



Lead Update

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Maryland Lead-Free Kids Campaign

- Before 2012, children were identified as having a blood lead “level of concern” if the lead test result was $10\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or higher.
- Today, elevated blood lead level follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s definition—a “reference level” of $5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.
- Entire state is considered at-risk—testing requirements are no longer bound to specific geographic locations.
- Providers required to test all children born on or after January 1, 2015 at ages 12 and 24 months for lead exposure.

CHILDHOOD BLOOD LEAD SURVEILLANCE IN MARYLAND

- **As of 2018, 49% of children one and two years old in Maryland had a blood lead test; 1.3% of those tested had a BLL of $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.**
- Maryland has had success reducing the number of children with lead exposure.
 - In CY18, total number of children (0-72 months of age) who were blood lead tested was 131,626. (CY 2017: 131,832).
 - Number of children (0-72 months of age) identified with a blood lead level of 5-9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ decreased from 1,661 in CY 2017 to 1,435 in CY 2018, a 13.6% decrease.
 - Number of children (0-72 months of age) identified with a blood lead level of $\geq 10\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ remained relatively stable from 388 in CY 2017 to 390 in CY 2018.
- October 2019 Annual Report (CY18 Data):
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/Documents/LeadReports/LeadReportsAnnualChildhoodLeadRegistry/LeadReportCLR2018.pdf>

Lead Test Reporting Requirements

- COMAR 26.02.01.02
 - Results of blood tests (both capillary and venous) performed for children 18 years old and younger must be reported to the Childhood Lead Registry
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
 - Maryland Department of the Environment shares *all* CLR test results with MDH, including blood lead level
 - MDH shares results with MCOs on a monthly basis—irrespective of whether child has an elevated blood lead level

Value-Based Purchasing

Measure: Percentage of children aged 12-23 months who were enrolled 90 or more days in a single HealthChoice MCO and who received at least one lead test during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

- Children aged 12-23 months as of December 31 of the measurement year (i.e., children who turned one year of age during the measurement year) who meet the following criteria:
 1. Continuously enrolled 90 or more days in a single HealthChoice MCO during the measurement year.
 2. The child did not disenroll from a HealthChoice MCO before their first birthday.

Value-Based Purchasing

Data Sources for Measure:

- *CPT codes:*
 - [83655](#): “Lead”
 - 83645: Discontinued code for blood test for lead, but is included in the lead value-based purchasing program.
- *CLR Data received from MDE*
 - Both capillary (initial) and venous (confirmatory) tests are counted.

Value-Based Purchasing

Additional considerations:

- Child is assigned to the last HealthChoice MCO in which the child was enrolled for at least 90 days in the measurement year.
- A lead test must occur on or before the last HealthChoice MCO enrollment date in the last HealthChoice MCO in which a child was enrolled for at least 90 days.
- MDH allows lead tests that a child received after re-enrolling into the MCO for a span of less than 90 days to be included in the numerator. The child must re-enroll in the same MCO in which he or she was enrolled for 90 or more continuous days.
- MDH also allows lead tests that a child received during a FFS eligibility period to be included in the numerator. This is for children who disenrolled from their HealthChoice MCO after 90+ continuous days of enrollment earlier in the year and received a lead test during the FFS period prior to re-enrollment into the same MCO.

Overview: CHIP HSI SPA

- ❖ Maryland Medicaid, in collaboration with Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), worked to secure CHIP administrative funds from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support two new initiatives:

Program 1: Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids

Program 2: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Environmental Case Management

- ❖ In January 2017, Medicaid submitted the Health Services Initiative State Plan Amendment (HSI SPA) to CMS to leverage CHIP funds
- ❖ The HSI SPA was approved in June 2017
- ❖ Effective September 1, 2019, MDE-accredited Lead Paint Risk Assessors are eligible for reimbursement for environmental lead investigations performed for Medicaid-enrolled children with an elevated blood lead (EBL) ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

Program 1 - Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids

- ❖ Expansion of lead identification and abatement programs for low-income children through programs delivered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).
- ❖ Eligibility: Children (0-18 yrs.) who are:
 - (1) Enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid or CHIP
 - AND**
 - (2) Have a BLL of $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
- ❖ Residential properties where an eligible child resides at least 10 hours a week and are:
 - Owner-occupied;
 - Occupied by a family member of the owner;
 - Occupied by a tenant; or
 - Properties in the process of becoming licensed for, or currently maintaining a license for the provision of childcare services.
 - HSI funds will not be used for commercial, non-residential properties.

Program 1 – Outreach and Referral

- Medicaid provides a list of potentially eligible children to EHB using claims data combined with the Childhood Lead Registry
- Letters are sent to potentially eligible families across the state
- 75% of children with BLL of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or above live in counties participating in both programs
- Local Health Department (LHD) staff use the list of eligible children for outreach purposes and refer children to DHCD.

Program 1: Outreach Flyer

HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN EXPOSED TO LEAD?

There is a new program in Maryland to help families with lead poisoning. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with Maryland Department of Health will pay for the removal of lead from the home or apartment where the child lives or spends time, at no cost to the homeowner or renter.

QUICK-CHECK ELIGIBILITY LIST

- Under the age of 19 years
- Blood lead level of 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or more
- Eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIP)
- Live in or visit the home or apartment with a lead problem for 10 or more hours per week



For more information about eligibility and program details:

866-703-3266



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ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- Under the age of 19 years
- Blood lead level of 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or more
- Eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIP)
- Visit (for 10 more hours per week) or live in the home/apartment with a lead problem

For more information about the program:

866-703-3266

or your local health department



Program 1: Abatement Pipeline

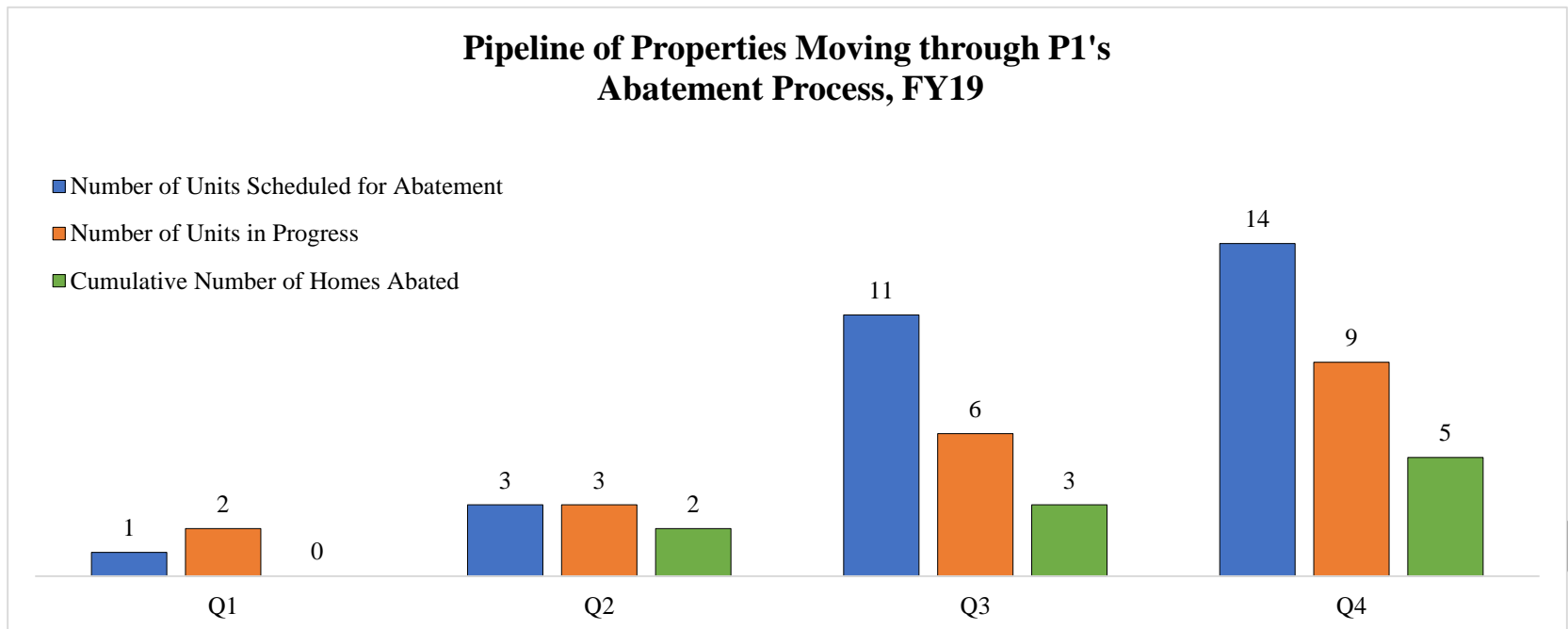
Abatement is a time-consuming process that takes place over several months. Steps include:

- Enrollment into Program 1
- Lead Risk Assessment of Property
- Preparation of a Scope of Work
- Securing a Contractor
- Securing housing for family during abatement when necessary premises according to HUD guidelines
- Abatement / Abatement-related repairs
- Lead clearance testing to assure abatement is successful

Program 1: Current Properties

❖ FY20 Q1:

- 30 homes enrolled and moving through pipeline
- 13 actively being abated



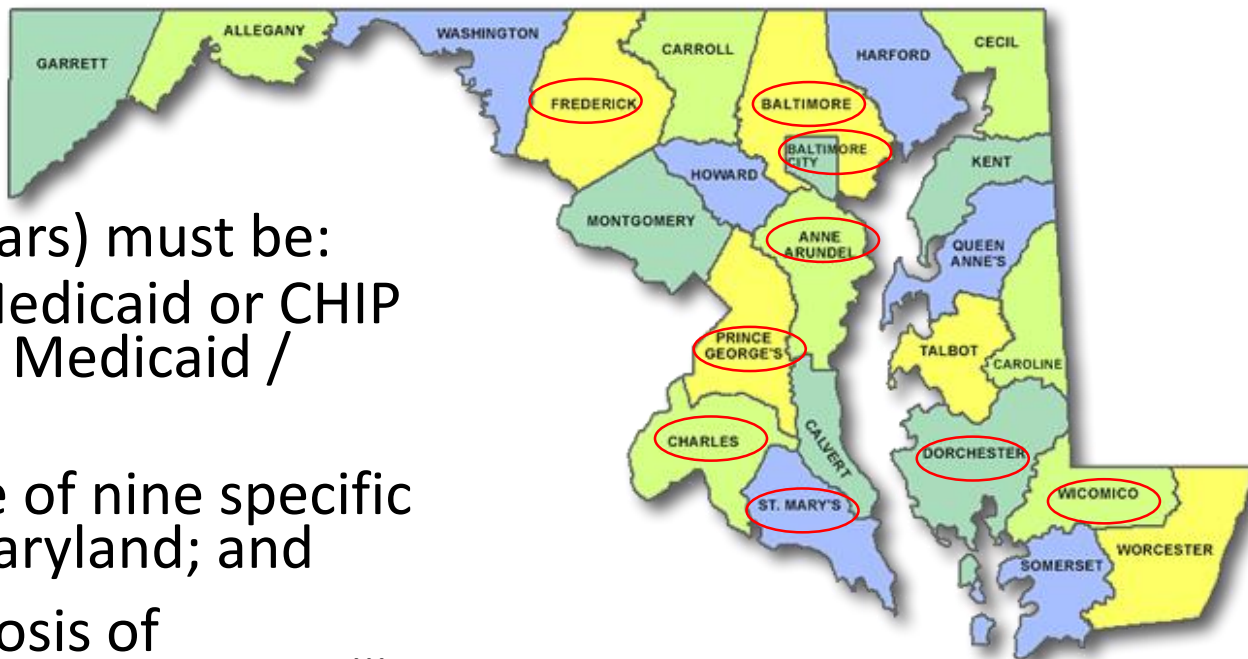
Program 2: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Environmental Case Management

- ❖ Expansion of county level programs to provide environmental case management and in-home education programs with the aim of reducing the impact of lead poisoning and asthma on low-income children.
- ❖ Nine LHDs participate, staff includes environmental case managers (ECM) and community health workers (CHWs).

Program 2: Eligibility

- ❖ Children (0-18 years) must be:
 - (1) Enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP *or* eligible for Medicaid / CHIP
 - (2) Reside in one of nine specific counties in Maryland; and
 - (3) Have a diagnosis of moderate to severe asthma[✳] **AND / OR** a BLL of $\geq 5\mu\text{g/dL}$

[✳] Utilizes standard clinical definitions of moderate to severe asthma by age group.



Program 2: Outreach and Referral

- ❖ Medicaid provides EHB/LHDs with lists of children who are potentially eligible for the Lead and /or the Asthma home visiting programs.
- ❖ Letters are sent out to families, LHD staff call families, and perform outreach at events in the community to enroll children.
- ❖ Referrals are accepted from medical and behavioral health care providers, school staff, parents, etc.



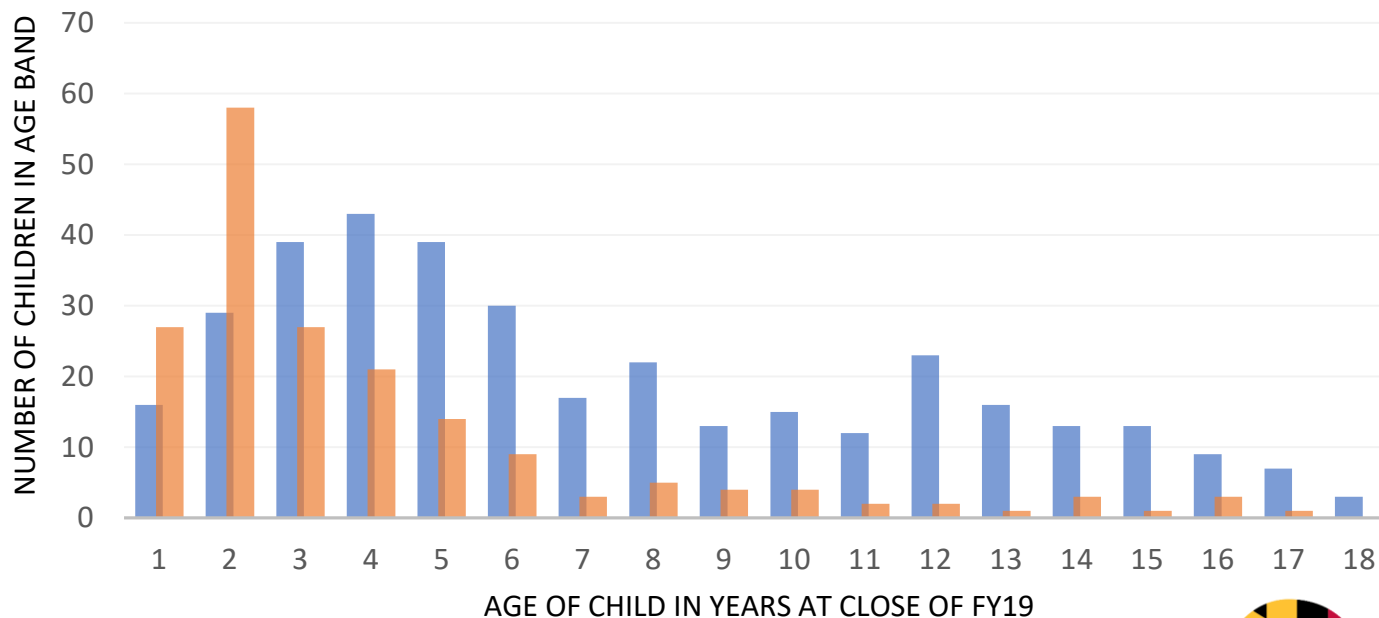
Program 2 – Home Visits

- ❖ Standardized training for LHD staff at on-boarding
- ❖ Families receive 3-6 home visits focused on supporting families to manage disease states, improve communication with primary care providers / other care takers, and reduce environmental hazards / triggers in the home.
- ❖ LHD staff perform in-home environmental assessments modeled after “Healthy Home Assessments”
- ❖ Durables and education on how to use durables to improve disease management are provided to families, examples include: HEPA vacuums, Green Cleaning Kits, Dust Mite Covers, etc.

Process and Outcome Indicators

❖ Are we targeting the right children for enrollment?

Frequency Distribution of Ages of Children Enrolled in P2, by Protocol in Q4 FY19 (n=556)



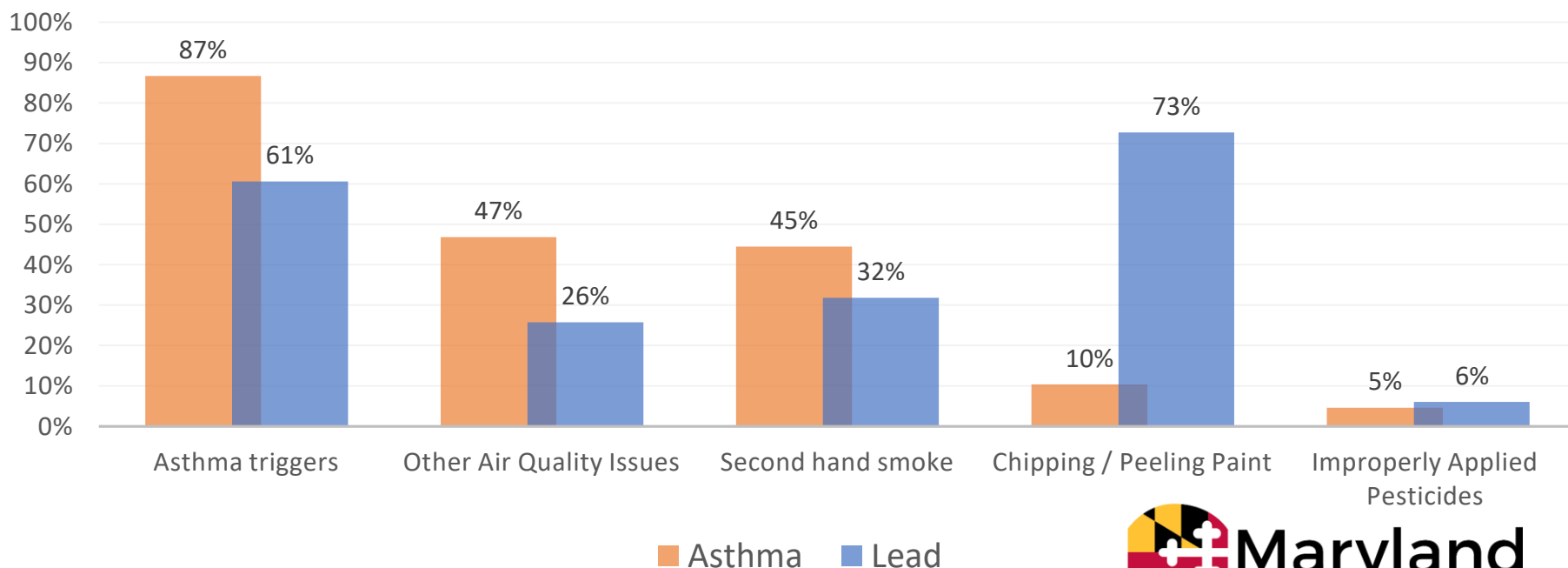
Lead Protocol
median age:
3 years

Asthma Protocol
median age:
7.2 years

Process and Outcome Indicators

❖ What hazards are present in children's homes?

Hazards Identified in Homes with at Least One Hazard, by Protocol in Q4 FY19 (n=239)



Looking Ahead

- ❖ As both programs mature additional analysis will be conducted using claims data to look at the impact of abatement work and /or home visiting on utilization, cost, and health outcomes

For additional information or to enroll a child in either Program please contact:

(866) 703-3266 - or -

MDH.healthyhomes@maryland.gov