

Assessing the Risk of Lead Exposure

CDC Guidelines for Questions to Ask Regarding a Child's Environmental History:

Environmental exposure

- ▶ What is the age and general condition of the residence?
- ▶ Is there evidence of chewed or peeling paint on woodwork, furniture or toys?
- ▶ How long has the family lived at that residence?
- ▶ Have there been recent renovations or repairs in the house?
- ▶ Are there other sites where the child spends significant amounts of time?
- ▶ What is the character of indoor play areas?
- ▶ Do outdoor play areas contain bare soil that may be contaminated?
- ▶ How does the family attempt to control dust/dirt?

Relevant behavioral characteristics of the child

- ▶ To what degree does the child exhibit hand-to-mouth activity?
- ▶ Does the child exhibit pica?
- ▶ Are the child's hands washed before meals and snacks?

Exposures to and behaviors of household members

- ▶ What are the occupations of adult household members?
- ▶ What are the hobbies of household members? (Fishing, working with ceramics or stained glass and hunting are examples of hobbies that involve risk for lead exposure.)
- ▶ Are painted materials or unusual materials burned in household fireplaces?

Miscellaneous questions

- ▶ Does the home contain vinyl mini-blinds made overseas and purchased before 1997?
- ▶ Does the child receive or have access to imported food, cosmetics or folk remedies?
- ▶ Is food prepared or stored in imported pottery or metal vessels?

