

6 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Research Priorities

If we are to improve lead poisoning prevention strategies, we need additional research in the following areas:

- 1) Effectiveness of interventions aimed at preventing or reducing elevated BLLs and their adverse health effects among children, including studies of:
 - The effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions to control lead hazards in housing.
 - The effectiveness of family education about lead poisoning prevention in preventing BLL elevations or in reducing already elevated BLLs.
 - The effectiveness of chelation therapy in preventing or reducing neurobehavioral effects of elevated BLLs, especially among children with modestly elevated BLLs.
- 2) Barriers to screening and other lead poisoning prevention activities, especially in places with high prevalences of elevated BLLs.

- 3) Prediction of places with high and low prevalences of elevated BLLs. Such information could be used to allocate resources and target efforts.
- 4) Methods of identifying individual children with BLLs $\geq 20 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ including research on the use of the personal-risk questionnaire.
- 5) The impact of new laboratory methods, including hand-held and clinic-based BLL analyzers, on prevention programs and BLL monitoring.
- 6) The contribution to elevated BLLs in children of nonpaint sources of lead exposure, including studies of exposure to lead taken home from workplaces of adults.