A Closer Look at State Certified Lead Abatement Workers and Supervisors and the Adult Lead Registry

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Summary of ABLES Protocol in Michigan

- Laboratory results are reported to the State Health Department
- ≥ 16 years, reports are forwarded to MSU
- Interview:
  - ≥25 µg/dL – all
  - ≥10-24 µg/dL – if source of exposure unknown
- OSHA inspection if ≥25 µg/dL
- Letter to physician who ordered blood lead (diagnosis and management of lead toxicity in adults)
- Letter to individual (i.e., lead brochure, remodeling, firearms brochure)

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Lead Hazard Remediation Program & Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

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Lead Professionals

- Certification process - Lead professionals & contractors
- Lead Training Course Schedule
- Accredited Lead Training Providers
- Lead Certification (third-party) Exams
- List of Certified Lead Professionals & Firms
- Lead Risk Assessors & EBL Investigators
- Lead-based Paint Inspectors
- Lead Clearance Technicians
- Lead Abatement Supervisors
- Lead Abatement Workers
- Lead Project Designers
- Lead Contractors - abatement & renovation
- Regulatory Resources for Lead Professionals & Contractors
- Forms for Lead Professionals & Contractors
- List of Approved Encapsulants
- Insurance for Lead Abatement Contractors
- UPDATES & Interpretive Guidance

Certified Lead Professionals & Firms

- Michigan Lead Abatement Act

Certified Lead Professionals & Firms

- **Certified Workers** and **Supervisors**
- **Certified Inspectors** and **Risk Assessors**

Certified Lead Professionals & Firms

- **Inspectors, Risk Assessors**, and **Clearance Technicians**
- **Certified [licensed] lead abatement firms**

Databases

- Lead abatement workers as of 3/14/06: 277
- Lead abatement supervisors as of 3/14/06: 1,686
- ABLES registry, 1997 to 3/16/06: 77,090

Certified Lead Abatement Workers, Matching

1. Social Security Number = 35 (definite matches)
2. Name = 43 (possible matches)
3. Manual Match = 4 (possible matches)
4. Unmatchable = 186 (non-matches)
5. Name match, different SSN = 9 (non-matches)

TOTAL = 277

Certified Lead Abatement Supervisors, Matching

1. Social Security Number = 128 (definite matches)
2. Name = 260 (possible matches)
3. Manual Match = 31 (possible matches)
4. Unmatchable = 1,221 (non-matches)
5. Name match, different SSN = 46 (non-matches)

TOTAL = 1,686

Certified Lead Abatement Workers, Results

- Workers – 277 certified
  - 12.6% (35) definite matches
    (matched on SSN and name)
  - 17.0% (47) possible matches
    (matched on name only; SSN missing from one or both databases)
  - 29.6% (82) total (definite + possible)

Certified Lead Abatement Supervisors, Results

- Supervisors – 1,686 certified
  - 7.6% (128) definite matches (matched on SSN and name)
  - 17.3% (291) possible matches (matched on name only; SSN missing from one or both databases)
  - 24.9% (419) total (definite + possible)

Results of Lead Abatement Workers and Supervisors, Definite Matches, Distribution of Blood Lead Levels

Blood Lead Level (µg/dL)	Workers		Supervisors	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
< 10	28	80.0	109	85.2
10-24	6	17.1	14	10.9
25-29	1	2.9	3	2.3
30-39	0	--	2	1.6
TOTAL	35	100.0	128	100.0

Results of Five Completed Interviews Representing Five Different Employers

- 3, report good controls
- 1, reports no separate locker for work and street clothes, no place to shower, keeps respirator in cabinet
- 1, reports no separate locker for work and street clothes, no place to shower, keeps respirator in company tool trailer

Estimate of Percentage of Workers Exposed to Lead Who Have Blood Lead Testing

- Study in CA, early 1990s
  - 8% of employees from radiator repair facilities
  - 34% of employees from secondary smelters

    (American Journal of Public Health 1992;82:1113-1118)
  - Overall it was estimated that <3% of employees in CA exposed to lead were provided blood lead testing by their employer.

    (American Journal of Public Health 1990;80:921-925)
  - On a national basis it was estimated that <12% of companies using lead provided blood lead testing for their employees.

    (American Journal of Public Health 1992;82:1113-1118)

Reasons for Lack of Blood Lead Testing

- No requirements to have medical monitoring with blood lead, only Michigan OSHA standards
- Some people get certified and never do lead removal work
- Difficulty in enforcing OSHA lead standard in construction

Future Interventions

- Discussions with Michigan OSHA about conducting enforcement inspections of work sites where certified workers/supervisors are present

Future Directions

- Agencies that certify lead abatement workers and supervisors obtain unique personal identifiers so as to check against the adult lead registry
- Encourage more blood lead testing by employers (i.e., made part of the certification requirements)
- Michigan OSHA or State Health Department to follow-up with employers with employees with elevated blood lead levels, and those employers not performing blood lead testing

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WARNING
WORK
DEC 10 2004

File DSC01862.JPG, 3/6, Scale: 100.0%, 1024 x 768 pix., 339 KB
DEC 10 2004

CAUTION
Lead Hazard
Work Area

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2005 Annual Report on Blood Lead Levels on Adults and Children in Michigan

A Joint Report of

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And

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Since 1978, physicians, hospitals, clinics, other health professionals and employers have been required by the Michigan Public Health Code to report known or suspected cases of occupational disease to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG). Initially, the number of reports received was generally less than one hundred per year. However, following the 1988 implementation of the Sentinal Event Notification System for Occupational Risks (Project SENSOR), a statewide initiative began to actively solicit reports of occupational disease (OD). MDLEG now contracts with MSU's College of Human Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Division to assist in handling approximately 15,000-20,000 reports a year of occupational disease.

Submit An On-Line Occupational Disease Report On A Patient

Questions & Comments

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