August 2006 for about \$50. [www.deltachildrensproducts.com](http://www.deltachildrensproducts.com)

Library reading incentive toys—bendable dogs & cats—given away through libraries nationwide from Jan—Aug 2006 were recalled due to excessive lead lev-

els in the toys' paint. The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 16, Section 1303 stipulates that lead may constitute no more than .06% of the weight of the paint applied to a toy; **levels over .277% were detected.** Manufactured in China, there are around 340,000 toys distributed. [www.funexpress.com](http://www.funexpress.com)

Metal charms as free giveaway with Shirley Temple movie DVDs contain high levels of lead. Manufactured in China, around

730,000 charms are under recall for DVDs sold between Aug 2005—April 2006. [www.dvdcharmrecall.com](http://www.dvdcharmrecall.com)

If you have any of these items, immediately take them away from children. If you are interested in donating a recalled item, please contact Leann at 609-341-4717. For a full list of lead recalls, visit Wisconsin's Childhood Lead at: [http://dhfs.wi.gov/lead/LSources\\_Products.HTM](http://dhfs.wi.gov/lead/LSources_Products.HTM)



*Bendable cats & dogs distributed at library reading programs nationwide contain HIGH lead levels.*



**[ [www.ALPHALead.org](http://www.ALPHALead.org) ]**

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## Upcoming Lead Awareness Activities in Trenton

### Children's Outreach

- Nov 16—Mill Hill Child Development Center
- Nov 17—Trinity Cathedral Academy Preschool
- Nov 20—Mercer Street Friends Child Development Center
- Nov 28—Puerto Rican Child Care Center

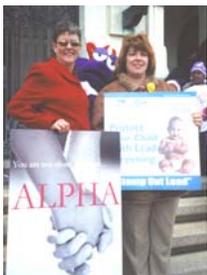
Nov 30—The Learning Depot

### Parent/Community Meetings:

- Nov 14—Trenton
- Nov 16—Mill Hill

### Lead Toy Testing:

Dec 12—Trenton YMCA Pennington Ave 10am-1pm



*Leann Howell (Isles/ALPHA) and Caroline Marte (Central NJ Maternal & Child Health Consortium) at Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week kick-off October 2006*

