



00-03

STATEMENT OF POLICY

CHILD LEAD POISONING ELIMINATION

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supports continued funding and implementation of cost-effective, community specific preventive measures to correct the multiple safety and health hazards that potentially cause lead exposure in the home and in other settings, such as day care and recreational facilities that may result in disease and illness in children. In addition, NACCHO encourages local health departments to continue lead testing efforts targeted to children who remain at elevated risk for lead exposure and urges localities to support aggressive efforts to identify lead poisoned children, as well as services for these children and their families. NACCHO also supports the needed advocacy to finance the elimination of childhood lead poisoning by 2010 as a goal for the United States.

Justification

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 310,000 or 1.6% of children in America one to five years of age have high levels of lead in their blood (10µg/dL or higher equals “level of concern”). In addition, the burden of lead poisoning falls disproportionately on low income families and families of color, with African American children more than two times more likely to experience lead poisoning than white children¹.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates more than 38 million US homes and apartments are burdened by lead based paint, with 24 million of them containing substantial lead hazards. Medically, the management of a lead-poisoned child is a complex process, requiring an interdisciplinary, comprehensive response, which includes appropriate medical care and follow up services. It is critical that health departments are provided the funding necessary to provide primary prevention including education and intervention for families at risk as well as coordinate mitigation of hazards and treatment of children with healthcare providers

¹Alliance for Healthy Homes. *Understanding New National Data on Lead Poisoning*. <http://www.afhh.org> (2005)

²United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Healthy Homes Initiative*. (1999)

Record of Action:

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors March 3, 2000

Updated February 2005

Updated July 2007