

Our nation's children deserve our best efforts to eliminate lead poisoning as a risk to their wellbeing. Lead poisoning among children is a tragedy and should be eliminated.

On specific numbers, we haven't seen the report from Congressman Miller or data referenced in the Washington Post article. CDC welcomes the opportunity to review that data mentioned. Now, as in 2004, CDC continues to caution communities across the country to eliminate all lead exposure in children.

The 193 children in the 2004 CDC MMWR report represents the surveillance data reported to CDC in 2003 from the DC Department of Health.

It's important to note, however, that the findings in the 2004 CDC report related to the 193 children indicated that although lead in tap water contributed to a small increase in Blood Lead Levels (BLL) in DC, no children were identified with BLL $10\text{ }\mu\text{g/dL}$, even in homes with the highest water lead levels.

The key point of CDC's 2004 MMWR article was that communities should be alert when they change the chemistry in their public water systems to ensure that lead concentrations in drinking water remain below the EPA action level (15 parts per billion.)

Scientific investigation of known health hazards such as lead, including work that clarifies routes of exposure and helps quantify exposure risks, is the foundation of sound public health action.