

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**YEAR 4
END-OF-YEAR
REPORT**

09.30.2024 - 09.29.2025

**CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND
SURVEILLANCE OF BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN
CHILDREN**

Prepared by

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Evaluation Team

for

Marion County Public
Health Department
Childhood Lead
Poisoning Prevention
Program

This publication was supported by Centers for
Disease Control Grant No. CDC-RFA-EH21-210

Introduction

The Marion County Public Health Department's (MCPHD) Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) addresses childhood lead exposure within the Marion County community.

This program is dedicated to eliminating childhood lead exposure as a public health problem through strengthening blood lead testing, reporting, surveillance, and ensuring exposed children are linked with recommended services.

Within this program, there are 16 specific activities MCPHD has developed to focus on decreasing childhood lead poisoning in Marion County. These activities are continually tracked by an outside evaluation team at Marian University and reported on biannually. The CDC grant that supports this program runs on a yearly calendar from 09.30-09.29. This report focuses on grant year 4, 09.30.24-09.29.25.

Year 4 End-of-Year Report of Lead Poisoning Prevention Activities

Development of a Countywide Advisory Committee

Ongoing efforts in childhood lead poisoning prevention include regular meetings with the Lead Coalition of Indiana. This coalition is chaired by Jocelyn Keranen, Director of Environmental Health of the Hoosier Environmental Council. Meetings are held monthly, resulting in MCPHD LPPP having met its annual goal of four meetings per year.

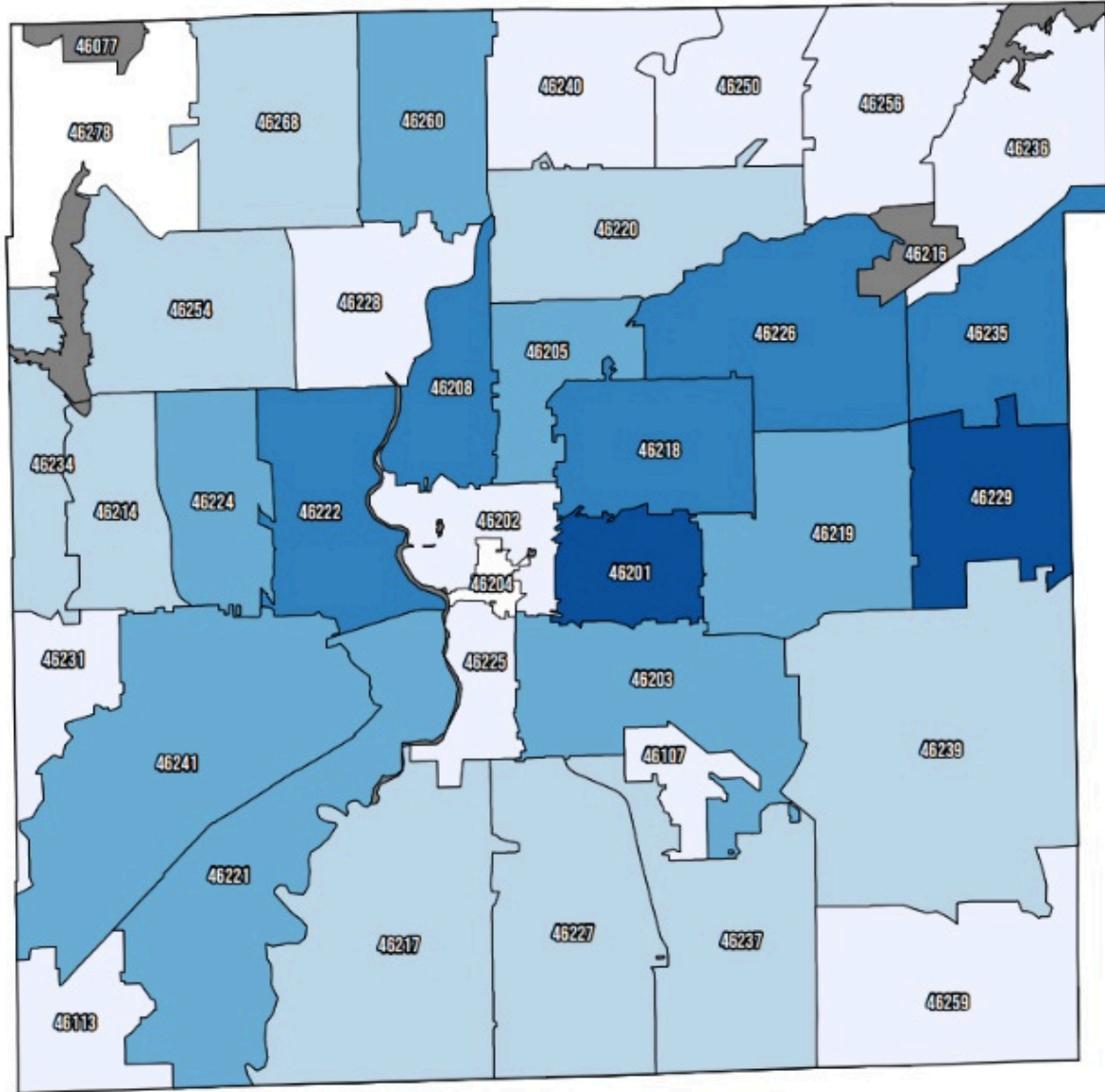
Target	Outcomes
4 meetings per year	Meetings occurred on: 10/25/24 4/25/25 11/22/24 6/27/25 1/24/25 7/25/25 2/28/25 8/22/25 3/28/25 9/26/25

Surveillance Maps and Targeted Activities

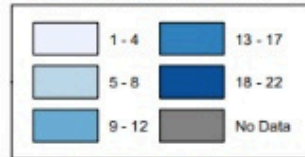
Regularly updated Elevated Blood Lead Level Surveillance Maps are used to identify "hot spots" and conduct targeted outreach to identified communities. The most recent map below illustrates "hot spots" where lead prevention activities were focused in the second quarter of the 2025 calendar year, which coincides with the third quarter of year 4 project activities.

Target	Outcomes
Use the regularly updated Lead Surveillance Maps to identify "hot spots" and conduct targeted outreach to identified communities	ZIP codes with concerning numbers of lead poisoned children identified for prevention outreach activities include: 46222, 46208, 46218, 46201, 46226, 46235, 46229

2025 - 2ND QUARTER ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL (BLL) SURVEILLANCE MAP (BY ZIP CODE FOR MARION COUNTY, INDIANA)



COUNT OF CHILDREN <7 YEARS WITH BLL = 5



MAP CREATED 05/18/2025 HHC01503118

2025 Calendar Year Quarter 2 Elevated Blood Lead Levels Surveillance Map
Source: Fereshteh Gholipour, MPH (MCPHD epidemiologist)

Children Tested at Foreign-Born/Refugee Health Clinic

Further efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning include the provision of blood lead testing at the Marion County Foreign-Born/Refugee Health Clinic. The year 4 target is to provide follow up testing services per CDC guidelines at MCPHD Foreign Born clinic.

Target	Outcomes
Provide follow up testing services per CDC guidelines at Marion County Public Health Department Foreign Born clinics/ week	Clients that need follow-up testing had begun being contacted in the first half of the grant year. 74 letters were sent in Q3, 49 letters were sent in Q4. Lead performance test was 16.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

MCPHD LPPP works in conjunction with the NAACP to develop and promote policies to address public health funding for lead exposure, educational services, and housing support in Marion County and in Indiana overall as well as focuses on education for the community on lead poisoning. To advance this goal, MCPHD partnered with the NAACP to hold a lead summit in Indianapolis in year 4 of the grant with policy makers in mind. Public health policy development is founded upon the strategic engagement of stakeholders, ultimately leading to policy implementation if successful. Gaining success in this area is historically a long-term process; this is most certainly the case for public health in Indiana, ranked 47th in public health funding nationwide (Governor's Public Health Commission, 2023).

Target	Outcomes
Partner to hold a lead summit targeted towards policy makers and community leaders to develop next steps in addressing lead in the community	Lead summit held in Year 4

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Development

This program goal was to develop an MOU with Managed Health Services (MHS); this was completed in year 1. No new MOUs are under development.

Target

Outcomes

Completed MOU with MHS

No new updates.
Program goal achieved.

Provider Report Card Updates

The report cards inform providers about their lead testing compliance rate for Medicaid-eligible children as required by law. Data is reported one quarter in arrears; therefore, data found in the current report provides the compliance rate from Q4 of calendar year 2024, 64% (which coincides with Q1 of grant year 4), Q1 of calendar year 2025, 65% (which coincides with Q2 of grant year 4), Q2 of calendar year 2025, 65% (which coincides with Q3 of grant year 4), and Q3 of calendar year 2025, 51% (which coincides with Q4 of grant year 4). The year 4 average percentage was 61.25%. Outreach efforts have increased in accordance with the new universal testing law that went into effect on January 1, 2023.

Target

Outcomes

75% compliance

The average percentage for year 4 was 61.25%
Testing rate collected for Q4, 2024: 64%
Testing rate collected for Q1, 2025: 65%
Testing rate collected for Q2, 2025: 65%
Testing rate collected for Q3, 2025: 51%

Television Programming

A goal to utilize Á Tu Salud television programming spots to increase awareness within the Spanish-speaking community about lead exposure hazards and community resources was created. A contract has been executed to air commercial spots. This contract is currently in effect with 11 spots being aired per week. All spots do not speak specifically to lead exposures but also address other Healthy Homes department educational topics.

Target

Average 1-2 spots per week

Outcome

No changes, contract in place with 11 spots being aired per week.

Non-Reporting Point of Care Service Providers

To ensure that lead-poisoned children are identified across the care continuum, a goal was developed to share all non-reporting point of care service providers to the Indiana State Department of Health (IDoH) for follow-up. This is an ongoing goal for year 4; 64 new instance of non-reporting providers were identified between 09.30.24 and 09.29.25.

Target

Identify and report 100% of non-reporting point of care service providers to IDoH for follow-up

Outcomes

64 new non-reporting point of service providers identified from 09.30.24-09.29.25.
Q1: 19 identified
Q2: 20 identified
Q3: 25 identified
Q4: no changes identified

Referrals to the REACH Program

This program strategy to reduce lead poisoning in children is comprised of two parts: (1) refer children to REACH program; (2) add case management standard operating procedures for this population. 4 new children were referred to REACH in year 4. Development of case management procedures had been identified as a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) project and has been completed, pending approval.

Target	Outcomes
100% of eligible clients encountered by the program that receive REACH information card will have documentation in case notes	4 additional children referred between 09.30.24 and 09.29.25.

Coordinate Blood Lead Testing in Schools and Childcare Facilities for Children Six Years and Younger

The goal for this measure is to provide increased blood lead testing in schools, childcare facilities and early learning centers in Marion County. Data is continually updated with each facility where testing is offered. Testing at schools and childcare facilities provides an additional avenue for testing other than physician offices.

Target	Outcomes
Increase number of facilities recruited that receive blood lead testing services by 10%	Q1: Schools (6 facilities), Childcare (2 facilities), Headstart (4 facilities) and Early Learning Center (0 facilities). Total: 12 facilities. Q2: Schools (0 facilities), Childcare (1 facility), Headstart (6 facilities) and Early Learning Center (0 facilities). Total: 7 facilities
93 facilities tested in Year 3 making target for Year 4 102 facilities tested	Q3: Schools (2 facilities), Childcare (4 facilities), Headstart (0 facilities) and Early Learning Center (6 facilities). Total: 12 facilities Q4: Schools (4 facilities), Childcare (1 facility), Headstart (7 facilities) and Early Learning Center (0 facilities). Total 12 facilities
Year 4 Total: 43 facilities tested	

Refer Eligible Homes to Home Repair Program

A program goal is for lead inspectors to refer eligible homes to the City of Indianapolis Home Repair programs, Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA), Federal Housing and Urban Development grants (HUD), and the Indiana Department of Health's Lead Repair Program. As of 09.29.25, 34 identified eligible homes were referred to home repair programs.

Target	Outcomes
Average of 5 referrals of eligible properties per month	34 applications have been sent out as of 09.30.2025 7 applications in Q1, 11 applications in Q2, 7 applications in Q3, and 9 applications in Q4.

Lead Information Dissemination in Newsletter

An additional program outreach goal is to include lead hazard information in newsletters distributed to 2,500 individuals monthly. Currently, there are not 2,500 individuals on the mailing list for the newsletter. A CQI project was created and to increase the number of individuals the newsletter is distributed to monthly. For the current mailing list, Mission Unleaded information was included in monthly newsletters during quarters 1, 3, and 4 of year 4 due to contract issues during the second quarter of the grant year.

Target	Outcomes
1 newsletter per quarter contains lead hazard information	Newsletters including Mission Unleaded information have been sent out monthly. There is a gap at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 due to contract issues. . Newsletters sent out on: 10/7/24, 4/28/25, 5/13/25, 5/30/25, 6/30/25, 8/11/25, and 8/29/25

Sustainability Plan

A goal of the program is to develop a sustainability plan in an effort to ensure that lead prevention activities will remain in the long-term to continue benefiting the community. A sustainability plan framework has been identified: the 9-domain public health programming framework defined by Schell et al. (2013). Utilizing this framework, focus groups have been conducted yearly to assist in developing this plan. Write up about the results of the focus group and final sustainability plan are to come in year 5.

Target

At least one additional focus group addressing program activities

Outcomes

Last focus group was held on 03.05.25; sustainability plan progress is on track; rough version of sustainability plan has been drafted and is in progress.

Point of Care Service Providers

Program staff maintain a countywide registry of in-office testing sites and point of care screening. This activity is complete.

Target

100% of countywide locations of in-office testing sites and points of care screening identified and added to registry

Outcomes

Activity complete, with catalog in use. The number on registry remains 35.

Community-Based Hazard Elimination

Engage with strategic partners to implement targeted, population-based interventions aimed at primary prevention of lead exposure with a focus on community-based approaches for lead hazard elimination.

Target	Outcomes
Participate in a minimum of 4 targeted interventions with partners	Participated in 70 events with partners this grant year. Q1: 5 events Q2: 4 events Q3: 29 events Q4: 32 events

Marion County AI Lead Registry

Include relevant lead hazard information in the Marion County AI Lead Registry to include the CDC LERI, when available, EPA EJ Screening, and information on lead service lines when available, Marion County Risk Map.

Target	Outcomes
Include interactive maps (CDC LERI--when available, EPA EJ Screen, Citizens Water Lead Service Line--when available). CDC LERI has not been released and will be included once released. The Citizen's Water interactive map of lead services lines will be completed later 2024 in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. Once released, the Lead Program will work to have it added to the AI lead registry.	This activity was completed in Q2 of grant year 4. The AI assisted lead registry housed on the Mission Unleaded website contains the lead inspection reports completed by the Marion County Public Health Department in the last 10 years. AI has been trained to be able to provide a summary of the report and answer specific questions regarding the report or lead in general. A risk map is now live on the site with data from the EJ screen related to housing built before 1960 that is likely to have lead-based paint as well as proximity to superfund sites.

References

Governor's Public Health Commission. (2023). A state of investment in local public health. Available from <https://www.in.gov/health/about-the-agency/boards-and-commissions/gphc/>.

Schell, S. F., Luke, D. A., Schooley, M. W., Elliott, M. B., Herbers, S. H., Mueller, N. B., Bungler, A. C. (2013). Public health program capacity for sustainability: A new framework. Available from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3599102/>.