



# *The Environmental Health Publisher*

Keeping you in the Lead, Radon & Healthy Homes loop

Connecticut Department of Public Health

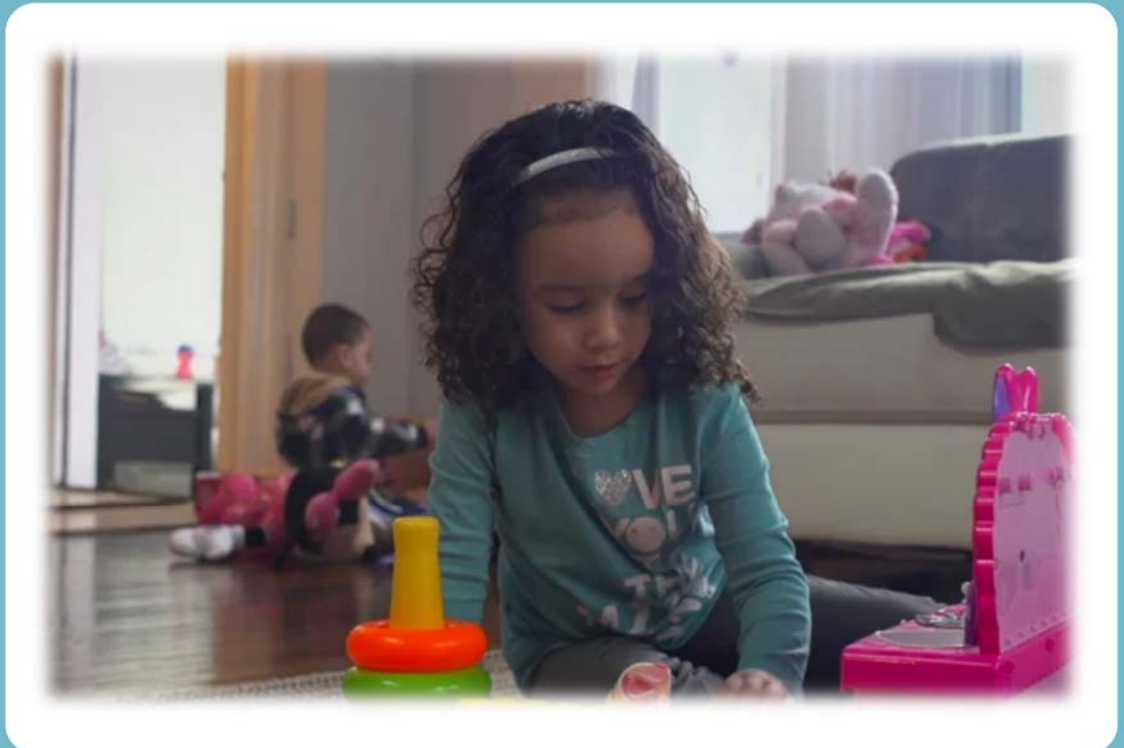
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2018

\*\*\*\*\* Save the Date \*\*\*\*\*

Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Semi Annual

March 20, 2019 Meriden Public Library



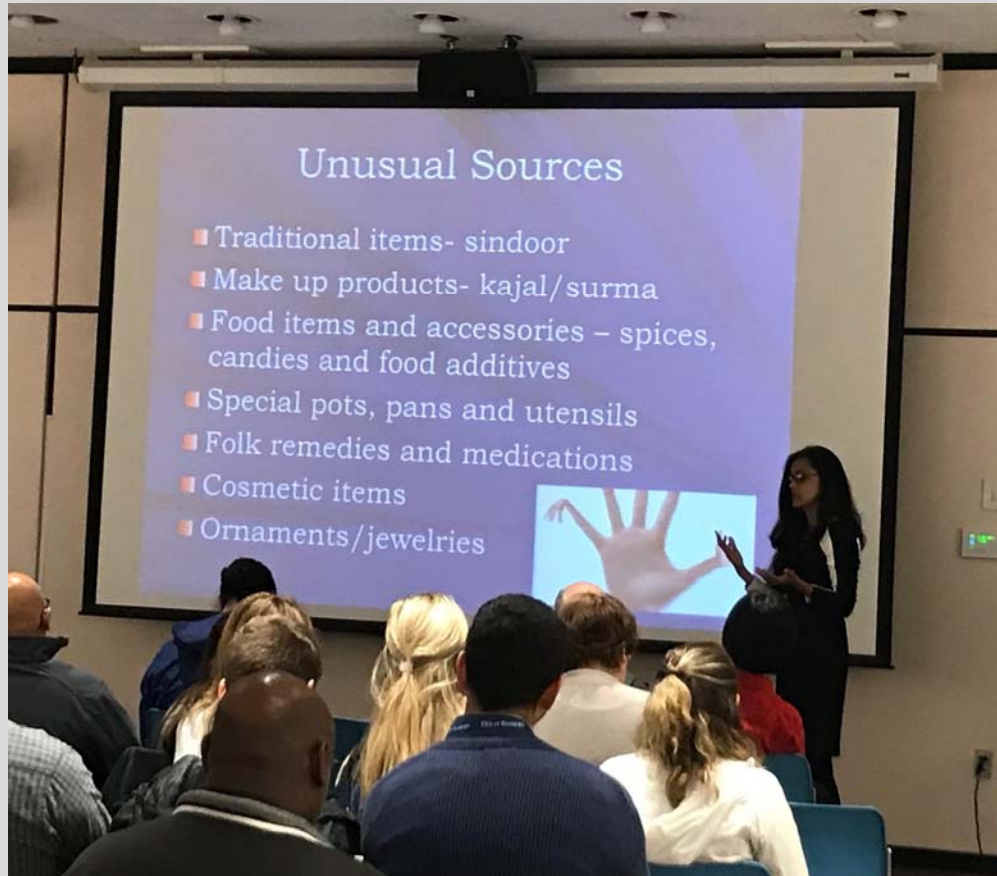
## 2018 National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

October 21-27

Key Messages:

- Children under age 6 are most at risk for lead poisoning.
- Prevent lead poisoning. Get your child tested. It's the law in Connecticut.
- Houses built before 1978 likely contain lead paint.
- Remodeling the home? Renovate right with lead-safe work practices.
- Talk to your health department about testing home paint and dust for lead.

For more information, go to [www.ct.gov/preventlead](http://www.ct.gov/preventlead) and click on the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week link.



Dinny Mathew presents on culturally competency at semi annual.

The LRHHP semiannual meeting was held on September 10, 2018 at the Meriden Public Library. This bi-annual event is a great opportunity to get updates on the Lead, Radon, and Health Homes program. During the meeting Tracy Hung presented the 2016 Lead Surveillance Report, which shows that of the 1,231 cases of blood lead levels (BLL)  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  nearly 62% were new cases. There were 81 new cases of children with BLLs  $\geq 20 \mu\text{g/dL}$ . For the complete report, click [here](#).

The guest speaker, Dinny Mathew, discussed cultural competency when working with families from India. Ms. Mathew spoke on products from the region that have been known to contain lead. These products include: Kohl/Surma (eye makeup), Sindoor, medicines, spices, jewelry and plates, pots and utensils. Ms. Mathew is available to assist local health departments with questions relating to traditional Indian products as well as information on understanding cultural beliefs. She can be reached via email at: [drdinnyathew@gmail.com](mailto:drdinnyathew@gmail.com).

The LRHHP is working to increase the number of local health partnerships this year. Local Health Departments/Districts interested in partnering should fill out the *2018-2019 Radon Program Partnership Request Form* that was shared in a circular letter to Directors of Health in mid-September. Please contact Allison Sullivan at [allison.sullivan@ct.gov](mailto:allison.sullivan@ct.gov) with any questions or concerns. Free radon test kits and educational materials are available and radon results from the town(s) you serve can be shared on a monthly basis. Please consider a partnership to assist us in a successful outreach campaign this year during the radon testing season.

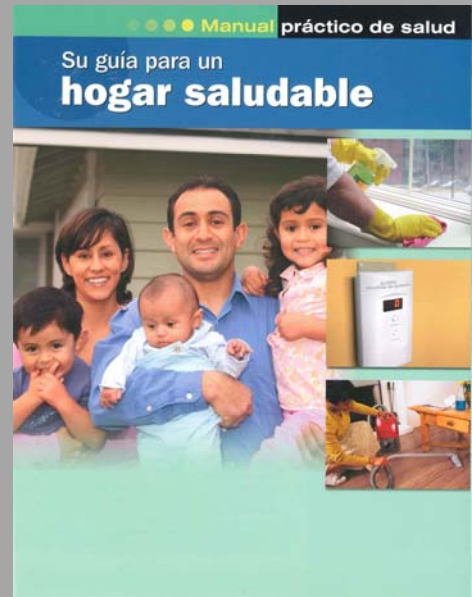
The LRHHP recently completed a media campaign that focuses on Black and Hispanic children who are disproportionately affected by lead poisoning. Black children are more than twice as likely as white children to have a BLL  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  while Hispanic children are 1.5 times more likely to have an elevated BLL than non-Hispanic children. The media campaign used social media, TV, radio and billboards to promote testing.

# Healthy Homes

## Educational Materials



#1. Healthy Homes Guide in English



#2. Healthy Homes Guide in Spanish

To order Healthy Homes materials, email Jim Vannoy at [jim.vannoy@ct.gov](mailto:jim.vannoy@ct.gov) with the number of the publication and the quantity requested. Supplies are limited.

### 2018 Exam Schedule for Registered Sanitarians

Application Deadline

Exam Date

**11/16/18**

**12/14/18**

For questions, email the Environmental Practitioner Licensure Program at:

[DPH.EHLicensing@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.EHLicensing@ct.gov)



CT DPH Radon Update

SAVE THE DATE for:

## Radon Partnership Meeting

January 9, 2019

Sessions Woods WMA

341 Milford Street (also known as RT 69)

Burlington, CT 06013

Registration starts at 8:30am

Meeting from 9am-noon

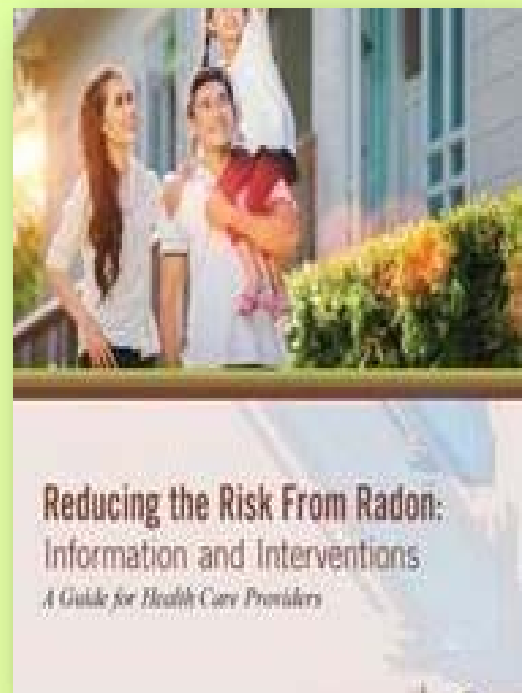
\*Please sign-up on CT TRAIN [www.ct.train.org](http://www.ct.train.org)

Contact Allison at [allison.sullivan@ct.gov](mailto:allison.sullivan@ct.gov) if you would like to speak or have any questions.

## New Guide for Health Care Providers

This guide was designed to furnish health care providers with information they need to reduce patients' radon exposures. Radon is the leading environmental cause of cancer mortality in the United States, causing approximately 21,100 lung cancer deaths per year.

*Click on image to go to publication.*



## WELCOME NEW STAFF



Please join us in welcoming Brianna Foley to the Lead, Radon, and Healthy Homes Program. Ms. Foley holds a Masters of Public Health degree from Capella University and will serve as an Epidemiologist for the Program. Ms. Foley brings a unique understanding of lead, not just from a local health perspective but also a medical and social services standpoint. Ms. Foley began working in Public Health as an intern in the Lead Poisoning and Prevention Program in 2008. She went on and spent some time with the Norwalk Health Department as their Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Associate before transitioning to the medical side of lead as the Healthy Homes Specialist with the Regional Lead Treatment Center at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital. When she is not at work she enjoys traveling with her family, cooking with her children, and spending time with her friends.

Also, welcome to Jim Vannoy, the new Health Program Assistant with the Program. Jim will be coordinating education and outreach activities. Jim has over 20 years of public health experience in areas including occupational health and safety, childhood nutrition and environmental public health. Prior to coming to DPH, Jim served as the Environmental Health Director for Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare where he managed state funded projects as well as CDC and EPA grants. At DPH, Jim is responsible for childhood lead's educational outreach and media campaigns. In his free time, Jim likes to garden, kayak, cross-country ski, cook and travel. He has an MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





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## GOODBYE

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While we are sorry to see her go, we are happy that Tina McCarthy has a new opportunity within DPH. Tina , who served as a lead case manager for New Britain Health Department before coming to DPH's Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Program in 2009, will be joining the Office of Vital Records as an Epidemiologist working with the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) staff. While in the LRHHP, Tina brought passion and energy to her position and worked tirelessly to make sure lead poisoned children received the follow-up necessary to protect them from further exposures. She has been of great assistance to local health departments providing guidance and helping local staff understand the regulations and roles of health agencies. Tina and her infectious laugh will be missed. Her new coworkers are certain to appreciate her skills and energy . We will miss you. Best of luck!

# Register Now

## Training Regarding Housing Matters:

How to Achieve Compliance with Lead Cases (Rescheduled from September 2018)

Date: 11/2/2018

Where: Sessions Wood Wildlife Management , Burlington

Register through CT TRAIN at: <https://ct.train.org> using course ID# 1067479.

**Note: If you registered for the September date, you do not need to register again.**

The training objectives include:

Educating LHDs on how to use housing court to gain compliance with lead abatement orders:

Enforcement of CT Lead Regulations

Right of Entry for Inspection

Determining Ownership

How to Draft a Legal Order for Various Ownership(s)

Reinspection

How to Use Housing Court

Review Process

When Cases Should be Referred

How to Refer Cases

Required Paperwork

Best Practices: The Local Health Department Role

Lead Abatement Plan

Lead Management Plan

Interim Controls/Prevention

Attendance is encouraged for all local health departments that are responsible for lead-related matters.

Attendees are encouraged to carpool as parking is shared for public use at this facility.



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