Tracking Childhood Lead Testing and Poisoning in Wisconsin: Linking Hazards with Health Outcomes



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Childhood Lead Poisoning

- In Wisconsin during 2002 more than 4,400 children less than six years of age were tested and had blood lead levels of 10 ug/dL or greater;
- Approximately 80,000 children are tested each year within Wisconsin;
- Considered to be an environmental disease, caused primarily by exposure to lead in the household;
 - Lead-based paint, primarily in pre-1950 housing
 - Dust on walls, floors and windowsills
 - The potential for exposure increases as children become mobile at around 1 year of age

Childhood Lead Poisoning

- A 'preventable' disease in that the occurrence of and exposure to lead in the home environment can be controlled;
 - WCLPPreventionP
 - Housing based: Primary prevention seeks to reduce or eliminate the potential sources for exposure
- WCLPPP is not only interested in tracking incidence and prevalence of lead testing and poisoning, but also in identifying, tracking and attempting to ameliorate the sources of lead in the environment;
- Tracking lead in the home environment is critical to the success of the WCLPPP:

lead in child's environment (hazard) => elevated blood lead levels (potential outcome)

Childhood Lead Poisoning

- Lead in the home environment is strongly correlated to:
 - Age of housing
 - Condition of housing
- Both are strongly correlated to property value and socio-economic status of the property owner/tenants
 - Relative value of housing
 - Rental v. ownership status of tenants
 - Participation in Medicaid and/or WIC program as indicator of SES:
- The increased risk is likely related to the age and condition of housing available to low income families.

Childhood Lead Poisoning

- WCLPPP maintains extensive data base of children and housing stock:
 - STELLAR data base:
 - Blood lead testing in children 0 through 5 years old,
 - Interventions and medical follow-up,
 - Housing conditions and lead hazard abatement;
 - Medicaid and WIC eligibility and enrollment data bases;
 - Tax Assessor, housing stock and census data bases.
- WCLPPP conducts analysis and tracking to quantify the scope and nature of hazards and outcomes, and to focus efforts on the highest risk children and housing.

Childhood Lead Poisoning

- Of the children in the WCLPPP database for whom we have housing information:
 - 92 % of poisoned children resided in pre-1950 housing;
 - 88 % of poisoned children were in Medicaid and/or WIC;
 - 81 % of poisoned children resided in pre-1950 housing AND were Medicaid and/or WIC eligible during the year they were tested and found to be poisoned;
 - 28 % of children in Medicaid and/or WIC AND residing in pre-1950 housing were found to have at least one blood lead test result >= 10 ug/dL

==> highest risk children are those in Medicaid and/or WIC who live in pre-1950 housing





30% 🔻 🔣 1 of 1 🕨 🗵 17 x 11 in 🗉 🗹





Number of Children Tested and Average Blood Lead Level v. Age Wisconsin Children Tested 1998 - 2002

Age in Months



Prevalence of Blood Lead Poisoning Among Wisconsin Children Less Than Six Years Old by Race and Ethnicity 1996-2002

Testing Rates for Children Eligible for Medicaid 2001







Medicaid Data Sharing

WCLPPP provides blood lead testing data to the Medicaid Program on a quarterly basis

- Medicaid prepares and submits quarterly reports to individual providers
 - list of Medicaid eligible children who have not had an appropriate blood lead test
- WCLPPP provides assistance during the matching process to ensure that all tested children are sufficiently included

Medicaid Data Sharing (cont'd)

WCLPPP has on-line, real-time access to Medicaid Eligibility Database

- Medicaid eligibility data updates downloaded quarterly
- Data cleaned and reformatted to allow use with WCLPPP data
- Cleaned and reformatted data matched to WCLPPP child and test data
- Matched data used for various analyses regarding screening rates, incidence and prevalence among the Medicaid and non-Medicaid populations

Medicaid Provider Performance

To identify changes in annual testing rates for individual providers and types of providers

- In association with 'Health Check' exams to identify 'Found' and 'Missed Opportunities'
- Public v. Private providers (e.g., LHDs/WICs v. FQHCs v. private)
- Fee-for-service v. managed care
- Individual HMOs

WIC Pilot Project Monthly Reports

WCLPPP blood lead testing data and status provided to WIC projects via the 'Statewide Lookup Table'

- Enrollment data obtained monthly from WIC program
- WIC data cleaned and reformatted to allow match with WCLPPP data
- Cleaned and reformatted WIC data matched to STELLAR children and testing history
- Allows individual clinicians to determine whether or not a blood lead test is recommended for an individual child at the time of their visit to the WIC clinic

- The WCLPPP Medicaid data match links the WCLPPP Stellar lead testing with the Medicaid eligibility database.
- Multi-step process to develop the data set from which the summary analyses and statistics are derived.
- The first step is a match between the WCLPPP Stellar 'Child' table and the Medicaid eligibility database.

Match between WCLPPP "Stellar" data and Medicaid Eligibility Data

- sequential
- based on name, date of birth, gender
- uses SAS v 8.02 running on a stand-alone PC
- direct and 'fuzzy' matches using SAS, including Spedis and Soundex functions
- "Eligibility" defined as being 'eligible' at least once during a year of interest, as determined by 'Eligibility Begin' and 'Eligibility End' dates in the Medicaid database

'Normal' Match

- matching algorithms written in SAS
- matches exact spellings of first name, last name, gender
- slightly fuzzy on birthday: +/- one day and one year
- "Matched" and "Residuals" files created
- accounts for 70% to 90% of all matches

Spedis-Based Matching

- Built-in SAS function
- measures the 'distance' between the spelling of two words
- degree of 'dissimilarity'
- range of acceptable distance set by user
 - tolerance determined from sensitivity analyses
- match done on "Residuals" file
- exact dates of birth
- matches added to "Matched" file; "Residuals" file created
- typically accounts for 10% to 30% of all matches

Soundex-Based Matching

- Built-in SAS function
- common coding algorithm for encoding names
 - driver's licenses
 - tax rolls
- converts each word into a short sequence of characters and numerals
- 'hard wired,' cannot be 'tweaked'
- exact dates of birth
- match done on "Residuals" file; matches added to "Matched" file
- typically only a couple hundred matches; manually checked

Spedis Match Between MA and WCLPPP Children Based on First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth and Gender (fictitious names)

Tolerance Factor	STELLAR_UN_ LEAD	RECIPIENTID MA	FIRSTNAME LEAD	FIRSTNAME MA	LASTNAME LEAD	LASTNAME MA	DATEOFBIRTH LEAD
30	348	101010101	JESSE Jr	JESSE	GOLDEN	GOLDEN Jr	4/2/00
30	376	101010104	JACK	JACK	LEE Jr	LEE	4/25/00
30	406	101010105	STEFANY	STEFANIE	SCHEURMANN	SCHEURMAN	8/13/00
30	438	101010110	CARLOS	CARLOS	MONTEZ	MONTES	6/26/00
30	473	101010115	ROMAN	ROMAN	PETTERSEN-ZAH	PETTERSEN	11/8/99
30	552	101010122	TAYLOR	TAYLOR	RAFFENSPERG	RAFFENSPERGER	2/24/01
30	596	101010123	ALFREDO	ALFREDO	MARTINES	MARTINEZ	12/31/00
30	644	101010125	ANNA	ANNA	ADAMZ	ADAMS	11/2/99
30	751	101010132	RAYMEL	RAYMELL	BROWN	BROWN	8/4/00
30	3242	101010154	TYRONE	TY	WRIGHT	WRIGHT	6/21/00
30	4764	101010159	CHRISTOPHER	CHRISTOPHE	RIVERA	RIVERA	11/7/00
30	7000	101010165	STAR	STAR	HERNANDEZ-MOR	HERNANDEZ MOR	1/12/01
30	7560	101010166	RAEKWON	RAEKWON	ENRIGHT	ENRIGHT GOLDE	1/26/01
90	946	101010135	SAMERA	SAMERA	YANG	FISCHER	1/16/01
110	30210	101010176	GEORGE	RONALD	DOEDEN	RANDLE	9/8/00

(fictitious names) SoundexFirst SoundexFirst SoundexLast SoundexLast FIRSTNAME LEAD FIRSTNAME MA LASTNAME LEAD LASTNAME MA NameLead NameMA NameMA NameLead ALYSSA ALYSSA A42 A42 YANG YANG Y52 Y52 ALYSSA ALYSSA A42 YANG YANG Y52 Y52 A42 Y52 Y52 ALYSSA ALYSSA A42 A42 YANG YANG ALEXANDRIA A42536 A42536 PRADO PRADO P63 P63 ALEXANDRIA ALEJANDRO ALEJANDRO A42536 A42536 GALINDO JR GALINDO JR G45326 G45326 ANDREW ANDREW A536 A536 MCCANN MCCANN M25 M25 A65 A65 S35 S35 ARIANNA ARIANNA SUTTON SUTTON A65 A65 D65235 ARIONNE ARIONNE DARRINGTON DARRINGTON D65235 BRENDAN BRENDAN B6535 B6535 DANIELS DANIELS D542 D542 C6231 CROSBY CROSBY C621 C621 CHRISTOPHE CHRISTOPHE C6231 CORNESHA CORNESHA C652 C652 COPE COPE C1 C1 DEVIN DEVIN D15 D15 HOLBROOK HOLBROOK H4162 H4162 DIONNE DIONNE D5 D5 HUTCHINSON HUTCHINSON H32525 H32525 ETHAN ETHAN E35 E35 BLACK BLACK B42 B42 R55 ETHAN ETHAN E35 E35 ROMAN ROMAN R55 LEE LEE FABIOLA FABIOLA F14 F14 L L HANNAH HANNAH H5 H5 WILCOX WILCOX W422 W422 JOSEPH JOSEPH J21 J21 MARTIN MARTIN M635 M635 JOCELYN SMITHEE S53 S53 JOCELYN J245 J245 SMITHEE J52 JANIECE JANIECE J52 WILLIAMS WILLIAMS W452 W452 K15 **KEVIN** KEVIN K15 SHAW SHAW S S **KIRSTEN KIRSTEN** K6235 K6235 MOORE JR MOORE JR M626 M626 LUIS GUSTA LUIS GUSTA 12223 L2223 STRUM STRUM S365 S365 LONA L5 L5 LEYONNA AGUILAR AGUILAR A246 A246 LEONARDO LEONARDO L563 L563 DAVIS DAVIS D12 D12 MICAYLA MICAYLA M24 M24 PEAK PEAK P2 P2 MAKAYLA M24 M24 MCCANN MCCANN M25 M25 MAKAYLA MICHAEL MICHAEL M24 M24 DE LA GARZA DE LA GARZA D4262 D4262 P42 MADISON MADISON M325 M325 PAWLAK PAWLAK P42 MARK MARK M62 M62 SANDERS SANDERS S5362 S5362 MARTAVIUS MARTAVIUS M6312 M6312 BYERS BYERS B62 B62 MEREDITH MEREDITH M633 M633 BLAKE BLAKE B42 B42

Soundex Match Between MA and WCLPPP Children Based on First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth and Gender

Wisconsin Homes

37% of homes in Wisconsin were builtbefore 1950 and have a highprobability of containing lead paint.

(1990 U.S. Census Data)

Percentage of Housing Built Prior to 1950





	Counties.shp
Perce	nt_homes_built_before_1
) - 25
	26 - 50
	51 - 75
	76 - 100

Data from 17 individual tax assessor offices

• Appleton, Beloit, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Menasha, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Sheboygan, Superior, Waukesha, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids

• Year of construction, size, property valuation, condition and ownership information

• For a variety of uses within WCLPPP, including the development of screening 'risk profiles' based on housing and socio-economic variables

• Data in variety of formats; requires extensive cleaning and re-formatting

• 'Double-mass' type analysis showing the distribution of testing and poisoning as a function of housing age for individual and groups of communities

Decade of Construction vs Average Maximum BLL at Address: 1840's through 1990's Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Waukesha, Eau Claire, Menasha



Decade of Construction

Data from 17 individual tax assessor offices

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Age of Housing: WCLPPP Tax Assessor Data Base

722,078 houses built prior to 1950;206,980 of which are in WCLPPP Tax Assessor database, with65,528 associated with at least one 0 through 5 year old tested for blood lead, and

10,128 associated with at least one 0 through 5 year old with a blood lead level >= 10 ug/dL





Eau Claire v Menasha: Double-Mass Curve Poisoned



Janesville: Double-Mass Curve Poisoned v. Tested



Milwaukee: Double-Mass Curve Poisoned v. Tested

Janesville: Double-Mass Curve Tested v. Total



Milwaukee: Double-Mass Curve Tested v. Total











