

November 2002-- from the *Alliance To End Childhood Lead Poisoning*  
***The Community Tool Kit: an Advocate's Tool for Improving Lead Screening in Your Community***

Community action can make a critical difference in how health care is provided locally. The *Community Tool Kit* is intended to help communities fight childhood lead poisoning by focusing lead screening where it can do the most good.

- ⊙ In some communities, lead poisoning is a common threat to young children. These are *target* communities. In other communities, lead is not so common.
- ⊙ Target communities especially need services to help protect children from lead.
- ⊙ Lead screening is one such service. It is used to identify children who have lead in their systems. Then, actions can be taken to get them well and protect them from more lead.
- ⊙ Lead screening is a simple blood test. It is not a cure-all. It won't stop lead from threatening the community. But it will identify children with lead poisoning and help them get the care they need.
- ⊙ The goal of the *Tool Kit* is to **increase lead screening** for children in target communities. If these children are lead poisoned, they should have follow-up care to help them get well and protect them from more lead.

The *Tool Kit* includes:

**Improving Lead Screening for Young Children: What Communities Need to Know** – a basic fact sheet on lead screening.

**A Brief Guide to Community Options for Improving Medicaid Lead Screening** -- a guide to focusing lead screening on children who are at most risk.

**Newspaper clippings** -- Examples of recent media coverage of communities in action on childhood lead poisoning.

**Tip Sheet** on finding vital information about lead in your community, using *Scorecard* to learn about community lead hazards.

*Formed in 1990 by leaders in public health, environmental protection, affordable housing, and civil rights, the Alliance To End Childhood Lead Poisoning ([www.aeclp.org](http://www.aeclp.org)) is the preeminent national advocacy and policy organization working to protect children from lead poisoning.*