

Community Lead Awareness Partnership (CLAP) for Healthy Kids

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Abstract: The primary objectives of the project were to encourage health promotion through education, outreach and community based training and to support infrastructure development for the sustainability of lead prevention efforts. *Methods:* The study was conducted in Forrest County, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. CLAP staff distributed material and spoke at a wide variety of venues making over 50 public appearances at health fairs, schools, neighborhood meetings, community events and the local park. The number of participants were as follows: health fairs ($n = 467$), community events ($n = 469$), and Kindergarten classes ($n = 241$). Hands-on training was offered at home-building retail stores ($n = 25$). EPA/HUD's online visual training was given to realtors ($n = 220$), and inspectors, contractors, and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) workers ($n = 75$). Training workshops were attended by home-buyers and rental home owners at the Neighborhood Association Meetings ($n = 91$). Impact of training was evaluated by pre- and posttests. *Results: Hands-on Training:* Nearly 90% of the participants ($n = 25$) reported the hands-on training was useful. *EPA/HUD Online Training:* At posttest, 59.4%, 67.9%, 65.1% of the participants ($n = 220$) identified soil, car batteries and paint as sources of lead in the environment, respectively. Nearly 70% identified lead as a poison in the environment while 77.5% and 47.2% of those surveyed demonstrated two different behaviors which will help prevent lead poisoning. A total of 62.3%, 48.1% and 58.5%, at posttest, identified three complications (mental, physical and psychological) respectively. The mean posttest score was significantly higher than the pretest scores (7.47 ± 2.07 vs. 6.60 ± 1.68 , respectively). All the participants at a 2-month follow-up reported that they used information obtained during the training on EPA-HUD curriculum on lead. The outcome measurements of home-buyer workshops were not significantly different from those of the online training. *Conclusion:* This training activities were successful in improving knowledge of the community people on lead poisoning prevention. Community programs are essential to ensure primary prevention of lead poisoning.

Keywords: Lead poisoning; training; prevention; outreach; Mississippi; EPA.

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