

What Healthcare Providers Need to Know About the Bangladesh Community and Lead

Lead Poisoning Risk Factors

- Many homes before 1978 were painted with lead-based paint and built with lead products
- Immigrants and children of immigrants are at an increased risk of having elevated blood lead levels
- Low-income people have an increased risk for elevated blood lead levels
- Low English proficiency (LEP) creates barriers to receiving optimal medical care:
 - Increased difficulty in accessing medical resources
 - Increased communication errors
 - Decreased patient satisfaction
 - Increased risk adverse outcomes
 - Increased health disparities in the community
 - Prescription drug complications

Bangladesh Community Risk Factors

- Hamtramck has the third largest Bangladeshi population outside of New York and Miami
- 70% of homes in Hamtramck were built before 1950
 - 69% of homes built before 1960 are contaminated with lead
- Children in Hamtramck are two times more likely to have elevated blood lead level
 - 30% of the Bangladeshi children in Hamtramck are between the ages of 0-6 years old
- 81% of the Bangladeshi living in Hamtramck are foreign-born
- 39% of the Bangladeshi living in Hamtramck live at the poverty level
- 47% of foreign-born Bangladeshi have LEP



How Can Health Care Providers Help?

- Have all pregnant women and children between the ages of 0-6 years old tested for lead
- Provide interpreter services for all Bangladeshi speaking patients
 - Interpreter Services must be utilized to people with low English proficiency (LEP) under Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts.

Benefits of Interpreter Services

- Improved quality of healthcare for patients with low English proficiency
- Decreased communication errors
- Increased adherence to treatment plan
- Increased patient positive outcomes and satisfaction

More Information to Come!

- Educational modules related to lead poisoning prevention in high-risk children and pregnant women are being developed
- Electronic, easy to use and complete!



Made possible from funding by the MDHHS and CLEEC
Contact the EMU Lead Team: Sarah Lally, Lead Health Educator,
sarstjoh@med.umich.edu, (734) 320-6432



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**Center for Health Disparities
Innovations and Studies**

www.emich.edu/CHDIS