

Protecting Children from Lead: Prevention, Testing, and Sources

Kimberly Schneider, RN, PHN
July 26, 2023



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

What Is Lead?

Lead 101



 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & YOU**
an e-learning series

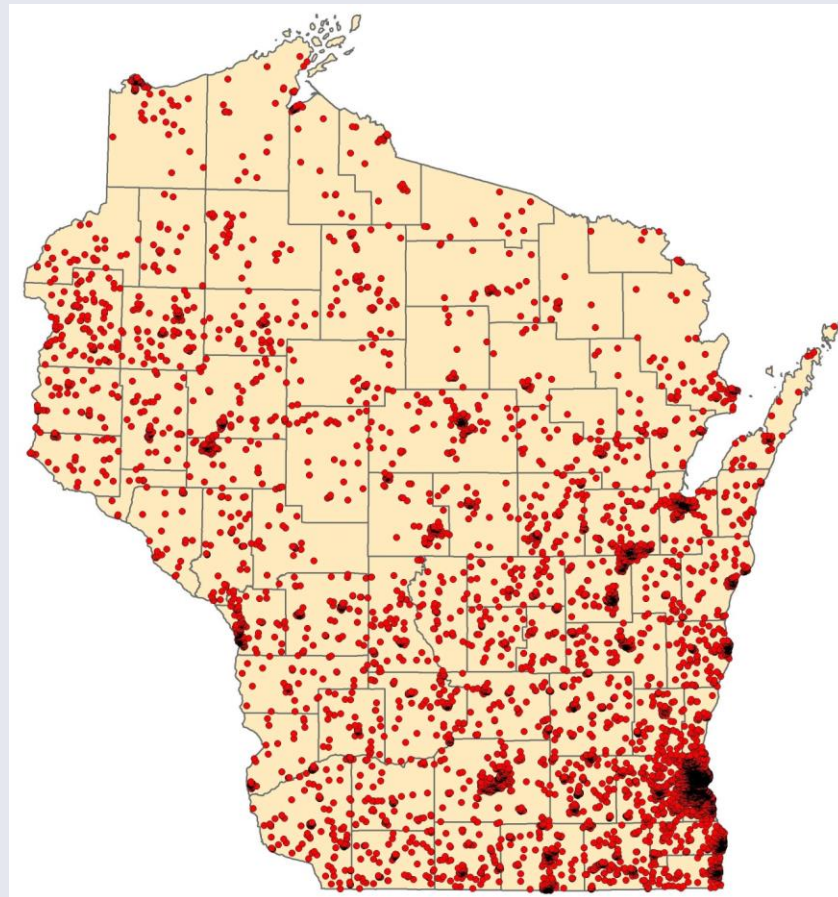
**AT HOME**

**AT WORK**

**AT PLAY**

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health

Where Is Lead?



Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin

Each red dot represents an address associated with a lead-poisoned child, 1996–2016

Common Sources

- Lead based paint
- Bare soil
- Air
- Water
- Occupation or hobby
- Spices
- Imported items
- Older furniture or household items

Who Is at Risk?

Who Is at Risk?

- Children under age 6:
 - Substantial hand to mouth behavior
 - Higher rate of absorption
 - Rapidly developing nervous system
- Fetus during pregnancy
 - Lead passes through the placenta or breast milk
 - Lead can be released from bone stores

Risk Factors

- Being eligible for Medicaid, BadgerCare, WIC
- Living or visiting a building built before 1950 or 1978 with recent or ongoing renovations
- Drinking water from lead plumbing fixtures
- Using imported items (spices, candies, cookware)
- Being exposed to take home lead (occupational or hobby)
- Being exposed to other lead hazards (potential or known)

Lead Effects



What Does Lead Poisoning Do To Your Brain?

Health Effects

- Learning disabilities
- Lowered I.Q.
- Behavioral problems
- Hyperactivity
- Speech or hearing delays

Know the Connections

- Lead can cause **developmental delays**: Encourage children to be screened regularly
- Lead poisoning can be **hard to detect**: Encourage children to be tested
- Lead poisoning overlaps with **environmental and socio-economic risk** factors

What Can You Do?



Home Visitors

- Provide information to parents
- Be aware
- Provide important tips for families
- Know the connections

Important Tips for Families

- Ask a pediatrician about blood lead testing children at ages 1 and 2 (or between 3–5 if not already tested)!
- Assume there is lead paint if the building was built prior to 1978.
- Wet wipe hard surfaces.
- Use a HEPA vacuum for lead dust.
- Hire [Lead Safe Renovation Contractors](#).

Share Information

- [What you Should Know About Your Child's Blood Lead Level](#) (National Center for Healthy Housing)
- [Know the Facts](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Look Out for Lead](#) (Department of Health Services)
- [Lead Safe Wisconsin Tools - for Outreach](#) (DHS)

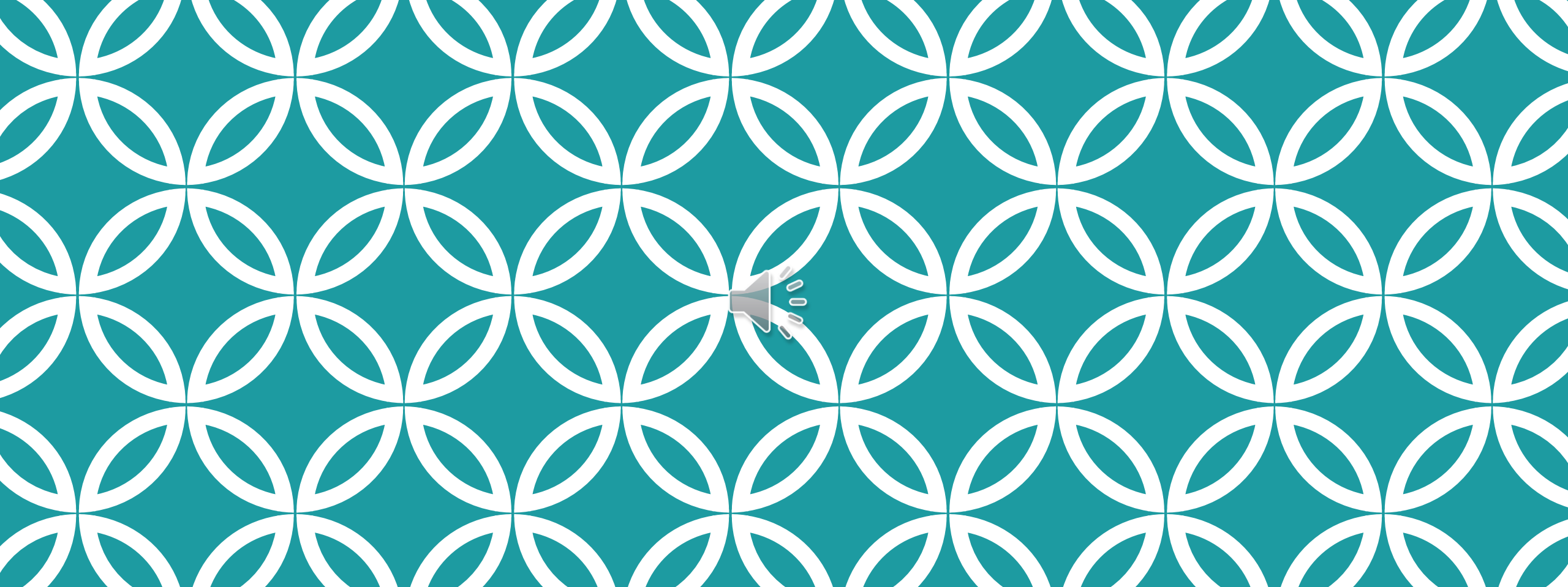
Key Takeaways

Remember

- Childhood lead poisoning is all over Wisconsin
- Children under 6 are most at risk
- Children should be tested at age 1 and 2
- Resources for families can be found at [Lead Safe Wisconsin Tools - for Outreach](#)



LEAD-SAFE HOMES PROGRAM



LION IN THE LIVING ROOM

Poem by Jonathan
Bader

What is the Lead-Safe Homes Program?

What?

The Lead-Safe Homes Program is a health services initiative with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).



Who?

This program helps:

- Children
- Property Owners
- Contractors
- Communities

Work is done on properties where a child under the age of 19 or a pregnant woman lives or regularly visits *and* is enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus

How?

This program repairs owner-occupied and rental properties to make them lead-safe.

The program can cover the costs of:

- The risk assessment and clearance on properties of non-poisoned children
- The lead abatement
- Relocation of the family

ELIGIBILITY FOR LSHP

- Owner occupied or occupied rental property
- Built before 1978
- Child or pregnant woman on or eligible for Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus
- Current on property taxes

REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDLORDS

Contribute 10% of total project cost

Not sell rental property within 3 years of project

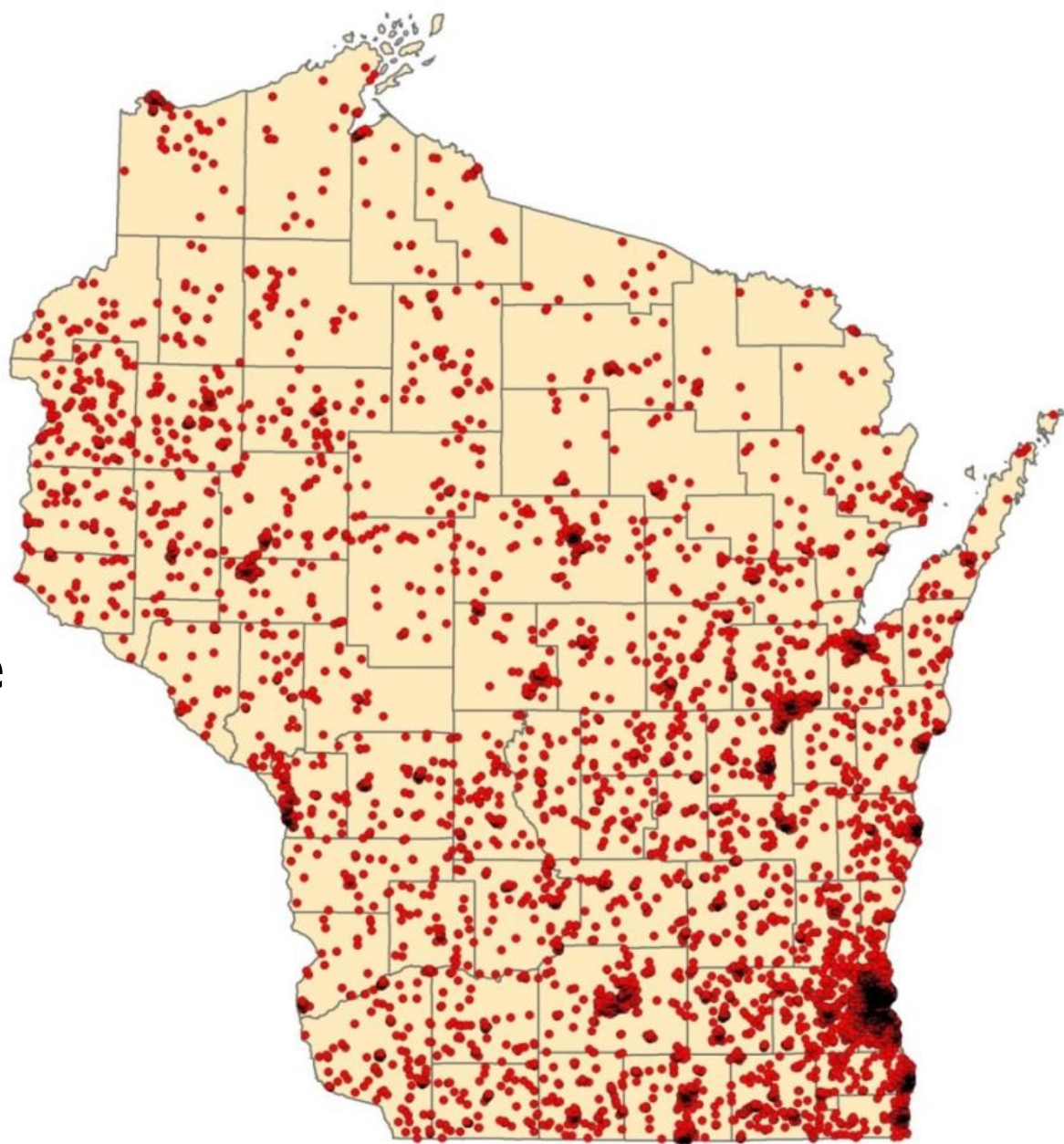
Rent to low- and moderate-income families with young children for 3 years

Keep rent at the HUD Fair Market Rent (HUD FMR)

The Problem

Each dot references a home of a lead-poisoned child.

100% PREVENTABLE



*Source: Wisconsin Blood Lead Testing Data, 1996-2016.

THE 1ST GOAL

Fix the lead-based paint hazards in the homes of all the identified Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL) and poisoned children in the state.

As of December 2023:

- 198 EBLL children
- 2519 Poisoned children (>5ug/dL)
 - 663 (>10ug/dL)
 - 300 (>15ug/dL)

THE FOCUS

LSHP priority levels and criteria are:

- **Priority 1**—Homes where a child has been identified with a high blood lead level and the local health department has issued orders for correction
- **Priority 2**—Homes of children that are poisoned but are not subject to lead hazard reduction work orders from the local health department
- **Priority 3**—Homes built before 1950 that do not have a lead poisoned child or lead hazard reduction work orders
- **Priority 4**—Any other eligible property



BUILDING THE LEAD SAFE COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIPS

Statewide LSHP has:

16 Program Administrators

4 Local Health Department grantees



LSHP partners cover 52 of the 72 counties.



NUMBERS SO FAR

2019—2023

BASIC PROGRAM NUMBERS

Applications Received: 984

Homes completed: 392 (full abatement)

Homes relocated greater than 10 days: 200

Workers trained: 411

Workers certified: 287

PEOPLE IMPACTED

Children less
than 19 years old:
1001

Adults present:
728

Children with a
blood lead level
greater than
5mcg/dL: 70

Pregnant females:
13

ABATEMENT NUMBERS

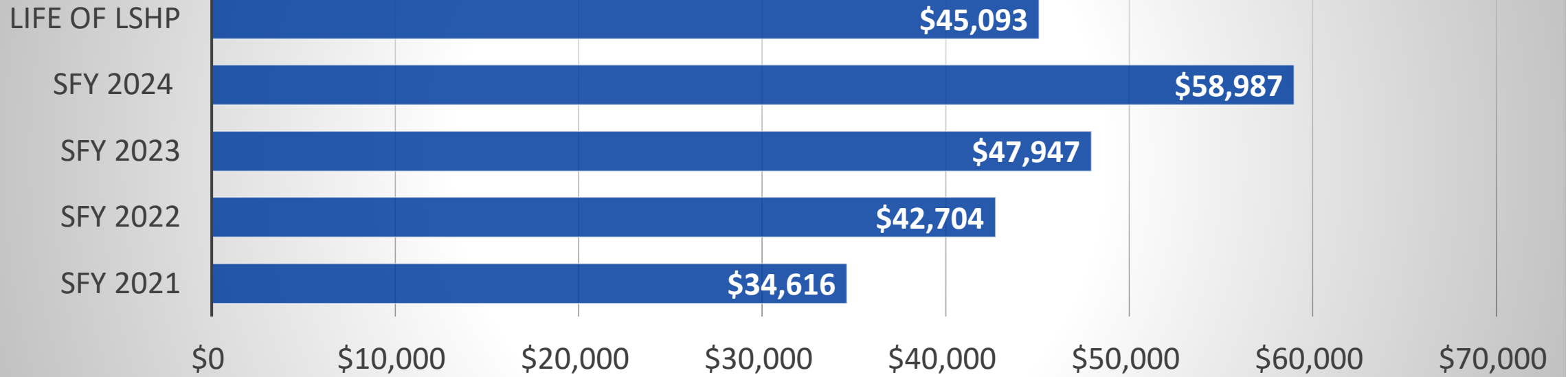
Common work on homes:

- Windows
- Doors
- Exterior: siding, soffit, fascia, gutters
- Floors—sealing and carpet removal
- Porches
- Soil
- Outbuildings

Homes identified with hazards:

- Paint hazards: 388
- Dust hazards: 341
- Soil hazards: 111

Average Abatement Costs



COST OF WORK

A photograph of three houses in a row, illustrating a renovation project. The first house on the left is in its original state, with dark siding and a balcony. The middle house is in the process of being renovated, with white siding and a balcony. The third house on the right is fully renovated, with light-colored siding and a balcony. A vertical white line separates the first two houses from the third. The text "BEFORE AND AFTER" is overlaid in the center.

BEFORE AND AFTER



169



169

Welcome



169













GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Contractor capacity

Partnership development

Braiding funds

Whole home repairs

CONTACT US

Asthma-Safe Homes Program

Molly Zemke, MPH she/her/hers

Program Manager

molly.zemke@dhs.wisconsin.gov

608-266-1112

dhs.wisconsin.gov/asthma/ashp.htm

Lead-Safe Homes Program

Harry Dettinger, MPH

Outreach Specialist

Harold.Dettinger@dhs.wisconsin.gov

608-266-1610

dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/lshp.htm

