





# About Us

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# Our LC: #3





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# Our Partner: Cincinnati Health Department

Mission: "To assure access to quality services and to improve community health and wellness"

- Protecting and improving the health of the people in Cincinnati
- Promoting healthy living environments and social well-being
- Reduce health inequities
- Improving community health



## Our Project

- **Our Social Determinant of Health:** lead contamination in the environment.
- **Our Project Goal:** increasing awareness of lead contamination among children and their parents.
- **Our Methods:** educating students of Robert's Academy about lead contamination and preventing exposure; also provide informational brochures to their parents.



## Our Determinant of Health: The Built Environment

- Lead exposure is an environmental hazard prevalent throughout the Cincinnati community.
- Childhood lead exposure is common, has detrimental effects on brain development, and may be prevented through education and proper testing.
- The prevalence of lead exposure tends to correlate closely with lower socioeconomic status neighborhoods.

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# Lead Education at Roberts Academy



## Our Objectives

- Improve parents' and children's knowledge of the health consequences of lead toxicity and the common sources of lead exposure in the environment
- Communicate the importance of lead blood testing, along with other useful information about lead exposure and prevention, to parents
- Create and distribute materials with information about lead safety, as well as the government programs and other resources currently available to assist those exposed to lead



## Challenges our Community Partner Encountered

- There are numerous organizations working on this problem, ranging from NGOs to local and state government
- Unfortunately, there is little communication between entities, leading to instances of multiple groups with complimentary efforts that are not well coordinated



# Why Government Leadership Should Choose Us

- Lead in the built environment is a complex and multifaceted problem that disproportionately affects the most disadvantaged among us
- Like many other insidious problems, lead contamination does not receive attention commensurate to its dangers
- We hope to change that by increasing awareness and education of lead contamination



## Our Ask

- It is critical for physicians to use their positions to provide community education and advocate for patients
- Improved education of the community, especially parents/caretakers of young children, can help prevent lead exposure in those most vulnerable to its effects
- **Our Solution:** regular health education/after-school programs for students



## Main Points

1. Lead exposure is an important problem in the Cincinnati area.
2. Knowledge about the dangers of lead exposure can be improved upon.
3. Advocacy and funding can help reduce the incidence of lead exposure through education of youth.



## Next Steps

1. Organize education sessions for parents of young children either through the school or Cincinnati Health Department to directly connect with them. Explain the importance of avoiding lead exposure and following CDC guidelines regarding blood lead level testing in children.
2. Emphasize blood lead testing/secondary prevention as an essential safety net for children at high risk for exposure. Incorporate more materials in presentation/brochures regarding lead testing and community resources. Connect with health care providers who may be willing to present at schools and conduct blood lead testing.

**Thank You! Questions?**

