

## **Lead Poisoning Prevention Education and Screening of OHP Children: Barriers and Practices**

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Current regulations require that all children 12 and 24 months enrolled in an Ohio Health Plan (OHP) be screened for blood lead levels. Yet, only approximately one-third of these children are actually screened. This study will explore: self-reported lead screening practices of OHP providers; barriers of lead screening from the perspectives of the provider, Healthcheck coordinators, parent/guardians, and the laboratories; lead poisoning prevention practices and resources of OHP providers; and sources and content of lead poisoning prevention education received by both parents/guardians and OHP providers. To address these research questions, this study will use a mailed survey, in-person interviews, phone interviews, and focus groups. Research questions focusing on OHP provider barriers to lead screening, provider lead education practices, and provider knowledge of lead education resources will be addressed using a mailed survey and follow-up phone interviews with non-respondents. Questionnaire items address: practice and personal demographics, lead risk-assessment practices, blood lead screening practices, barriers to blood lead screening, source and content of lead poisoning education, evaluation of current state initiatives, and lead poisoning prevention educational resources. Barriers in lead screening process from the Healthcheck coordinator perspective will be explored via a phone survey. Research questions focusing on parent/guardian perceptions of barriers to lead screening, parent/guardian sources and content of lead poisoning prevention education will be addressed via three focus groups and a mailed survey to parents of children enrolled in an OHP. Focus group participants will be asked about their knowledge of blood lead poisoning, where they learned this information, barriers to having their child's blood lead level checked, things that would make lead screening easier, and how they prefer to learn about facts important to their child's health. The parent/guardian survey instrument will include questions related to having their child screened for blood lead, barriers to blood lead screening, exposure to lead poisoning prevention education, and demographics. Barriers in lead screening process from a laboratory perspective will be explored via a phone survey. Information will be requested on processing the blood lead specimens, completing the Heavy Metal Reporting Form, receipt of follow-up information on high blood levels, and reimbursement for blood lead levels. .

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