



**CHAPTER SIX
LEAD PAINT ISSUES**

LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARD REDUCTION

Estimates of lead based paint hazards in owner occupied and renter occupied units are based on the year that structures are built. Studies of the incidence of lead paint hazards done at the national level have determined the likelihood of these hazards existing in units built prior to 1980. Units built from 1960 to 1979 have a 62% chance of lead paint hazards, units built from 1940 to 1959 have an 80% chance, and units built before 1940 have a 90% chance.

Based on these probabilities and low-income occupancy information, it is estimated that there are 62,000 low-income households in the Consortium area that could potentially be at risk of lead hazards. This number would include 37,000 renters and 25,000 owners. However, despite these high potential numbers, the actual incidence of lead poisoning, as reported by the DuPage County Health Department, is relatively low. Nonetheless, the estimate of potentially affected homes is large enough to suggest that the County should be prepared to deal with these hazards. In order to address this issue, the County has developed a two-part strategy that is described below.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SCREENING

The DuPage County Health Department has primary responsibility for the education and screening activities relating to lead hazards. They provide four types of services, as described below, and will continue to provide these services throughout the five-year period of this plan.

- **Public Information** The Health Department provides information to the general public about the dangers of lead poisoning and how residents can address the issue. Flyers are provided on request, and distributed through its Community Nursing program.
- **Testing for Lead Hazards in the Home** Testing is done in cases where a lead hazard is suspected and there is a request from a Community Health nurse or other government official.
- **Screening for Elevated Blood Levels** Where tests produce evidence of children being exposed to lead hazards, the Health Department will screen children for lead poisoning.
- **Counseling** When lead hazards are present or when there are positive tests for lead poisoning, counseling for the family is made available

LEAD HAZARD EVALUATION AND REDUCTION IN EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAMS

HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule, 24 CFR 35, took effect on September 15, 2000. These regulations form the basis of new standards for addressing lead hazards in existing housing programs. The following outlines the County's procedures for the implementation of these standards.

ASSESSMENT AND HAZARD REDUCTION IN SINGLE FAMILY REHAB

- An Application is completed by the homeowner, which includes a question on the age of the home.
- EPA brochure "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" is enclosed with the application package.
- The homeowner/applicant is required to sign a statement that they have received and read the lead brochure.

- For homes built prior to 1978, an XRF Lead Risk Assessment is authorized to be conducted by a certified assessor.
- If lead is present, a grant of up to \$10,000 is provided to the homeowner to provide appropriate lead remediation measures.
- Lead remediation work is performed in accordance with EPA standards by lead abatement workers, licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- After the rehab project is completed on a home with a positive initial lead test, lead clearance testing is conducted.
- Additional EPA information, such as “Lead in Your Home: A Parent’s Reference Guide” is supplied to appropriate clients.

ASSESSMENT AND HAZARD REDUCTION IN MULTI-FAMILY REHAB

- The application for HOME and Housing Development Funds includes a question on the age of the structure to be rehabbed.
- For structures built prior to 1978, the applicant is required to include the results of lead testing with the application for funding.
- For structures with a positive initial lead test, applications must include complete and accurate estimates, developed by a licensed lead abatement contractor, of the cost of lead abatement work.
- For approved projects, the cost of the lead abatement work is included in the project budget.
- All units of the rehabbed structure must pass a lead clearance test prior to the project being certified habitable.

