

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Commissioner

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Circular Letter EHS #2014-15

DATE: April 1, 2014

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

FROM: Francesca Provenzano, MPH, CHES, REHS
Epidemiologist 4

RE: Collaborating with local building officials to prevent childhood lead poisoning during the renovation, repair and painting (RRP) of pre-1978 homes

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Lead and Healthy Homes Program (L&HHP) is requesting that directors of health collaborate with local building officials to prevent childhood lead poisoning. Specifically, we would like to have building officials utilize the attached *RRP Intake Form for Permits* at the time of issuing a permit for all pre-1978 residential properties in your municipality.

This request is being made as part of an ongoing statewide effort to ensure that contractors are in compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP Rule). The intention of the federal law is to prevent needless childhood and adult lead poisoning, and to prevent environmental contamination of a property's interior and exterior locations (which may expose residents to lead hazards upon occupancy). Lead-safe work carried out by contractors in all pre-1978 residential properties directly contributes to preventing childhood lead poisoning in Connecticut.

Most renovations performed on pre-1978 residential properties are subject to the EPA's RRP Rule - a federal law requiring training, certification and lead-safe work practices on older properties during renovation activities. Issuing a local renovation permit that enables work on residential properties to be carried out in direct violation of that federal law is not advisable. The CT DPH and EPA strongly recommend that a permit be denied for companies and individuals who do not hold the appropriate credentials as required under the RRP Rule.

Contractors performing renovation work on pre-1978 properties should fill out the attached *RRP Intake Form for Permits* at the time a permit is being requested. The information collected on the form will enable the CT DPH or local health department the opportunity to review and verify the contractor's RRP credentials and work practices. The CT DPH can also provide assistance and answer any questions posed by contractors or building officials.



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Please note that the building official's and local health department's participation in this effort does not imply responsibility for contractor compliance with the Rule. The CT DPH believes that in order to fully address and prevent childhood lead poisoning, we must collaborate with partners from multiple sectors. We need your assistance in this statewide effort.

We encourage you to meet with your building officials to discuss the possibility of implementing the use of an *RRP Intake Form* as part of the local permitting process. We recognize that this may be a challenging task. As such, please provide us with feedback (form attached) on your efforts to collaborate with your colleagues in the building official's office.

We have included the following supporting materials for your meeting: an EPA Enforcement Alert that can serve as an RRP fact sheet, rates of lead poisoning in CT (the latest 2012 data), and environmental lead hazards identified by source. If requested, CT DPH staff will make every effort to participate in any scheduled meetings.

Please provide any comments or questions regarding this letter and the attached to Mark Aschenbach (860) 509-7285, via e-mail at mark.aschenbach@ct.gov or fax (860) 509-7295. Mark is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., M.P.H., Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
Ellen Blaschinski, R.S., M.B.A., Chief, Regulatory Services Branch, DPH
Town Officials

RRP Intake Form for Permits
For Pre-1978 Residential Projects



Town: _____

Permit #: _____

What is RRP?

RRP is the Federal EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Paint Program. This law requires contractors that disturb painted surfaces in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 to be certified by EPA and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. Individuals employed by the firm must be trained and certified. The contractor must give property owners and residents a copy of "Renovate Right", a pamphlet describing the lead-poisoning risks that may come from renovation activity in homes built before 1978. The following information is necessary to assist EPA Region 1 and the State of CT in its efforts to eliminate lead poisoning in children and adults. This checklist is not applicable for Lead Abatement or homeowner "Do-It-Yourself" projects. The contractor must provide the following information prior to obtaining a local construction or renovation permit:

Business name: _____

Business address: _____

CT HIC #: _____

EPA RRP Lead-Safe Certified Firm #: _____

EPA RRP Renovator training certificate #(s): _____

Property address: _____

By signing below, I state that I will provide a copy of the EPA *Renovate Right*, lead-hazard pamphlet to the owner(s) and residents of the property before the work begins. I further agree to follow all lead-safe work practices to protect residents and workers from lead exposure.

Contractor name (print): _____

Contractor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Building Official: _____

Fax copies to CT DPH at: **(860) 509-7295**
or provide hard copy to
Director of Health for processing

Preventing Lead Poisoning from Renovation & Remodeling Activities

Feedback Form on Efforts to Include RRP Form during Permit Approvals

The Director of Health should complete this form after meeting with his or her local building official. Your feedback is needed, so that the CT DPH can understand and address identified barriers to implementing this proposal.

1. Does your local building official's office support implementation of the *RRP Intake Form*?
- Yes, the building official is supportive of this effort
 - No. (If no, then please explain reason for lack of support below.)

2. Date of meeting with building official(s): _____

3. People in attendance:

_____	,	_____	,	_____
_____	,	_____	,	_____
_____	,	_____	,	_____
_____	,	_____	,	_____

(Name)

(Title)

(tel # or email)

4. Outcome of Meeting:

- Yes, we will use this *RRP Intake Form* for per-1978 residential projects where permits are required
- No, we cannot use this form. (If no, please explain below.)

Barriers or boundaries to successful implementation (please be specific and detailed):

Completed by (print name): _____ Title: _____



Enforcement Alert

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Office of Civil Enforcement

January 2010

Compliance with New Federal Lead-Based Paint Requirements

Renovators must comply with new certification, training, pre-renovation notification and work practice standards

Are you a general contractor, renovation contractor, property manager, painter, plumber, carpenter, electrician? Are you paid to do work that disturbs painted surfaces? Do you work in homes, schools, day-care facilities or other buildings where children are present? Were these buildings or any houses, apartments and residences where you work constructed before 1978, when lead-based paint was still in use?

The new federal Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting requirements may be applicable to you. Now is the time to become an EPA-certified renovator and follow the specific work practices that prevent lead contamination.

The new requirements kick in starting in April 2010. Failure to comply with the new requirements is a violation of the law: it can cause exposure to lead and result in serious health consequences, especially for young children. Penalties can be significant.

The new requirements include notification to property owners and occupants before work begins of the potential hazards from lead-based paint disturbed during the project, certification of renovation companies, training and certification of workers, implementation of work practice standards for controlling lead-based paint dust, post-renovation cleanup requirements and post-renovation cleaning verification.

To assist you in understanding and complying with the lead-based paint rules for renovations, EPA has published the "Small Entity Compliance Guide to Renovate Right." It presents simple steps to follow to comply with EPA's lead program. The Renovate Right compliance handbook is available at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/sbcomplianceguide.pdf and from the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-5323.

The handbook provides more detailed information on certifications, training, work practice requirements, prohibited practices and recordkeeping provisions than is included in this Enforcement Alert. It also includes information on certain exemptions to the Rules and other useful information about the lead-based paint program.



Peeling Door Paint

Where Lead-Based Paint is Found

Approximately three-quarters of the homes built before 1978 contain some lead-based paint. It may be on any surface, but is most commonly found on exterior-painted surfaces, interior woodwork, doors, and windows. The use of lead-based paint in housing was banned in 1978 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

When properly maintained and managed, contaminated paint poses little risk, although friction surfaces (windows and window sills, doors and door frames, stairs and railings) are a concern. Lead-based paint that peels or deteriorates is especially risky. As a general rule, the older a home, the greater the risk of lead-based paint. Exposure to lead may occur through lead-based paint chips and flakes and through the fine dust that clings to carpets, floors, furniture, toys and other objects.

Dangers from Lead-Based Paint

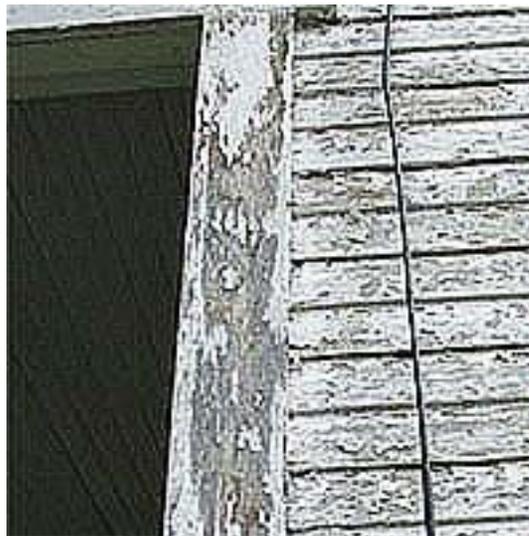
Lead is a highly toxic metal. It is particularly dangerous to children, whose growing bodies absorb more of the metal and whose brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to its damaging effects. Even low levels of lead in children can reduce IQ, cause learning disabilities and behavioral problems, reduce attention span and retard physical development.

Childhood lead poisoning is a major health problem in this country. Young children are much more likely to put their hands or objects in their mouths that can have lead dust on them, or to eat paint chips that contain lead.

Lead poisoning in adults can increase blood pressure, cause irritability, poor muscle coordination, and damage the kidneys, nerves and brain. Fetal development can also be affected.

Deteriorating lead-based paint and lead contaminated dust are primary sources of lead exposure. Peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking lead-based paint may all be hazardous, particularly when found on surfaces that children can touch or that get a lot of wear-and-tear, such as windows sills, doors and door frames, stairs, railings and banisters. People who sand, scrape, burn or otherwise disturb

lead-based paint are at risk from inhalation of lead dust or fumes.



Paint Peeling on a House

Activities Subject to the Lead-Based Paint Requirements

In general, any activity that disturbs paint in housing and child-occupied facilities built before 1978, including remodeling, repair, maintenance, electrical work, plumbing, painting, carpentry and window replacement, is subject to the requirements.

Most minor repair and maintenance activities of less than six square feet per interior room or 20 square feet or exterior project are exempt from the work practice requirements. However, this exemption does not apply to window replacements, demolitions or the use of prohibited practices.

Requirements Effective Now

Pre-renovation education and notification requirements are now in effect. If you are a contractor, property manager or someone who performs renovations for compensation in pre-1978 residential housing, before you start any work you must distribute the lead information pamphlet entitled "Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers, and Families." The pamphlet is available at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf.

If the renovations are in pre-1978 facilities

occupied by children, you must first distribute the “Renovate Right” pamphlet to the owner of the building or the owner’s representative.

If the work is in common areas of pre-1978 multi-family housing or child-occupied facilities, you must distribute pamphlets to tenants or parents or guardians of children using these areas. In lieu of distributing pamphlets, you must post informational signs about the renovation or repair work. The informational signs must be posted in a conspicuous location, and describe the nature, location and dates that you will be doing the work. A copy of the pamphlet or information on how someone can get the pamphlet free must be posted with the sign.

Compliance Schedule

Requirements effective now:

- Distribution of EPA’s lead pamphlet for families, child care providers and schools
- Post informational notices or signs
- Retention of records
- Training providers may apply for accreditation
- Accredited trainers may offer certification courses

As of October 2009:

- Renovation firms may apply to EPA for certification

As of April 2010

- Program fully effective: all requirements must be met
- Renovation businesses must be certified
- EPA will enforce all lead-based paint requirements

Certification and Training

All firms, regardless of number of employees, must be certified. You can do this by applying to EPA or to a state, if it has an EPA-authorized program, and paying a fee. To apply, your firm must submit to EPA a completed “Application for Firms” form, signed by an authorized agent of the firm, and pay the correct amount of fees. The form is available from the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-5323 or at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.html.

There must be at least one certified renovator

assigned with oversight authority over each job where lead-based paint is disturbed.

To become a certified renovator, you must complete an EPA or authorized state-approved training course conducted by an EPA or state-accredited training provider. All workers must be trained on the work practices they will be using during the renovation.

Renovation workers can be trained on-the-job by a certified renovator to use prescribed lead-safe work practices or they can become certified renovators themselves. Certified renovators are responsible for ensuring overall compliance with the Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Program’s requirements for lead-safe work practices at renovations they are assigned.

Requirements of a Certified Renovator

A certified renovator must:

- Use an EPA approved lead test kit when testing for lead-based paint on painted surfaces and components being disturbed;
- Provide on-the-job training to other workers on the work practices they will be using, be physically present at the job site when warning signs are posted, while work-area containment is being established and while work-area cleaning is being performed;
- Regularly direct work being performed by others to ensure compliance with work practice standards, including containment requirements;
- Be available on-site or by telephone whenever renovations are being performed;
- Perform project cleaning verification;
- Have with them their initial and most recent (*i.e.*, refresher) course certificates; and
- Prepare required records.

Information on obtaining training as a certified renovator is available from the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-5323.

Lead-Safe Work Practices

All renovators must use work-area containment to prevent dust and debris from leaving the work area. All objects must be removed from the work area or covered to prevent contamination. All windows

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and doors must be closed and doors covered. Floors must be covered to contain dust.

After renovation, all dust and debris must be collected and the walls cleaned by vacuuming or wiping. After cleaning, a certified inspector, risk assessor or dust sampling technician must verify the effectiveness of the cleaning. The renovator must re-clean the work area until it meets the applicable clearance standards. Cleaning verification is required to ensure that the work area is adequately cleaned and ready for re-occupancy. When cleanup standards are met, the renovator is done.

For exterior renovations, similar work practices must be followed. The work practice standards are summarized in the “Small Entity Compliance Guide.”

Work practices specifically prohibited include open-flame burning using heat guns at greater than 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit and the use of power tools without the use of high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuums to collect the dust.

Recordkeeping Requirements

All documents must be retained for at least three years following completion of a regulated renovation, repair or painting activity. This includes reports certifying that lead-based paint is not present, records relating to the distribution of the lead pamphlet (“Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools”), any signed and dated statements from owner-occupants that the requirements do not apply to their location, and documentation of compliance with the Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Program rules.

Compliance Assistance

Additional information about the dangers from lead and lead-based paint, the statutory and regulatory requirements of the lead-based paint program, how to obtain copies of various forms, brochures and pamphlets and how to receive training and certification is available at www.epa.gov/lead or by calling the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-5323. A compendium of lead information and links for contractors on renovation, repair and painting can be found at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#contractors

Disclaimer: This document attempts to clarify in plain language some EPA regulatory provisions. Nothing in the Enforcement Alert revises or replaces any regulatory provisions in the cited part, any other part of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Federal Register, or the Toxic Substances Control Act. For more information go to: www.epa.gov/compliance



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Enforcement Alert

Enforcement Alerts are published periodically by EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Civil Enforcement, to inform the public and the regulated community about environmental enforcement issues, trends and significant enforcement actions.

This information should help the regulated community avoid violations of federal environmental law. Please reproduce and share this publication.

To receive this newsletter electronically, see www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/newsletters/civil/enfalert/index.html.

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Report a Violation!

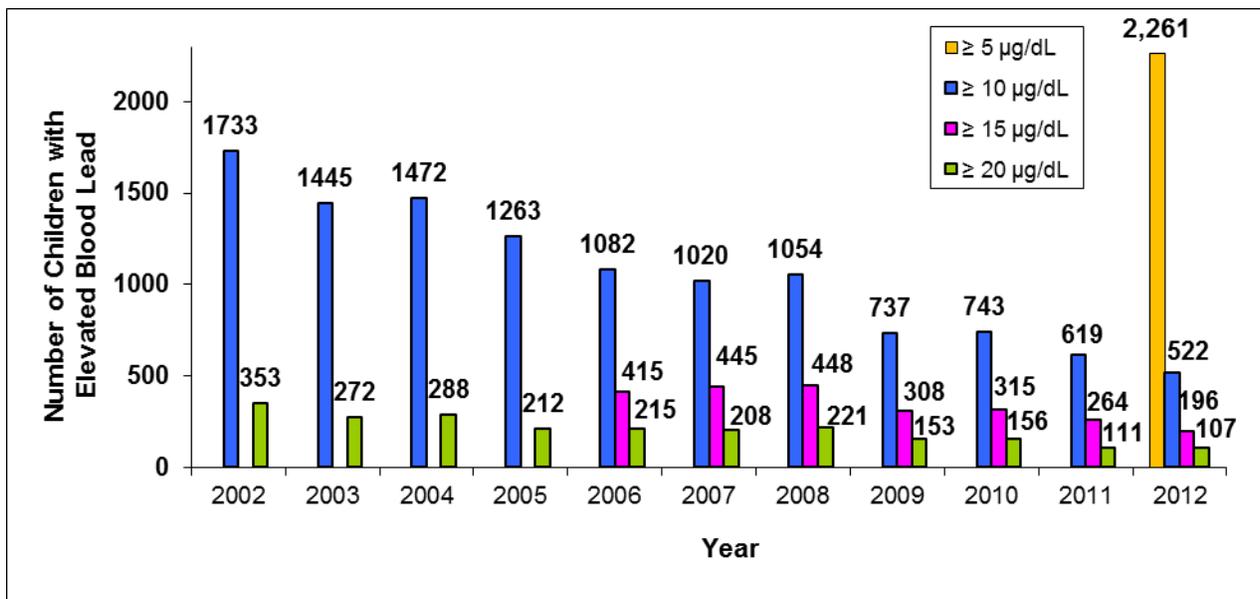
Protecting the environment is everyone’s responsibility. Help EPA fight pollution by reporting potential environmental violations.

www.epa.gov/tips

QUICK FACTS ON CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

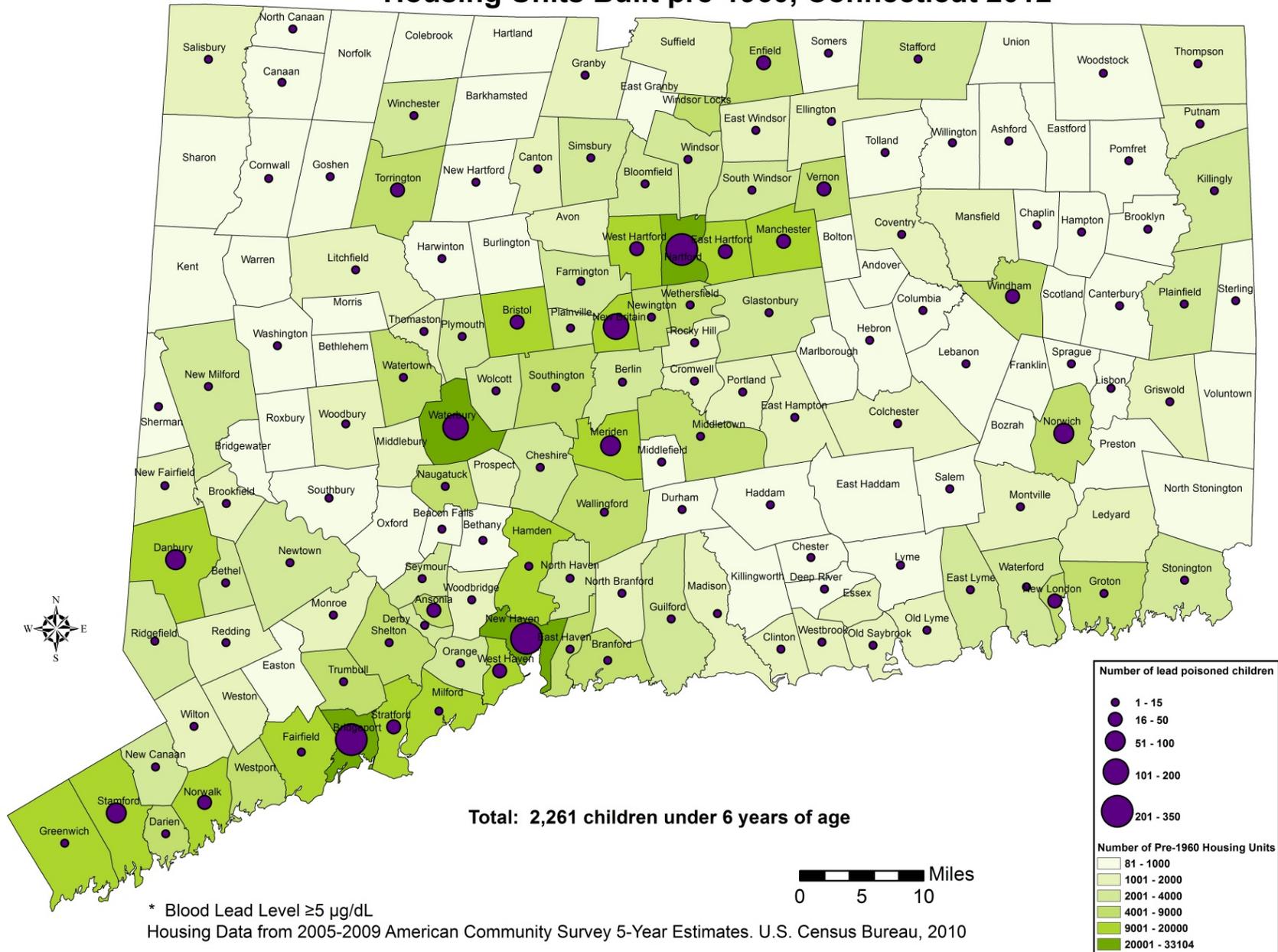
(2012 DATA)

Figure 1. Number of children under 6 years of age with lead poisoning, by calendar year and by blood lead levels – Connecticut 2002-2012



In CY 2012, 2,261 children under 6 years of age were identified with a blood lead level $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$. Number of children under 6 years of age diagnosed with lead levels of $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ decreased by 1,211 children when comparing 2012 to 2002, over a 10 year period. There was a decrease of 97 children diagnosed with lead levels of $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ from CY 2011 to CY 2012.

Number of Lead Poisoned Children* & Housing Units Built pre-1960, Connecticut 2012



* Blood Lead Level $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

Housing Data from 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Figure 2. Percentage of environmental lead hazards identified by source

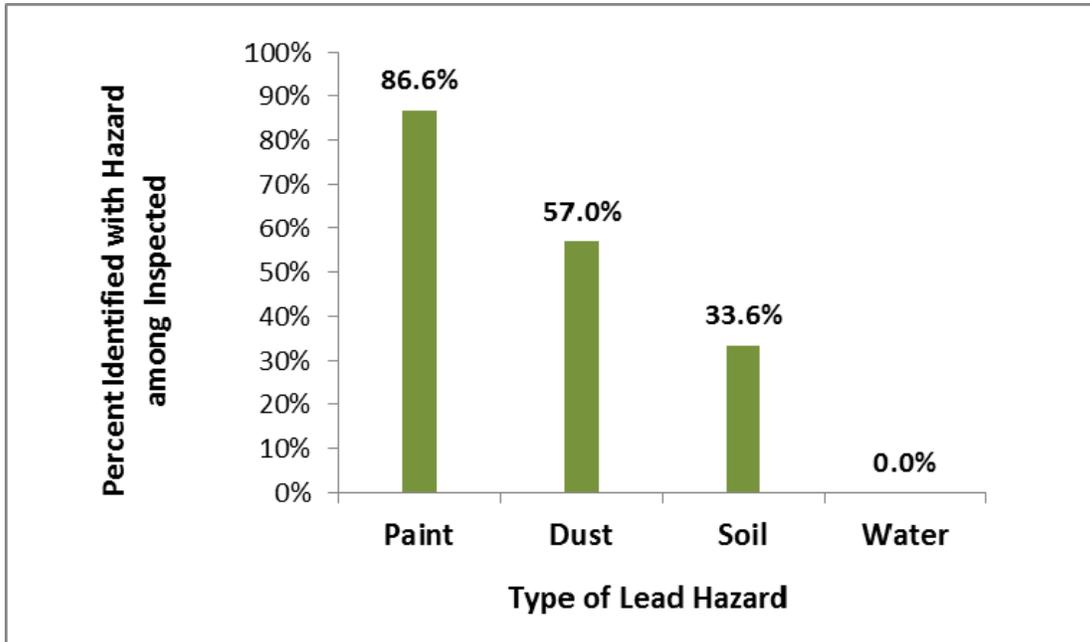


Figure 3. Percentage of environmental lead hazards related to paint or non-paint hazards

