



Healthy Homes  
Healthy Children

# Using a statewide strategy to eliminate lead poisoning in Rhode Island

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# THE "BIG PICTURE"

Lead: a metal found in the environment

Mostly in homes because of lead based paint

Children exposed to lead hazards at home

To eliminate lead: remove lead hazards in housing

Mandate to measure elimination

Understand the housing situation

Need housing (address) data

Housing data is not available to Health Dept

Need partners to get housing data

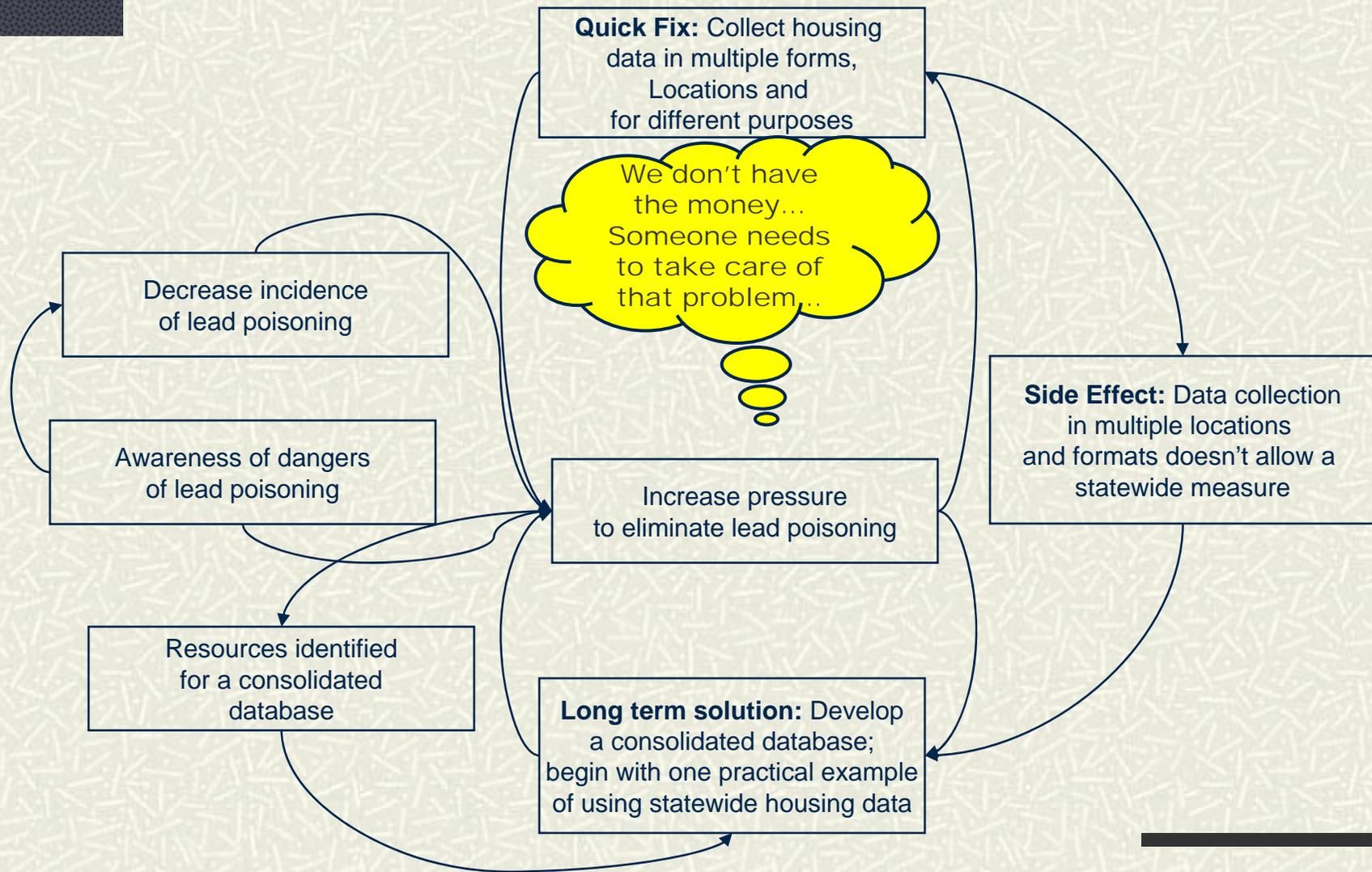
Housing agency shares the goal, lacks resources

MOU was signed (RI CLPPP to do the work)

SOME data collected

**Statewide housing report in progress!**

# SHIFTING THE BURDEN



# THE PROCESS

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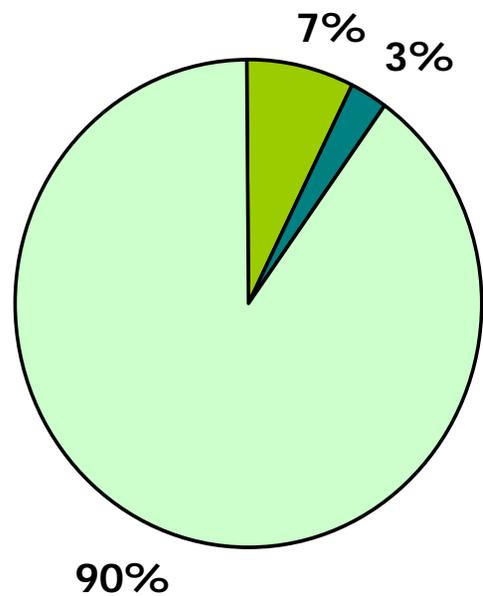
- # 7/05: Established the “Healthy Housing Collaborative” and develop a statewide vision for healthy housing
  - # 1/06: Sign the Memorandum of Understanding
  - # 1/07: Issue the “vision” document
  - # 2006: Mechanism to collect data
  - # Late 2006: Collect the data
  - # 2007: Demonstrate the value of the data
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# DATA AVAILABLE

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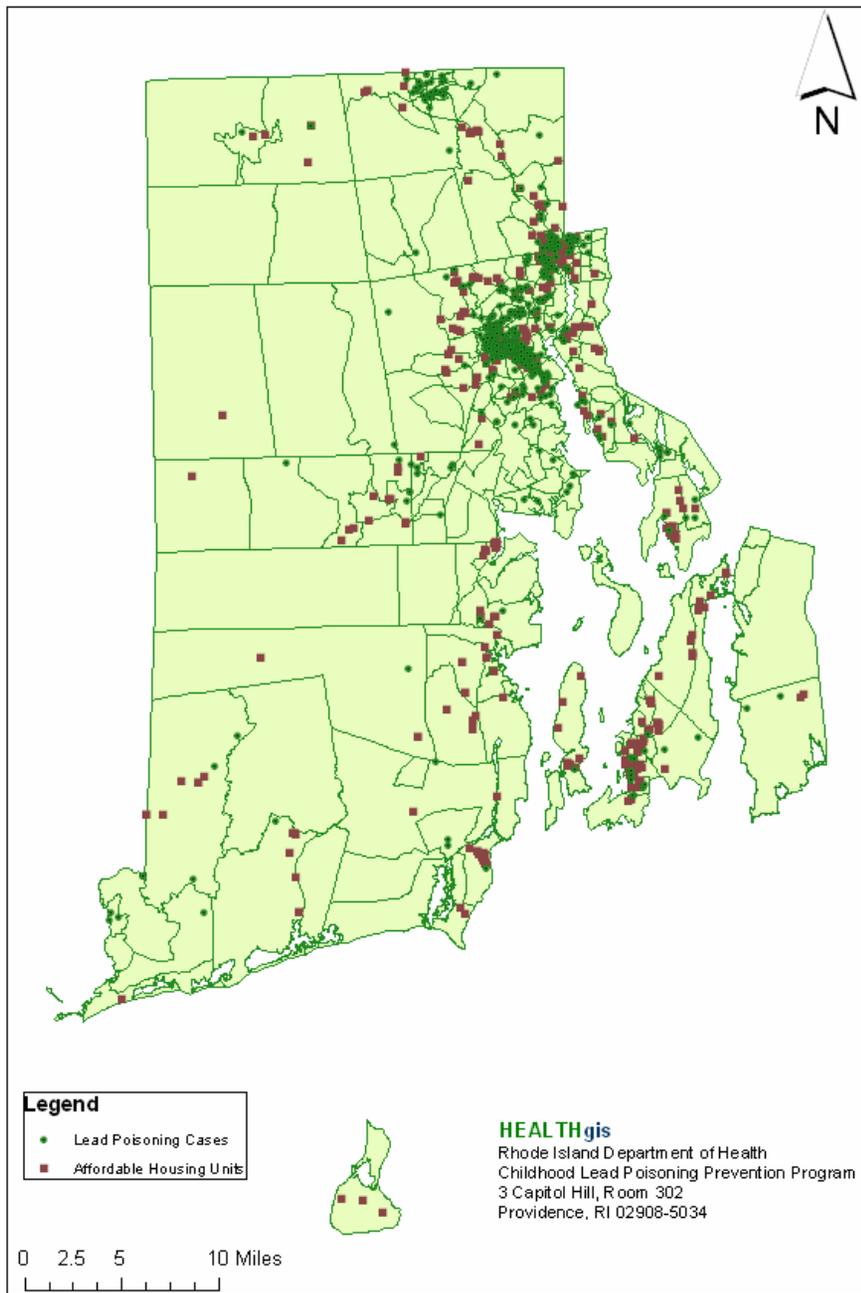
- Units that used HUD subsidy
  - Units mitigated (Certificates of Conformance)
  - Units considered low/moderate income housing
  - Lead screening
  - Units inspected for lead hazards
  - Plat/lot (for 17 of 39 RI cities/towns)
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# RI HOUSING DATA

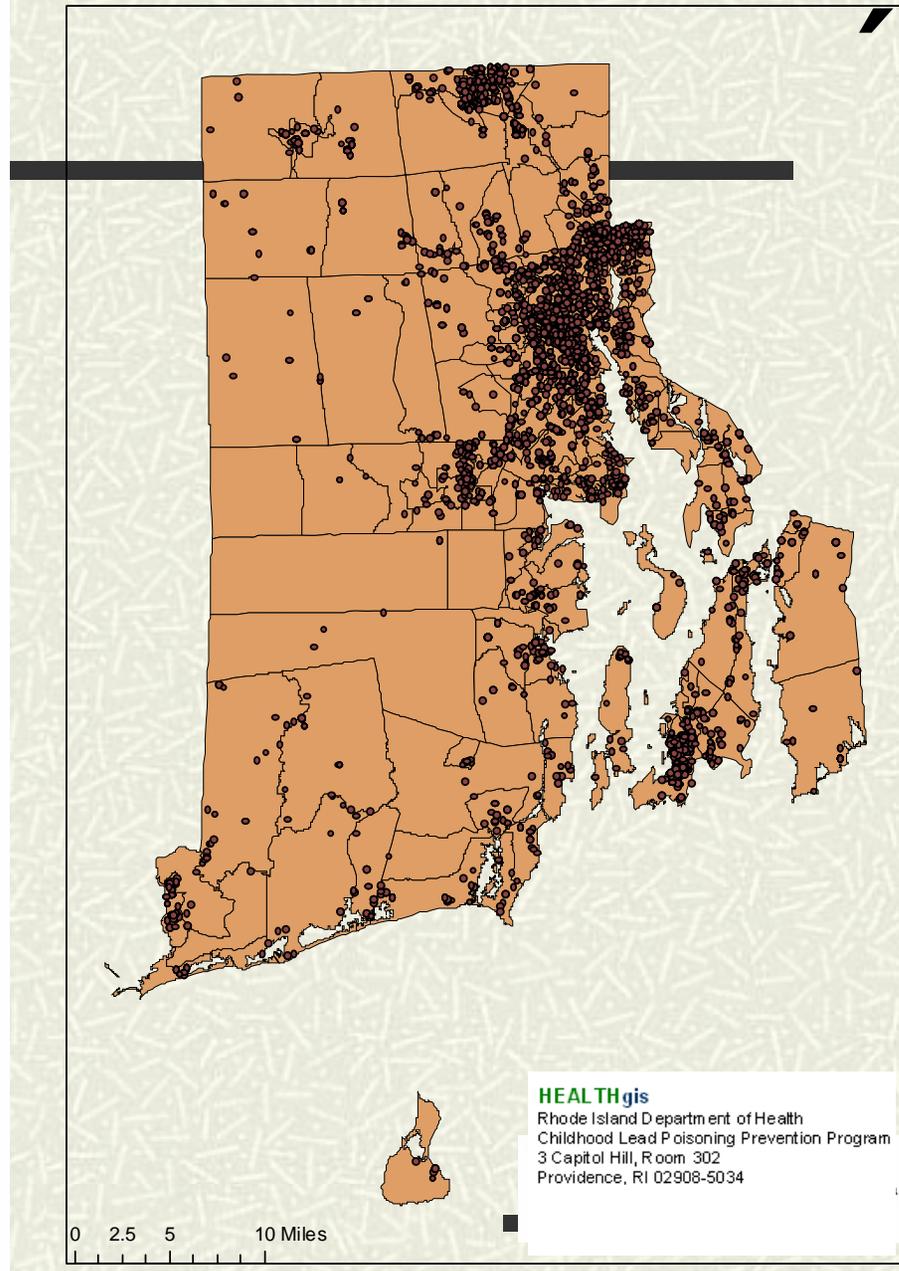


- LMI housing
- LMI for families
- All housing units

### Distribution of Lead Poisoning Cases and Affordable Housing Units in Rhode Island, 2006



### Rhode Island Housing Units with a Certificate of Conformance, 2006



# LESSONS LEARNED

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- # Need partners
  - # Make partnership work for your goals...
  - # Who will do the actual work?
  - # Leadership is important, so is creativity
  - # Start small, expand and keep the momentum
  - # Show the results to the world
  - # Use the POWER of data!!
  - # Connect the project to national goals
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# PUBLIC HEALTH

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## # Core functions:

- Assessment: use data to measure situation
- Policy development: Mobilize partners
- Assurance: Evaluate effectiveness of effort

## # Essentials of Environmental Health:

- Monitor environmental and health status to identify community environmental health problems
  - Diagnose EH problems, mobilize community partnerships, develop policies, evaluate the effectiveness of EH services
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# NATIONAL GOALS

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## # CDC Health Protection Goals:

- Healthy people in healthy places

## # Healthy People 2010 objectives:

- Eliminate elevated blood lead levels in children
- Reduce exposure of population to heavy metals (lead)

## # National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services Goals:

- Build capacity; Communicate and market; Create strategic partnerships
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# EH PRACTITIONERS

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- # Core Competencies for Local Environmental Health Practitioners:
    - Information gathering
    - Management, problem solving, reporting
    - Collaboration
    - Communication
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# WHAT IS NEXT?

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- # Continue partnership and MOU
  - # Get data for housing statewide
  - # Determine where to house the database
  - # Identify funding and support for the database ongoing maintenance
  - # Issue report of health and housing –08
  - # Eliminate lead poisoning = establish healthy housing in the state
  - # Do everything with fewer dollars and scarce resources
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# MESSAGE TO THE NEW CLASS

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- # Make the best out of this learning opportunity
  - # Make friends since the beginning
  - # Use the help offered to you (coach, etc.)
  - # Establish and use your network
  - # Share the knowledge with others
  - # Send others to attend EPHLI
  - # Stay connected
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"Never doubt that a  
small group of thoughtful committed  
citizens can change the world;  
indeed it's the only thing  
that ever has." Margaret Mead



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