Michigan Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for Underserved Asian Americans

with funding support from Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Child Lead Exposure Elimination Commission

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Project Team

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A Child’s Story
Purpose of the Project

Design, plan, implement, and evaluate a culturally appropriate lead poisoning prevention program for high-risk Asian-Americans in Hamtramck and the Detroit area.
Why the Hamtramck Area?
Lead Poisoning Risk
and Hamtramck
Project Work Plan
Bangladeshis and Elevated Blood Lead Level
Project Goals

A. Connect high-risk children and pregnant women with lead testing and prevention services
B. Provide healthcare professionals and providers with education related to lead testing and elevated blood lead level treatment
C. Create a primary prevention program to increase awareness and connect the community to resources
Goal A

Increase lead-testing and enhance the linkage to services for high-risk children and pregnant women.
Goal A1-2 Objectives

• Obj 1: Provide technical support and expertise for community stakeholders
• Obj 2: Collaborate with community stakeholders to create an action plan
J&E Community Relief

HAAP

Institute of Population Health

MDHHS Region 10

Detroit Health Department

Community Welfare Service of Metro Detroit

APIA Vote

Detroit Lead Safe

CAB Members

BAPAC

Macomb County

Wayne County Health Department
Goal A3 Objective

Obj. 3: Conduct education and outreach
**Nutrition**

**To Prevent Lead Poisoning and Reduce Lead Levels**

**Foods with Vitamin C**
- Well Fed, Less Lead
- Good nutrition is one way to protect your family from lead. For children and adults, three key nutrients can play a role in protecting the body from the harmful effects of lead: calcium, iron, and vitamin C. These nutrients help the body absorb less lead and are part of a healthy diet. Choose a variety of food daily.
  - Oranges, Grapefruit, Strawberries, and Melon
  - Potatoes
  - Tomatoes and Bell Peppers

**Foods with Calcium**
- Milk, Cheese, Yogurt
- Calcium-fortified orange juice

**Foods with Iron**
- Lean Red Meats, Fish, Poultry
- Legumes (Beans, Peas, Lentils)
- Iron-Fortified Cereals

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For more information about lead testing contact Sarah Lally sarahl@msu.edu (517) 355-6432

Eastern Michigan University

Made possible from funding by the MDHHS and CEBC
How Does My Child Have a High Blood Lead Level?

Many older homes built before 1978 were painted with lead-based paint. Water fixtures, things like pipes, sinks, faucets, and sink handles were also made with lead.

Children are at an increased risk for lead poisoning because they like to put everything in their mouths, this is one way lead gets into the body. Lead can also be inhaled by dust in the air. Dust is the most common way children are exposed to lead.

Why Does it Matter if my Child Has a High Blood Lead Level?

There is no safe level of lead in the blood. Elevated blood levels can cause very serious illness in children. Any level 5ug/dl or higher requires intervention and monitoring.

My Child has High Blood Lead Levels

What Next?

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Funding support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Eastern Michigan University Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies
Goal A4 Objective

Obj. 4: Connect lead-exposed pregnant women and children to services
Resources and Services for Lead-Exposed Pregnant Women and Children

Where Can We Get Our Blood Lead Levels Tested?

- Mother-baby Clinics in Hamtramck
  - Hutzel Women's Health Specialists (313) 664-0777
- Henry Ford Medical Center (313) 972-1004
- Metro Medical Practice (313) 891-3555
- Institute for Population Health (313) 309-0350
- Hamtramck WIC Office (734) 727-7166
- Hamtramck Medical Center (313) 871-9261
- Your Child's Doctor
- Your Primary Care Doctor

What Community Programs Can Help Us?

**Head Start (313) 202-0255**
This program is free and helps children of low income families with language, literacy, social and emotional development. The program is for children ages 0-5 years old.

**Early On (800) 327-5966**
This program is free for children ages 0-5 years old who are at risk for developmental delays. It connects families with social, health, and educational resources.

How Can I Get My Home Tested for Lead?

There are free services to have your home tested for lead. If your home has lead, you can apply for Lead Safe programs to fix your home. The Lead Safe programs are free or low-cost. There are programs for Hamtramck and Detroit, the application process is different depending on your zip code. Please call to have an application mailed to your home or pick up an application at 300 Caniff, Hamtramck, 48212.

- **Lead Safe Hamtramck (734) 727-7400**
  - Zip codes: 48211, 48212
- **Lead Safe Detroit (313) 876-0133**
  - Zip codes: 48202, 48204, 48206, 48213, 48214

Contact the EMU Lead Team for more information!
Sarah Lefly, Lead Health Educator (734) 306-6432
email: srlafly@med.umich.edu

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Goal A5-6 Objectives

Obj. 5: Train bilingual navigators to promote services

Outcome Obj. 5:
- Bilingual Navigators provided one-on-one education, multiple education sessions with nurse educator
Goal A5-6 Outcomes

Obj. 6: Maintain collaborative relationships with community stakeholders

Outcome Obj. 6:
• Two community meetings
Goal B

Strengthening workforce to improve competency regarding lead testing and elevated blood lead level management among health professionals and providers caring for children.
Obj. B1: Develop and implement lead poisoning education modules/materials to health professionals and licensed providers that take care of children and pregnant women in community of focus.
Goal B1 Outcomes

Outcomes B1:

- Established relationships with 15 health care providers on provider list (Pediatric, Family and OB), visited three focus offices visit to health care providers that provide care to a large population of Bengali clients.
- Connected and partnered with Hamtramck pediatrician to capture lead testing data.
What Healthcare Providers Need to Know About the Bangladesh Community and Lead

Lead Poisoning Risk Factors

- Many homes before 1978 were painted with lead-based paint and built with lead products
- Immigrants and children of immigrants are at an increased risk of having elevated blood lead levels
- Low-income people have an increased risk for elevated blood lead levels
- Low English proficiency (LEP) creates barriers to receiving optimal medical care
  - Increased difficulty in accessing medical resources
  - Increased communication errors
  - Decreased patient satisfaction
  - Increased risk adverse outcomes
  - Increased health disparities in the community
  - Prescription drug complications

Bangladesh Community Risk Factors

- Hamtramck has the third largest Bangladesh population outside of New York and Miami
- 70% of homes in Hamtramck were built before 1950
- 69% of homes built before 1960 are contaminated with lead
- Children in Hamtramck are two times more likely to have elevated blood lead level
  - 30% of the Bangladeshi children in Hamtramck are between the ages of 0-6 years old
  - 81% of the Bangladeshi living in Hamtramck are foreign-born
  - 39% of the Bangladesh living in Hamtramck live at the poverty level
  - 47% of foreign-born Bangladesh have LEP

How Can Healthcare Providers Help?

- Have all pregnant women and children between the ages of 0-6 years old tested for lead
- Provide interpreter services for all Bangladesh speaking patients
  - Interpreter Services must be utilized to people with low English proficiency (LEP) under Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts

Benefits of Interpreter Services

- Improved quality of healthcare for patients with low English proficiency
- Decreased communication errors
- Increased adherence to treatment plan
- Increased patient positive outcomes and satisfaction

More Information to Come!

- Educational modules related to lead poisoning prevention in high-risk children and pregnant women are being developed
- Electronic, easy to use and complete!


Creating Healthy Asian American Communities in Michigan

Made possible from funding by the MDHHS and CLEEC.
Contact the EMU Lead Team: Sarah Lilly, Lead Health Educator, saralilly@umich.edu, (734) 320-6432.
Goal B2 Objective

Goal B2 Outcomes

Outcomes Obj. B2:

- CDC lead module to community health nursing classes, pre and post tests
- 190 nursing students completed lead module and course
Goal C

Develop, Implement and Evaluate a Primary Prevention Program for underserved Bangladesh American population in Hamtramck.
Goal C1-3 Objectives

Obj C1-3: Create, Develop and Implement a primary prevention program
Goal C1-3 Outcomes

• Two Wellness Events
• 26 student volunteers
Goal C1-3 Outcomes (Cont.)

As results of this program:

• more than 3,000 benefited from primary prevention program
Obj. C4: Maintain collaborative relationships

Outcome Obj. C4:
- Bilingual Navigator and his team trained to continue lead outreach and education in the community
Things That Worked and Didn’t Work

Areas of Excellence
1. Community Navigator
2. Face-to-Face education
3. Volunteers/interpreters
4. Vetting of translated materials
5. Drive thru lead and wellness event

Challenges
1. COVID-19
2. Connecting with healthcare providers
3. Time for buy-in from religious organizations
Insights and Findings

Need for cultural competence

Work with multi-sector stakeholders

Community involvement and engagement
Thank you!

Q&A