

# Tennessee Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Environmental Investigations

## **What is an Environmental Investigation?**

An environmental investigation (EI) is a state-funded procedure to determine the source of lead exposure in the home and/or other sites frequented by a child with a high blood lead level. The Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) performs tests on paint, soil, water, toys, and other goods in the child's daily orbit. A comprehensive report, detailing potential exposures, is forwarded to the child's primary care provider from the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), for review with the family. The TDH Regional Lead Coordinator also receives the report and will share follow-up strategies with the child's parents/guardian.

## **Who is *Eligible* for an EI?**

A child, aged six or under with:

- A confirmed blood lead level of 20 µg/dL or higher
- Three or more confirmed, consecutive, escalating EBLLs
- A primary care provider's signed EI request form

## **Is the EI a *Requirement* for Eligible Children?**

No, the environmental investigation is an option, not a requirement. In some cases, the exposure source may be obvious, rendering an EI unnecessary. Though not common, it is possible that the residence in question was previously tested. Some parents, for whatever reasons, may also refuse an investigation. If you have questions or concerns, discuss them with the TDH case manager.

## **What is the EI *Process*?**

Please see the accompanying flow chart.

# Environmental Investigation Process Flow Chart

