

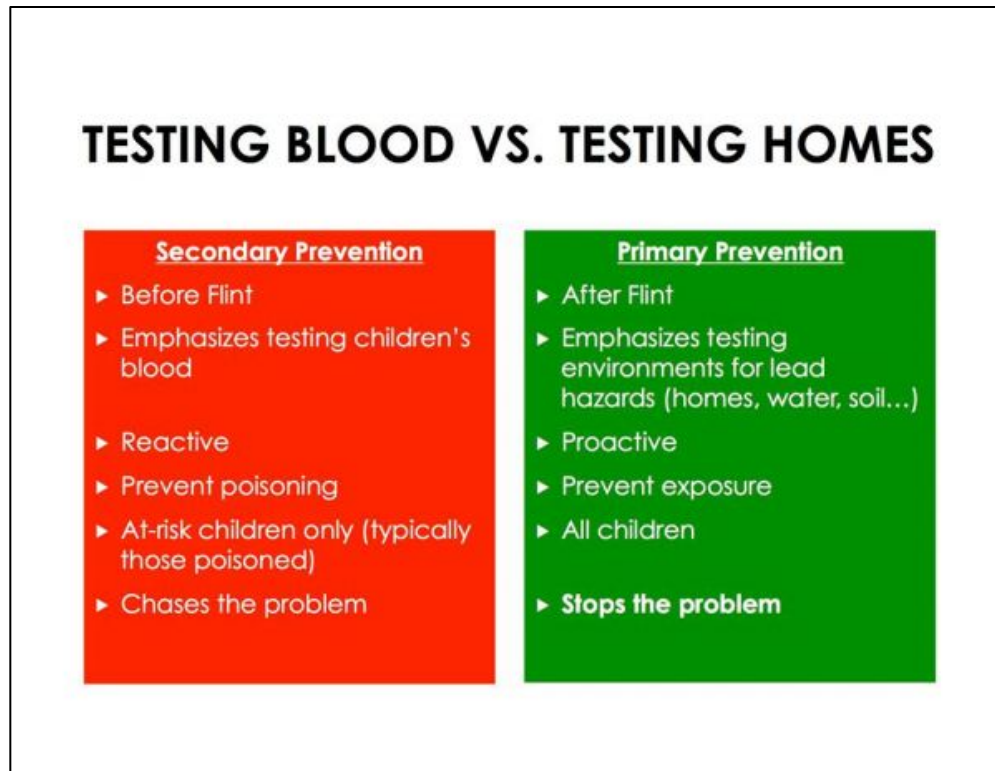
Meeting Summary

Kent County Community Leadership Summit to Prevent Childhood Lead Exposure

SECOM Community Resources Building
1545 Buchanan Ave SW, Grand Rapids MI
November 14, 2016

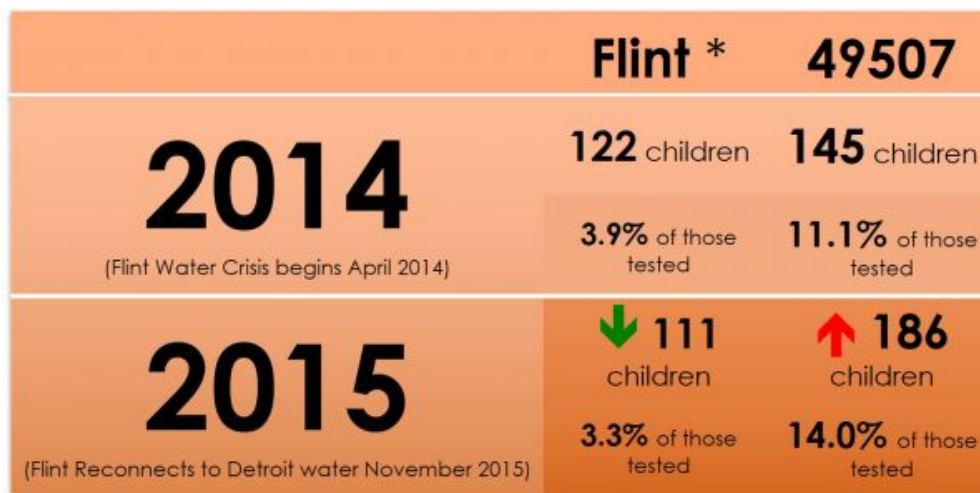
The Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan brought together a diverse group of more than 40 community leaders on November 14 to provide information and to begin surfacing the public will for action to end childhood lead exposure in Kent County (see list of attendees at the end of this document).

Following the Flint Water Crisis, it has become clear to many across the state that existing lead hazards must be addressed *before* they harm children, not *after*.



Prevalence of Lead Poisoning in Kent County

The number of children poisoned by lead in Grand Rapids increased for the first time in 15 years in 2015. An increase in unsafe remodeling practices and a tight rental housing market, along with a multitude of other sources are suspected as driving this increase. Four times as many children in Grand Rapids were poisoned by lead in Grand Rapids than Flint in 2015. The chart below shows Flint compared to just one zip code in Grand Rapids (49507).



Full PowerPoint presentation available at <http://gettheleadoutgr.org/for-partners>.

The Impact of Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning is caused by exposure to lead particles in household dust, paint, water, soil, and other products. Exposure can lead to permanent brain damage, decreased IQ, increased rates of delinquency and ADHD, and lower lifetime earnings in exposed children. It disproportionately affects low-income children and children of color. Full PowerPoint presentation available at <http://gettheleadoutgr.org/for-partners>.

Community Response

Governor Snyder appointed the Childhood Lead Prevention and Exposure Board in July to create policy recommendations. Recommendations from this group and other local and national organizations were presented to the group. Full PowerPoint presentation available at <http://gettheleadoutgr.org/for-partners>.

The State of Michigan announced November 14 that the State will be receiving \$24 million a year for five years to eliminate lead hazards in homes through the use of federal Medicaid CHIP funds.

Participants completed a survey to begin identifying local priorities and items for further discussion. A summary of the survey results follows.

Next Steps

A meeting will be held 3:00-5:00pm, January 23 to discuss next steps for local action.

Survey Results

Promising Solutions

Strengthen and increase work already being done to identify children who have been harmed by lead exposure

- Provide universal blood lead level testing to all children (8 responses)
- Mandate that all insurance companies operating in Michigan provide blood lead level testing free to the patient (8 responses)
- Increase outreach and equity (7 responses)

Create paradigm shift to get ahead of the ball by testing and eliminating lead hazards in environments rather than only targeting children who have already been poisoned.

- Testing and/or remediating lead hazards before sale or lease of a house, (7 people)
- Eliminate lead hazards in environments (7 people)
- Funding sources for eliminating hazards, including paint surcharge, state resources, CHIP designations, mortgage fee, and philanthropic donations. (7 people)
- Collaborate with nonprofits with home-visit programs to conduct tests (6 people)

Monitor hazards in environments

- Collect more data and share data with clients and communities (4 people)
- Enforce health-based housing codes (2 people)

Solutions that need more discussion

Strengthen and increase work already being done to identify children who have been harmed by lead exposure

- Universal blood lead level testing in all children (5 responses)

Test and/or eliminate lead hazards in environment.

- Train homeowners to conduct lead tests and lead-safe remodeling. (7 people)
- How to test and eliminate hazards in homes (7 responses)
- Require testing and/or elimination of lead hazards in home prior to sale or lease (6 responses)
- Mandatory lead service line replacements in homes (3 responses)
- Primary prevention (2 responses)
- Test workplaces (2 responses)
- Proactive window replacement in pre-1950 houses (1 response)
- Test schools (1 response)

Funding sources

- Surcharge on all paint can sales (4 responses)
- Hospital community benefit dollars (3 responses)
- Funding for middle income families (1 response)
- Practicality of receiving state and federal funds (1 response)

Monitor hazards and support children

- Create and enforce health based housing codes (3 responses)
- Notify public of homes containing lead (1 response)
- Locate data on how length of residence in tenant occupied housing with EBLL's (1 response)

Meeting Attendees

Rev. David Baak, Westminster Presbyterian
Ms. Mickie Benz, Mercy Health Saint Mary's
The Honorable Rosalynn Bliss, City of Grand Rapids
Ms. Connie Bohatch, City of Grand Rapids
Ms. Kim Brown, Grand Rapids Urban League
Ms. Tracie Coffman, Emergency Needs Task Force
Ms. Heather Colletto, Westminster Presbyterian
Ms. Anne Armstrong Cusack, Governor's Office of Urban Initiatives
Ms. Fran Dalton, Garfield Park Neighborhood Association
Mr. Peter Dickow, Office of U.S. Senator Peters
Ms. Joan Dyer, Kent County Health Department
Mr. Adam Erber, Office of MI Senator Hildenbrand
Dr. Nkechye Ezech, Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
Dr. Ken Fawcett, Spectrum Health
Ms. Kristin Fowler, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Mr. Ben Grostic, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County
Mr. Brian Hartl, Kent County Health Department
Ms. Annemarie Hertl, West Michigan Environment Action Council
Mr. Ronald Jimmerson, Seeds of Promise
Ms. Maureen Kirkwood, Health Net of West Michigan
Mr. Adam London, Kent County Health Department
Mr. Junaid Maqsood, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Rev. David May, Grand Rapids NAACP
Ms. Kwan McEwen, Grand Rapids Urban League
Ms. Barb Meconis, Healthy Homes Coalition, President
Ms. RoseAnn Miller, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Ms. Crystal Mitchell, Seeds of Promise
Ms. Julie Niemchick, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association
Mr. Clay Powell, Rental Property Owners Association
Mr. Wesley Priem, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Ms. Kate Luckert Schmid, Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Mr. Darrell Singleton, Kent County Community Development
Ms. Martha Stanbury, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Mr. Douglas Stek, City of Grand Rapids
Ms. Joellen Thompson, City of Grand Rapids
Ms. Annemarie Valdez, First Steps
Mr. Cameron Van Wyngarden, Plainfield Township
Dr. Susan Wakefield, We Are For Children
Ms. Whitney White, Talent 2025
Ms. Shannon Wilson, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute
Mr. Bill Wood, WMEAC
Ms. Betty Zylstra, The Salvation Army