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Environmental Justice Achievement Award

Academic Institution



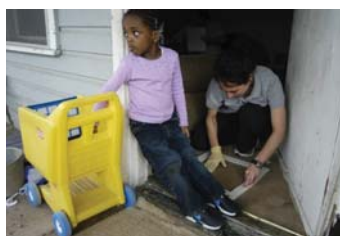
Duke University, Children's Environmental Health Initiative



CEH data manager, Abba Overstreet, works on lead models with Lenora Smith from Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health (PEACH)/Clear Corps in Durham.



Former CEH field technician Carolina Pongello-Toro talks with children about lead at a Health Fair at Eastway Elementary School in Durham, NC.



CPHL volunteer Michelle Korman collects a dust wipe sample from a home in Durham during an outreach event. The resident's child looks on as she explains the hazards of lead. Photo courtesy of the Raleigh News and Observer.

EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the Children's Environmental Health Initiative at Duke University for its outstanding efforts to reduce childhood lead exposure.

A recognized leader in lead poisoning prevention, Duke University has developed childhood lead exposure risk models for several communities across the United States. Lead poisoning poses particular risks to low-income and minority children.

The Children's Environmental Health Initiative has addressed this issue using advanced spatial and statistical analysis to develop the Childhood Lead Exposure Risk Model; collaborating with multiple public health agencies and community advocates to distribute, promote, and enhance this tool; and regularly convening stakeholders in an open process to design effective interaction strategies that benefit the entire community. Multiple public agencies and community-based organizations now use the tool to prioritize and implement lead poisoning prevention programs in communities most at risk of lead exposure in the home. This research and the Lead Model have been distributed in peer-reviewed journals, at conferences, through direct contact with health care providers, in local training workshops, and through constant interaction with stakeholders.

Duke University initiated and directed community-wide strategic planning that led to the formation of Community Partners Against Lead, a partnership of community groups and government officials dedicated to eliminating lead poisoning in Durham by 2010. Use of the Lead Model allows communities to target the highest-risk homes more cost-effectively, and to create and implement targeted integration programs. For example, using the Lead Model to direct blood lead screening priorities has led to a 600 percent increase in the capture rate of children with elevated blood lead levels in Durham County. The Lead Model is being replicated and disseminated across the United States.

