Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Research Priorities

If we are to improve lead poisoning prevention strategies, we need additional research in the following areas:

1) Effectiveness of interventions aimed at preventing or reducing elevated BLLs and their adverse health effects among children, including studies of:

   • The effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions to control lead hazards in housing.

   • The effectiveness of family education about lead poisoning prevention in preventing BLL elevations or in reducing already elevated BLLs.

   • The effectiveness of chelation therapy in preventing or reducing neurobehavioral effects of elevated BLLs, especially among children with modestly elevated BLLs.

2) Barriers to screening and other lead poisoning prevention activities, especially in places with high prevalences of elevated BLLs.
3) Prediction of places with high and low prevalences of elevated BLLs. Such information could be used to allocate resources and target efforts.

4) Methods of identifying individual children with BLLs \( \geq 20 \mu g/dL \) including research on the use of the personal-risk questionnaire.

5) The impact of new laboratory methods, including handheld and clinic-based BLL analyzers, on prevention programs and BLL monitoring.

6) The contribution to elevated BLLs in children of nonpaint sources of lead exposure, including studies of exposure to lead taken home from workplaces of adults.