2017

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

Ami Leichsenring
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Naomi Castro
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Vanessa Dominguez
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Samantha G. De Forest-Davis
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Keila Saucedo
*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliscott](http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliscott)

Part of the Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons, Environmental Public Health Commons, and the Public Health Education and Promotion Commons

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](http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliscott/7)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2016-2017: Scott County, Iowa and the Scott County Health Department by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.
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

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

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

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!

sdeforest-davis13@augustana.edu
vanessadominguez15@augustana.edu
sashacastro14@augustana.edu
amileichsenring14@augustana.edu
keilasaucedo13@augustana.edu

Public Health Department Chair: CarolynHough@augustana.edu

Sociology Department Chair: PeterKivisto@augustana.edu
Contact Information

Rick Kozin  
Director of Polk County Health Department  
(515)-286-3926  
rick.kozin@polkcountyiowa.gov

Joelle Stolte  
Polk County Health Department, Manager of Lead Prevention Program  
(515)-286-3749  
joelle.stolte@polkocountyiowa.gov