



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

**Bringing Environmental Public Health Home:
A Healthy Homes Initiative in Washington State**



Lead Poisoning in Washington state



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Washington ranks 17th in the nation in the number of houses built before 1950.

Washington also has large areas of land with soil that have been contaminated with lead by the former Asarco smelter and by pesticides applied to former orchard sites.



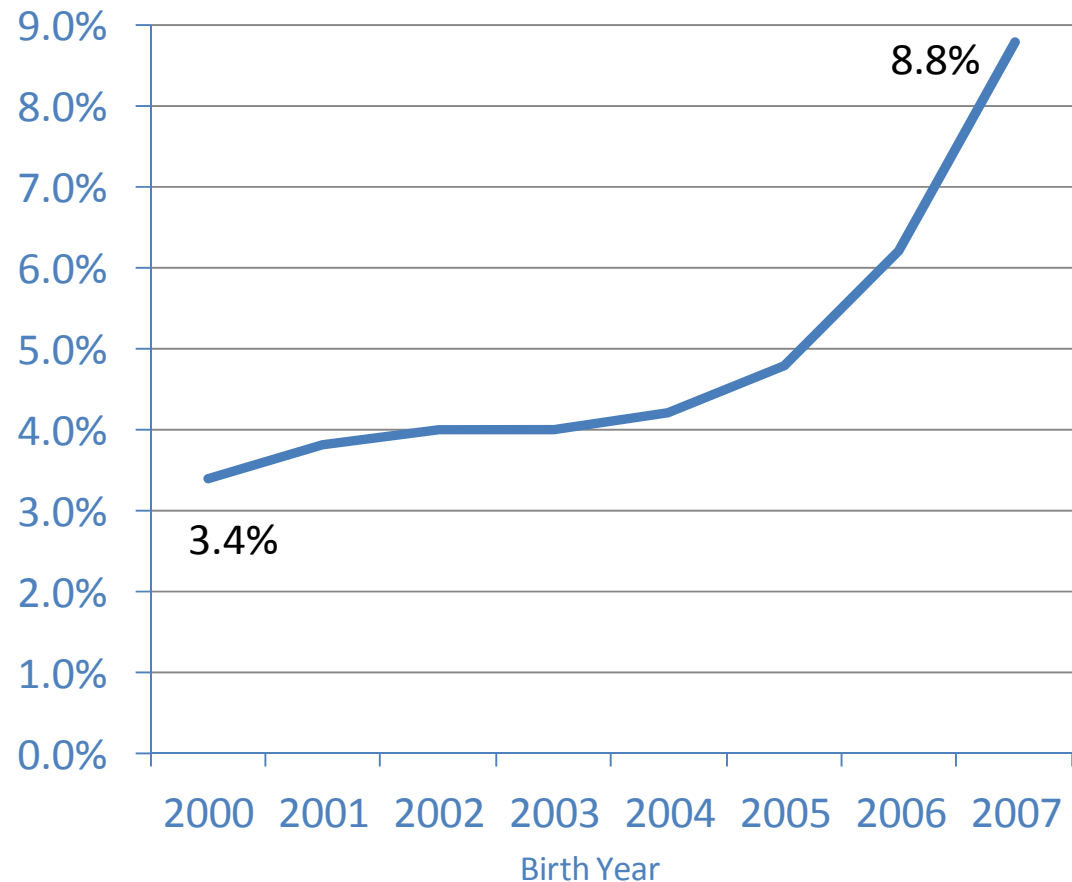
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Child Blood Lead Registry

- Maintains record of all blood lead tests on WA children since May 1993
- May not be representative of all children in WA

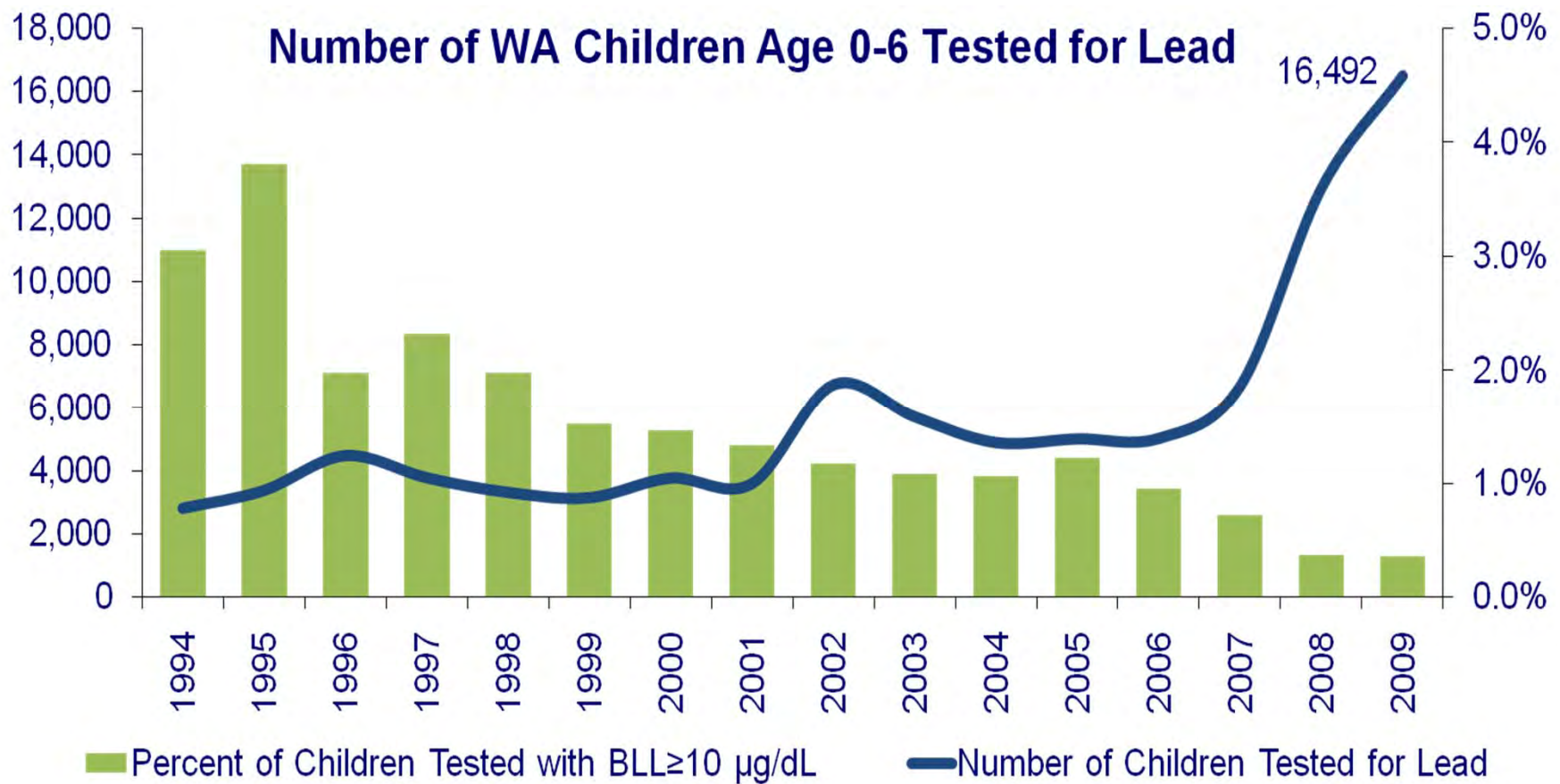
Percent of WA Children Tested for Lead before their Third Birthday, by Birth Year



WTN Indicator

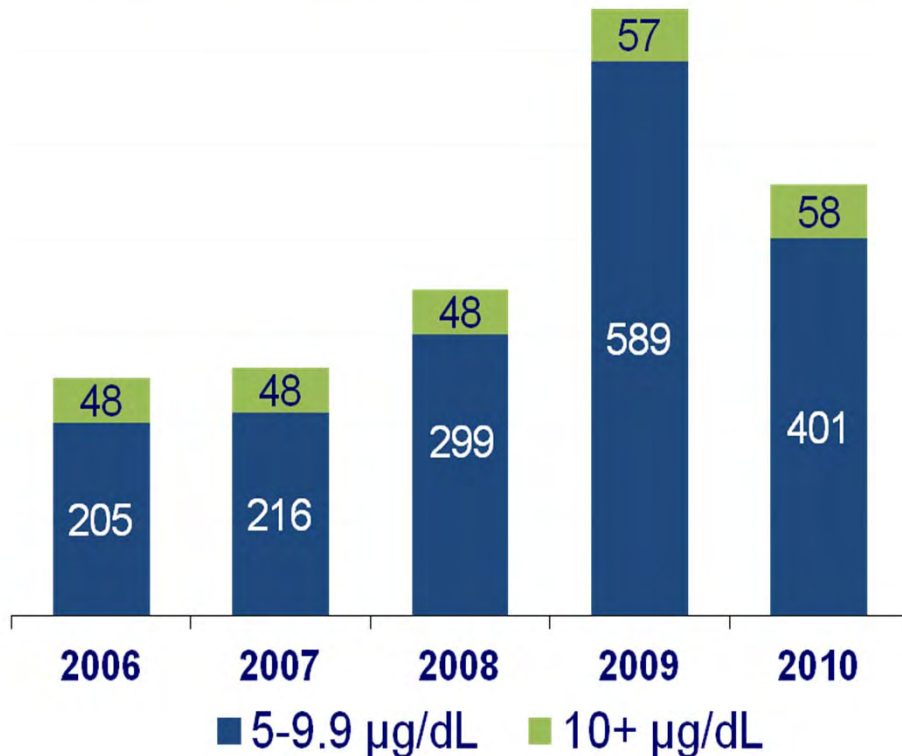
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Blood Lead Testing has Increased



Lead Poisoning in Children Continues

Number of WA Children Age 0-6
Tested for Lead with BLL over 5 µg/dL



- As more children have been tested, the percent of children with BLL >10 µg/dL decreased.
- However, the actual number of children needing services is about the same.



Engaging Medical & Public Health Community

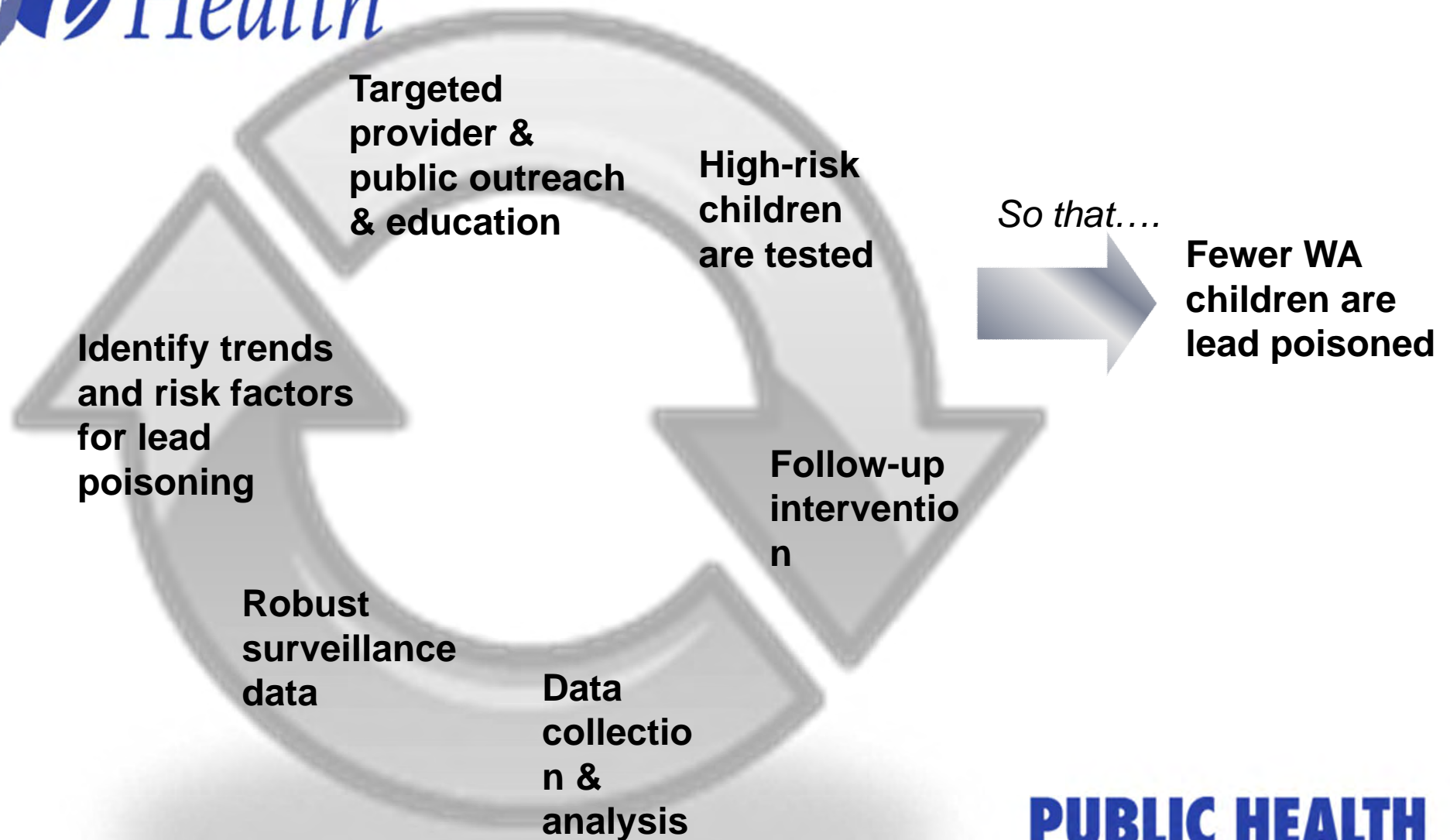
Expert Panel on Childhood Blood Lead Screening, June 2008

- Reviewed and updated the childhood blood lead screening recommendations in light of new data and potential exposure sources
- Representatives from public health, clinical providers, academia and DSHS Medicaid

Recommendations to DOH Program

- Focus on primary prevention
- Conduct systematic surveillance project
- Make a risk factor questionnaire available
- Screen high risk children
- Intervene at blood lead levels (BLL) between 5 and 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
- Communicate with providers

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Transition to Healthy Homes



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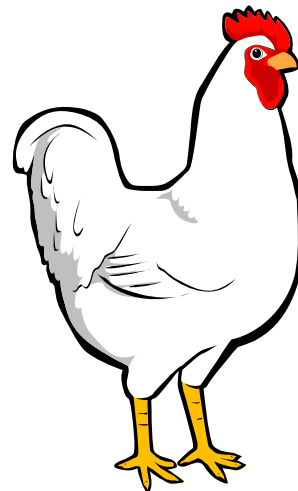
Why Housing?

- Healthy housing means healthy environments for children and families.
- Healthy housing is an environmental justice issue.
- Healthy housing protects health.



Why Housing?

- Advice from Washington Expert Panel
- Evidence that home interventions can improve asthma control
- Need to focus on primary prevention of lead poisoning
- Diminishing resources mean we need to do public health differently





CDC Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Goal: Individuals identified with environmental exposure(s) in the home get appropriate services

- Builds on capacity from lead poisoning prevention programs
- Helps us to move away from “silos” toward more coordinated work
- 3 years of funding



Grant Requirements

By the end of Year 1 (August 2012):

- Strategic Plan
- Plan for Case Coordination/Plan of Care
- Advisory Committee with appropriate members
- Evaluation Plan
- Ready to implement pilot project in Year 2

Advisory Committee

Strategic Planning

Chair: Kathy Burgoyne

Case Coordination

Chairs: Stella Chao
Catherine Karr

Pilot Project

Chair: Nicole Thomsen



Priorities

- Maximize but not overburden existing resources
 - Where are there opportunities to connect dots?
- Develop strategic plans to improve the health of homes in WA
 - Where are there opportunities to do our work better?
 - Are there activities we can do differently right now?
 - How can we work together to identify and address policy gaps?
- Create meaningful partnerships
 - How can this project help you in your work? Who else needs to be at the table?



Draft Strategic Plan

Vision

- Every Washington resident lives in a safe and healthy home that is maintained to support a dry, clean, pest-free, ventilated, and contaminant-free living environment.

Mission

- To foster safe and healthy home environments that protect and improve the health of vulnerable populations through coordinated and aggressive policies, programs, and partnerships.

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Goal 1

DEVELOP A COLLABORATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEWIDE HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM.

Strategies:

- Develop and implement a statewide Healthy Homes Consortium.
- Develop a comprehensive database of all resource organizations.
- Design a Healthy Homes website.



Goal 2

ENSURE THAT HOMES MEET MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

Strategies:

- Design and implement Healthy Homes tracking and surveillance database.
- React to “lessons learned” from Seattle’s pilot program.



Goal 3

REDUCE DISEASE AND INJURY OUTCOMES FROM HOUSING-RELATED HAZARDS.

Strategies:

- Implement lead, asthma, and housing protocols.
- Institute Healthy Homes Clearinghouse.
- Train all who are entering homes to troubleshoot and make referrals.
- Train health care providers to write Healthy Home prescriptions.



Goal 4

CREATE THE SHARED VALUE THAT HEALTHY HOUSING IS A RIGHT.

Strategies:

- Increase education and social marketing to tenants.
- Develop productive partnerships with property owners.



Goal 5

ENSURE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM.

Strategies:

- Push for statewide healthy homes criteria, practices, and policies.
- Link healthy homes to healthy community planning.
- Develop greater capacity within community-based organizations.