



**FY 2015 Labor HHS Appropriations  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Center for Environmental Health  
Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

Lead hazards in the home continue to pose a serious risk to America’s most vulnerable children. Congress can protect millions of kids nationwide from hazardous environmental toxins by fully funding CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program. With funding partially restored to this vital program in FY14, 41 state and local health departments will be able to identify homes that pose the greatest risks of lead poisoning and target preventive actions. However, more effort will be needed in FY15 to protect the greatest number of children from the harmful effects of preventable lead hazards.

Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention	Appropriation				NSHHC	President
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15 Request	FY15 Proposed
	\$29,257	\$1,995	\$2,448	\$15,528	\$29,257	\$15,528

*Dollars in thousands*

**Recommendation:** Provide \$29 million for the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, restoring the program to the FY11 funding level to protect children at highest risk.

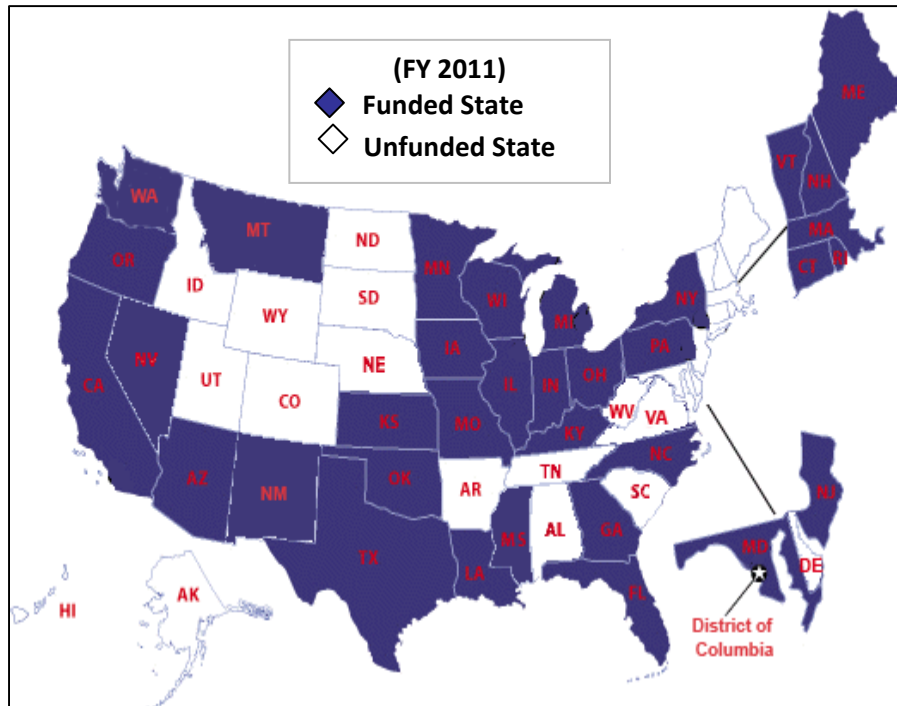
**Background:** Lead poisoning remains a significant environmental public health threat. Although the prevalence of elevated blood levels has significantly declined from the 1970s, when 88 percent of children had excessive lead in their bodies, today thousands of **children need CDC-funded services to prevent their exposures.**

Lead poisoning causes cognitive and behavioral problems, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Children with harmful blood lead levels will **lose three to four I.Q. points** on average, which can make the difference between a high D average and a low C. Children with a history of lead poisoning are **six times more likely to drop out of school.** Lead poisoning also causes cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine problems. Ultimately, lead exposure costs the nation more than **\$50 billion in lost lifetime productivity.**

**African-American children** are nearly **three times as likely to be lead poisoned** as Caucasian children and **children in low-income households are twice as likely.**

**Justification:** During the last two decades, CDC delivered a cost-effective program to prevent lead poisoning and help children who have already been exposed to lead. CDC is the only agency that houses the information about where and when children are poisoned, maintaining it through a national surveillance system that monitors blood test results for four million children each year. Communities need CDC-funded health department staff (nurses, social workers, and environmental health professionals) to conduct on-the-ground efforts to identify and respond to high-risk homes and other possible lead exposure sources, refer property owners to remediation resources (such as the HUD lead grant program), and deliver ongoing education and guidance to local officials, families, and health care providers to ensure appropriate child screenings prevention of lead poisoning.

## CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: At-a-Glance



- Funding for 35 states to help families with lead-poisoned children and other health hazards.
  - ✓ From 1997-2008, CDC's lead program served 850,000 children.
  - ✓ Programs ensure that the child's health is protected via screening and case management.
- Leading national lead poisoning primary prevention efforts.
  - ✓ Between 2008 and 2010, helped reduce by 200,000 the number of children who have been exposed to lead—saving \$7.5 billion in lifetime productivity.
  - ✓ In 1990, only three states had state lead laws. As of 2009, 27 states had comprehensive laws enabling health departments to compel cleanup of hazardous homes.
- Maintaining a system for the collection and dissemination of data on lead poisoning.
  - ✓ CDC uses the data to track incidence and causes, expose outbreaks.
  - ✓ 38 states report their data to CDC.
  - ✓ Data are used to target prevention and HUD grants for lead hazard control in housing.

### Number of U.S. children aged 1-5 with blood lead levels greater than 5 µg/dL

