

2017

# The lead poisoning problem in Polk County and Des Moines, IA

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## Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Leichsenring, Ami; Castro, Naomi; Dominguez, Vanessa; De Forest-Davis, Samantha G.; and Saucedo, Keila. "The lead poisoning problem in Polk County and Des Moines, IA" (2017). *2016-2017: Scott County, Iowa and the Scott County Health Department*. <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliscott/7>

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A study on the lead poisoning problem in  
Polk County and Des Moines, IA

Ami Leichsenring, Naomi Castro, Vanessa Dominguez,  
Samantha DeForest-Davis, and Keila Saucedo

# Polk County

Most populated county

More than 40 cities including Des Moines

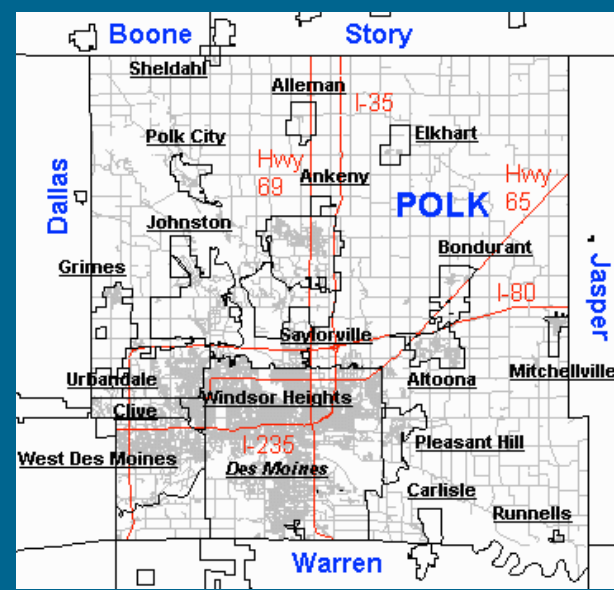
35% of homes in Polk County were built by 1960

Lead is a risk to homes built before 1978

Some success, can be used to inspire success in Scott County

Education programs

Community partners



# Demographics

	Population	Homes Total	Homes Built Pre 1960	Under Age of 5	Median Household Income	Poverty	Without Health Insurance
Scott County	172,126	73,279	20,065	6.6%	53,704	12.2%	7.3%
Polk County	467,711	195,114	42,467	7.3%	59,844	13.1%	7.0%

# Funding

Polk relies on HUD grants

but this grants has drastically changed over time

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Polk County Housing Trust Fund

Health Build

Polk County Health Department



# Community Partners

Polk County Board of Supervisors

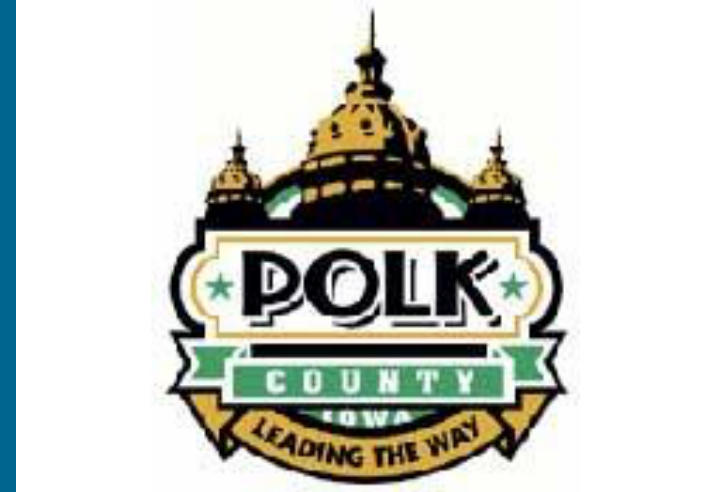
Polk County Health Department

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Leadie Eddie - in conjunction with →

Des Moines Public Schools

Polk County Housing Trust Fund



# Community Partners continued

## Local Hotels

Give discounts to Polk County

Provide housing in instances where remediations are extensive

## Contractors for Remediations

Remediations are done by local contractors

Challenges in finding enough contractors to do remediations



# Addressing the Problem

## Education- Leadie Eddie

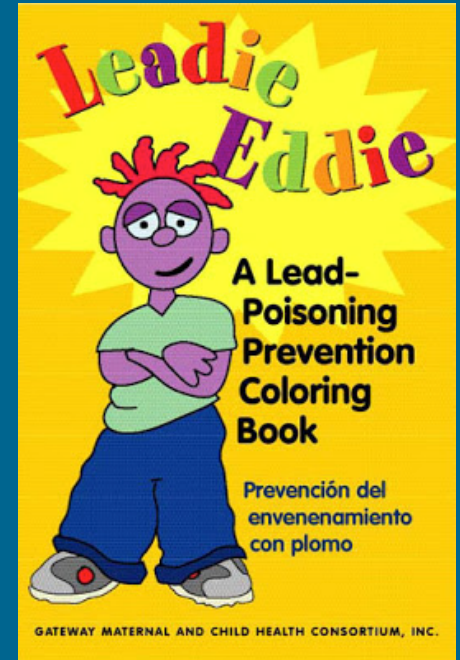
Outreach of Health Officials

## Polk County offers proactive programs

Lead Inspectors and Healthy Home Specialists

## Effort at County Level and City Level

Des Moines: Drinking Water Lead Testing Program





# Addressing the problem

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## Spanish speakers on staff

Answer questions from spanish speaking individuals

## Local Media coverage

Awareness of program or diagnosis of child

Building relationships

# Environmental Justice

## Precautionary Principle

Calls us to be proactive rather than reactive

## Citizen involvement

Can put pressure on the bureaucracy to make a difference

Hold power in the community

## Positionality

The demographics of the community matter to finding a probable solution



# Recommendations

## Rick Kozin- Community Involvement

Relationships with media, city councils, school boards

## Update Scott County Health Department Website

More links/contact information

More transparency

## Educational programs

Scott County Public Schools



# Recommendations

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## Success Stories

Seek out community families who have personal lead remediation success

Are they willing to volunteer to share positive effects?

## Reach Out to Underrepresented Communities

Refugee Communities

Non-English Speaking Communities

# Questions for Augustana? Contact Us!

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