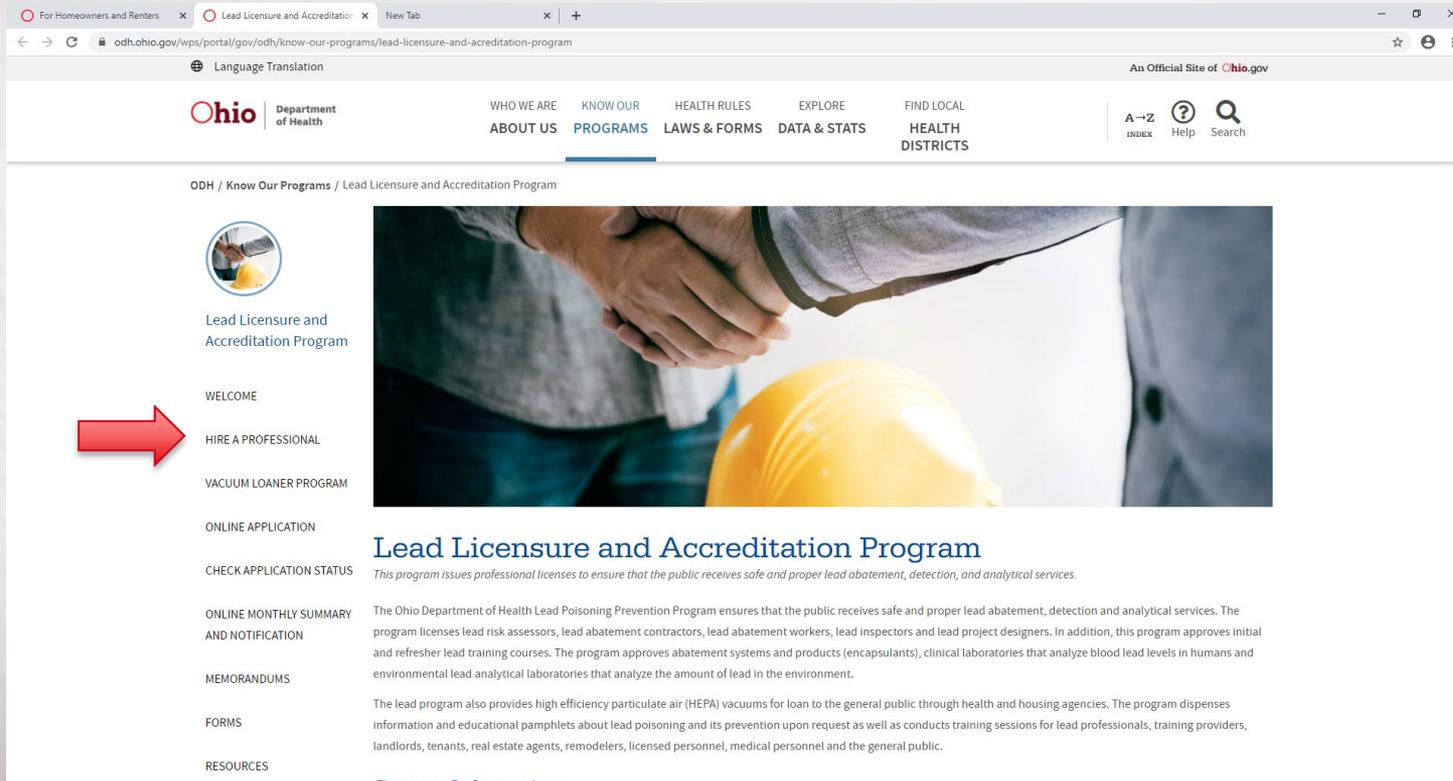


# Childhood Lead Program

**W. Gene Phillips, REHS**  
**Chief, Bureau of Environmental**  
**Health & Radiation Protection**

# Hire a Professional



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Ohio Department of Health website. The URL in the address bar is [odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/lead-licensure-and-accreditation-program](https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/lead-licensure-and-accreditation-program). The page features a navigation menu with links for 'WHO WE ARE', 'KNOW OUR PROGRAMS', 'HEALTH RULES', 'EXPLORE', and 'FIND LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS'. A sidebar on the left contains a list of menu items: 'WELCOME', 'HIRE A PROFESSIONAL', 'VACUUM LOANER PROGRAM', 'ONLINE APPLICATION', 'CHECK APPLICATION STATUS', 'ONLINE MONTHLY SUMMARY AND NOTIFICATION', 'MEMORANDUMS', 'FORMS', and 'RESOURCES'. A red arrow points to the 'HIRE A PROFESSIONAL' link. The main content area includes a large image of hands shaking over a yellow hard hat, followed by the heading 'Lead Licensure and Accreditation Program' and a brief description of the program's purpose.

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/lead-licensure-and-accreditation-program>

# Data and Statistics

- Blood lead testing data for Ohio children from 2016 to present can be found in ODH's Public Health Data Warehouse. These data are updated daily.

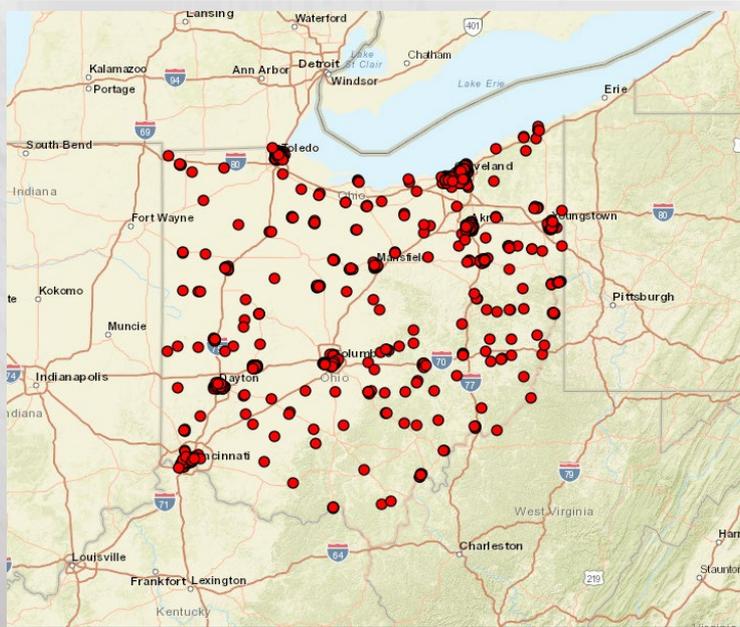
The screenshot displays the Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse interface. At the top left is the Ohio Department of Health logo. The main header reads "Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse" with navigation links for "Home" and "Help". The page title is "Lead Data". Below this, the "Description" is "Blood Lead Test Results for Ohio Children" and the "Category" is "Prevention". The "Last Updated" date is "8/29/2023" and the "Contact" email is "lead@odh.ohio.gov". There are three tabs: "Details", "Charts", and "Reports", with "Reports" currently selected. A table lists two data items, each with a checkbox and a square icon:

			Chart Builder	Chart List	Output
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number of Ohio Children, Less Than Six Years of Age, Tested for Lead (2016 – Present)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Ohio Children, Less Than Six Years of Age (2016-Present)			

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse" and "Disclaimer".

# Ohio Lead Hazardous Properties

<http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/EDW/DataBrowser/Browse/LeadHazardousProperties>



- A list of hazardous properties in Ohio whose owners have refused to comply with an order from the Ohio Department of Health or its delegated local board of health to correct known lead hazards is available.

# Lead-Safe Rental Registry



- The Ohio Department of Health works with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to help renters locate lead safe housing in Ohio.
- The Ohio Housing Locator is a free, statewide service for rental housing.
- This website helps Ohioans search for units that are affordable, accessible, available to seniors, lead safe, and more.
- [www.ohiohousinglocator.org](http://www.ohiohousinglocator.org)

# Lead Exposed Children

- Children are screened at ages 1 and 2.
  - Venous draw (considered confirmatory).
- Labs send their results to ODH within seven days of the child's test.
  - Focused on kids under 6 years of age.
- Referral is generated.
  - Child with 3.5 to  $<10\mu\text{g/dL}$  result (pending OAC rule changes).
  - Child with  $10\mu\text{g/dL}$  or greater test result.

# Lead Exposure Questionnaire

- Used for elevated blood lead level cases (3.5 to <10 $\mu$ g/dL test results) and lead poisoned child cases (10 $\mu$ g/dL or greater test results).
- Looks at various possible sources of lead exposure.
- Residence, childcare facility, school, other homes  $\geq$ 6 hours/week.
- Hobbies, jobs, cultural practices, imported food or spices, old toys, antiques.
- Child's behavior (ingest non-food items, thumb sucker).
- Home location (near potential lead source: industry, major roadway, construction site).
- Medical and developmental questions (ODH can make a referral to other programs for further assistance).

# More on the Questionnaire

- Onsite or phone interview with the child's parent/guardian.
  - Based on contact info provided by the lab.
  - May need to contact doctor, WIC, Healthchek Coordinator for a working phone number or current address.
  - May need to send letters to parent/guardian to get a response.
  - Texting families sometimes gets an immediate response.
  - For 10+ cases, if questionnaire isn't completed, no onsite testing can occur.

# More on the Questionnaire (cont'd)

- This information guides ODH and delegated authorities as to the possible contributing sources of a child's lead exposure.
  - Establishes jurisdiction for onsite testing.
- May need to focus on non-property source instead.

# Elevated Blood Lead Level Referrals

- 3.5 to <10 $\mu$ g/dL results.
  - Cases in this range are known as elevated blood lead level cases.
  - Anyone can complete the questionnaire at this blood lead level range.
    - Case Manager, Public Health Lead Investigator, or other health department employee.
- Provide recommendations, education, grant options, tax abatement credit information.
- Provide family with Elevated Blood Lead Level Summary Report.

# Lead Poisoned Child Referrals

- 10 $\mu$ g/dL or greater results.
  - Cases in this range are known as lead poisoned child cases.
  - Childhood Lead Exposure Questionnaire.
  - Onsite Lead Inspection/Risk Assessment (LIRA).
  - Public Health Lead Investigator will respond to these cases.

# Public Health Lead Investigators

- Must be a licensed Lead Risk Assessor and an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS or EHSIT).
- Four investigators at ODH.
- Lead investigations twice per week.
- 83 of 88 counties (remaining counties are covered by delegated authorities).

# Hobbies and Occupations

- Battery factories.
- Oil and gas industry.
- Making lead fishing sinkers.
- Reloading bullets.
- Industrial painting.
- Renovating pre-1978 homes.

# Lead Based Paint Inspection and Lead Risk Assessment

- Thorough testing of painted, stained, varnished surfaces.
- Walls, baseboards, floors, doors, windows, siding, porch components, etc.
- Environmental sampling- dust, soil, water, paint chips.

# Lead Hazard Control Order

- Issued on lead-based paint hazards, dust, soil, and paint chip hazards.
- 90-day compliance period.
- Work must be performed by a licensed lead abatement contractor.
- Owner-occupied exemption.
  - Criteria must be met first.

# Compliance Options

- **Enroll in a grant program.**
  - HUD, SCHIP, Middle Income, or local grant.
- **Pay out of pocket for lead hazard control work.**
- **Lead abatement tax credit.**
  - Up to \$10,000 credit for a property owner.
- **Owner-occupied exemption.**
  - Criteria must be met first.

# Compliance Process

- Owner can request up to three, 3-month extensions.
  - Demonstrated progress toward compliance.
  - Measures taken to protect child from further lead exposure, decreasing blood lead level.
- Ultimate goal is a passing clearance examination and compliance with lead order.
  - Notice of Compliance issuance.

# Owner Non-Compliance

- Owner does not comply within one year, not enrolled in a grant.
- Child's blood lead level is increasing.
- Owner expresses no desire to comply with lead hazard control order.
- Issuance of Notice of Non-compliance/Order to Vacate to property owner.

# Notice of Non-compliance/ Order to Vacate

- No one can reside in property.
- Property cannot be used as a residential unit, childcare facility, or school.
- Property will be placarded.
- Compliance can still be achieved (ultimate goal).

# SCHIP Project

- Request \$10 million over 2 years for two specific projects
- Project 1 – Lead Abatement Activities
- Project 2 – Lead-Safe Rental Registry
- Required legislation approval for match funding and language for rental registry
- Approved in the state budget bill

# Project 1 – Phase 1

- Conduct lead hazard control
- A statewide project – all 88 counties included
- Target properties with lead hazard control orders

# Eligibility

- Property must be built before 1978.
- A child under 19 years of age or pregnant woman enrolled in Medicaid must reside in or visit the property 6 hours per week or more.
- Property taxes must be paid or a payment plan in place.

# Lead Abatement Activities

- Lead-based paint, dust, and soil remediation including door and window treatments and replacement, floor treatments, paint removal, paint stabilization/repainting, encapsulation, enclosure, specialized cleaning, soil replacement or covering.
- When water is identified as a possible source of lead exposure a faucet water filter rated to effectively to remove lead will be provided.

# Lead Safe Rental Registry

- Voluntary for rental property owners
- Properties eligible for registration
  - Built after 1978
  - Built before 1978
    - Lead inspection conducted by a lead inspector or lead risk assessor shows no lead-based paint
    - Subject to a lead hazard control order with a passing clearance examination conducted within the past year (required)
    - Completion of the prescribed visual assessment, rental maintenance practices and passage of a cleaning verification

# HUD Grant #5

- Cover 31 counties across the state
- \$5.7 million received
- \$700,000 for healthy homes repairs
- Property must be built before 1978
- A child under 6 years of age must reside or visit the property more than 6 hours per week
- Unit is qualified based on the resident's income 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

# Lead Safe Housing Fund

- Funding provided through competitive solicitation
- 16 communities identified for 24/25 funding
- Primary Prevention Activities
  - Physician Education
  - Lead Hazard Control
  - Workforce Development
  - Lead Safe renovation
  - Testing pilot program

# Lead Safe Ohio Funding

- \$150 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provided to the Ohio Department of Development
  - \$100 million – Construction activities
  - \$22.5 million – Workforce Development
  - \$20 million – ODH set-aside
  - \$4.5 million – Contractor Liaisons
  - Other administrative costs