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## **LEAD-BASED PAINT AND NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA): FACTS**

### **FACTS ABOUT LEAD-BASED PAINT AT NYCHA:**

NYC banned the use of lead based paint in residential housing in 1960, but homes built before the ban may still have lead paint in the older layers of paint. Fortunately, lead paint was not widely applied in NYCHA housing because it was prohibitively expensive. Most of the lead-based paint within NYCHA is from the original primer on components, like radiators, door frames, pipes, and ceramic fixtures – primer, which is beneath the surface, meaning far less risk to residents. Because of these factors, paint hazards are far less likely to be found, and children are far less likely to be exposed in NYCHA buildings compared to private dwellings.

NYCHA takes any presence of lead-based paint seriously. We want to eliminate lead-based paint as a health risk – and we have done rigorous work over the past two decades to remediate any lead-based paint wherever we find it. Since 2004, NYCHA has inspected thousands of units, abating lead-based paint where necessary, on an individual, rolling basis, further reducing risk.

### **REMEDICATION PROCEDURES:**

NYCHA performs annual inspections of units for lead-based paint. These are carried out based on the PRESUMPTION of the presence of lead-based paint that NYCHA is required to make pursuant to HUD regulation, and focus solely on abating HAZARDS. When a potential hazard is identified, NYCHA remediates.

NYCHA also performs comprehensive testing and remediation of apartments on turnover. These tests seek to identify and remediate ANY PRESENCE of LBP, no matter how minor, going beyond visual HAZARDS by testing the ENTIRE unit comprehensively.

Each year NYCHA mails residents a legally-required form to complete about any children ages six and under living in the apartment. It's important to identify younger children because they are most at-risk for lead exposure from ingestion of lead in paint chips or dust through normal hand-to-mouth activity. Additionally, NYCHA conducts an annual interview with residents, reviewing family composition and further identifying where children under the age of six reside.

## **HOW NYCHA HAS REDUCED RISKS OF LEAD-BASED PAINT:**

While residential use of lead-based paint (LBP) was banned in New York City in 1960, HUD guidelines presume that any building constructed before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. After comprehensive inspection of our developments pursuant to HUD regulations in the late 1990s and early 2000s, NYCHA was able to determine where there could be some presence of lead-based paint, and where there is none. Since then, NYCHA has inspected thousands of units, remediating where necessary, on an individual, rolling basis, further reducing risk.

## **WHERE WE ARE BY THE NUMBERS:**

As of May 2016, the TOTAL maximum number of units with a POTENTIAL lead-based paint presence – not necessarily a hazard – is currently roughly 55,000 units, of which 4,702 are units with children under six years old. NYCHA is currently targeting these 4,702 units for testing and immediate remediation. All will be inspected by the end of June 2016.

The very few incidences recorded by DOHMH of elevated blood-lead levels linked to NYCHA units confirm that risk to residents is low. Of the thousands of NYC children identified by DOHMH with elevated blood-lead levels between 2010 and 2015, only a small number were associated with NYCHA housing – out of just 121 NYCHA units tested by DOHMH as part of lead poisoning investigations, only 17 (14%) were identified as having lead-based paint hazards. DOHMH finds lead hazards in homes of children with elevated lead levels living in privately owned buildings at a much higher rate – almost 75%.

**Health Department:** “Lead poisoning in New York City is at an historic low. Less than 0.3% of the 300,000 New York City children tested for lead had elevated blood lead levels in 2014. The vast majority of lead poisoning cases are found in private housing, not in NYCHA buildings. Prevention and abatement efforts at NYCHA properties are an unqualified success. That said, one case of lead poisoning is one too many, and we continue to work aggressively to test children, and inspect and abate any potential lead hazards to further reduce the risk of lead poisoning.”

## **NYCHA LEAD-BASED PAINT INSPECTION DATA AS OF 6/10/2016:**

**Total Inspections Created:** 4,702 (roughly 1.2% of total NYCHA portfolio)

**Total Inspections Completed:** 990

**Total Inspections Resident Not Home, Refused:** 121

**# of Units Components Identified as Ceramics, Lead Bends:** Approximately 1,200

**# of Units Pending Inspection:** 2,512 (roughly 0.6% of total NYCHA portfolio)

Inspectors average a 10-12% not-home rate, which may result in there being several apartments still requiring inspection after June 30.

## **DOHMH FACTS ABOUT LEAD POISONING IN NEW YORK CITY:**

- Lead poisoning in New York City is at historic lows.

- Little lead paint was historically used in NYCHA properties and where it has been the City has responded rapidly to remediate problematic conditions
- The number of children in NYC with lead poisoning, defined as a blood lead level (BLL) of 10 mcg/dL or greater, has declined 69 percent since 2005.
- 80% of NYC children are tested at least once before their third birthday. NYC also requires evidence of a lead test to attend school and daycare.

**DOHMH HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM:**

- The Health Department, through its Healthy Homes Program, has developed a comprehensive and proactive approach to childhood lead poisoning prevention and control, which includes:
  - Lead hazard reduction in homes and communities
  - Education and outreach to families and health care providers to promote prevention and early detection
  - Care coordination for children with lead poisoning and pregnant women with lead poisoning and their newborns
  - Environmental investigation and enforcement
  - Surveillance and research
- Since 2007, Healthy Homes has conducted over 7,700 primary prevention inspections around the city.
- In 2014, the Healthy Homes Program:
  - Provided care coordination services to 840 children with lead poisoning and 108 pregnant women with lead poisoning and their newborns.
  - Inspected more than 1,000 homes and issued violations for lead-based paint hazards in more than 600 of these homes.
  - Conducted over 700 inspections triggered by complaints of unsafe work practices which resulted in more than 300 issued violations.
  - Reduced community exposure to lead contaminated products, removing 150 illegal products in 115 NYC stores.
  - Distributed over 180,000 pieces of educational materials and promotional items and participated in 466 educational events, reaching approximately 12,000 people

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