

Iron King Mine Site

Dewey-Humboldt Blood Lead Screening

Summary:

Two screening events held at Humboldt Elementary School – April 19th and May 21st, 2012

Screening Tests Used: The primary test was the LeadCare II Blood Lead Analyzer, capillary tube test. The secondary test for those that had difficulty filling a capillary tube, was a heel stick and blot test. The blot test was then sent to the state lab for analysis.

Out of a total of 40 participants there were two adults with blood lead levels between 5 and 10 ug/dl and one older child with a blood lead level greater than 10 ug/dl. No children under six years of age exceeded 5 ug/dl. All participants with elevated blood levels were referred to a primary care physician for follow-up.

The older child with the elevated blood lead level had recently helped in demolishing an old green house. His sister was screened and did not have an elevated blood lead level. The mother thinks it likely that her son's elevated level may be related to the demolition project. She was going to have a venous blood lead sample taken in a month to check his level again.

Unfortunately, nine of the blot tests sent to the state lab indicated no result. This could have been for several reasons: a potential problem with the lab equipment; problem with the analysis; or not enough blood for the sample. All of the individuals that received a laboratory 'no result' were notified by letter and referred to a primary care physician for follow-up.

The former CDC Reference Value for children under 6 years of age was 10 ug/dl. The new CDC Reference Value for children under 6 year of age is 5 ug/dl. However, there is no safe level of lead for children. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. And effects of lead exposure cannot be corrected.

There is not yet a national guideline for blood lead screening in adults as there is for children. The clinical cut-off values for elevated blood lead currently vary from state to state. According to the CDC's Adult Blood Lead Surveillance program (ABLES), a national health objective is to reduce all blood levels in adults to less than or equal to 25 ug/dL.

Breakdown of Results

Total # of participants: 40

- 28 less than 5 ug/dl
- 2 between 5 and 10 ug/dl
- 1 greater than 10 ug/dl
- 9 no result

11 participants under 6 years old

- 8 less than 5 ug/dl
- 0 between 5 and 10 ug/dl
- 0 greater than 10 ug/dl
- 3 no result

15 participants 6-18 years old

- 9 less than 5 ug/dl
- 0 between 5 and 10 ug/dl
- 1 greater than 10 ug/dl
- 5 no result

14 of participants older than 18 years old:

- 11 less than 5 ug/dl
- 2 between 5 and 10 ug/dl
- 0 greater than 10 ug/dl
- 1 no result

Robert Knowles, ATSDR, R9

Office: 415-947-4317, email: rknowles@cdc.gov

Jennifer Botsford, ADHS

Office: 606-364-3128, Email: Jennifer.botsford@azdhs.gov