U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

July 9, 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate

K-12 Education: School Districts' Efforts to Address Lead-Based Paint

Recent revelations of lead exposure—in Flint, Michigan through drinking water and in East Chicago, Indiana through contaminated soil and lead dust from past industrial activities—have renewed public awareness about the dangers lead exposure poses to public health, including the health of school-age children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), no safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even though the extent to which children are exposed to lead has been substantially reduced since the 1970s, today, about 3.6 million U.S. families with a child under the age of 6 live in a home with one or more conditions that can expose their child to levels of lead that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers hazardous.[1] Moreover, as our recent report on lead in school drinking water shows, an estimated 41 percent of school districts, serving 12 million children, had not recently tested for lead.[2]

Children can be exposed to lead through several sources, and the most common source is from paint in buildings built before 1978, according to the EPA.[3] Lead dust in schools can come from disturbing lead paint during renovations, deteriorating lead paint and lead-contaminated soil that gets tracked into a school and can be inadvertently inhaled or otherwise ingested. The federal government banned the sale of lead-based paint for consumer use in 1978, however buildings

[1]*Key Federal Programs to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts*, (Nov. 2016), President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, see https://ptfceh.niehs.nih.gov/features/assets/files/key_federal_programs_to_reduce_childhood_lead_exposures_and_eliminate_associated_health_impactspresidents_508.pdf.

[2]GAO, *K-12 Education: Lead Testing of School Drinking Water Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance*, GAO-18-382 (Washington, D.C.: July 5, 2018). For the estimate of 41 percent, the lower bound is 34 percent, and the upper bound is 48 percent.

[3]According to the CDC, the most common high dose source of lead exposure for children in the United States is lead-based paint hazards. Lead-based paint can become hazardous when the paint deteriorates on surfaces such as walls, windows, and door frames, and turns into dust or deposits in soil, and in these cases, EPA recommends immediate attention (for more information, see https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead). Also, lead from past and current sources can be encountered in yards, playgrounds and elsewhere in the community, including from exterior lead-based paint that chips and mixes with soil, industrial releases to the atmosphere, or contaminated waste sites.

constructed before 1978 may still contain lead-based paint.[4] While it is unclear how many schools still have lead-based paint, older buildings are more likely to have lead-based paint.[5]

You asked us to study inspection and remediation efforts used to protect children from exposure to lead in schools. In 2018, we reported on lead in school drinking water. In this report, we describe the extent to which local educational agencies (referred to in this report as school districts) were inspecting for and remediating lead-based paint in schools.

To do this, we used survey data collected as part of our work on lead in school drinking water. For that work, we drew a stratified, random sample of 549 school districts, administered a web-based survey to officials in those districts from July to October 2017 asking whether they had inspected for, discovered, or remediated lead-based paint in the 12 months leading up to our survey (school year 2016-2017). We achieved a 68 percent response rate. Based on the survey design and response rate, estimates generated from these survey results are generalizable to the population of public school districts (1) with at least one school built before 1978 and (2) which obtained drinking water from a public water system.[6] We estimate that 70 percent of school districts nationwide meet both of these criteria.[7] We did not verify the statements of those who completed the survey.[8] We also visited or interviewed officials in 17 school districts from February to October 2017. These districts were located in five states—Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Texas—and were selected because they had tested for lead in drinking water (the focus of our July 2018 report) and varied in size and population density. We also reviewed relevant federal laws, regulations, and guidance.

We conducted this performance audit from October 2018 to July 2019 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Background

Children are particularly at risk of experiencing the adverse effects of lead exposure because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults, so protecting them from lead is important for lifelong good health. According to the CDC, lead can cause negative health effects if it enters the bloodstream and elevates the blood lead level. Lead in a child's body can slow growth and

[4]For the Consumer Product Safety Commission's ban on lead-containing paint, see *Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint: Establishment as Banned Hazardous Products*, 42 Fed. Reg. 44,193 (Sept. 1, 1977). This rule became effective February 28, 1978.

[5]The National Center for Education Statistics estimated that in the 2012-2013 school year, the average age of the nation's main school buildings was 44 years old, meaning that the average date of construction for schools in the United States was approximately 1968, 10 years before lead-based paint was banned.

[6]We focused our analysis on school districts with at least one school built before 1978 because that was the year when the federal government banned the sale of lead-based paint for consumer use. Also, our survey asked school districts if they obtained drinking water from a public water system such as a city or municipal water plant. School districts that responded that they did not obtain drinking water from a public water system or that they did not know skipped to the end of the survey and did not answer our questions on lead-based paint.

[7]For the estimate of 70 percent, the lower bound is 63 percent, and the upper bound is 76 percent.

[8]For a more detailed discussion of our survey methodology and data analysis, see GAO-18-382, appendix I.

development, damage hearing and speech, and cause learning disabilities. Therefore, EPA, CDC, and others recommend that lead exposure be prevented to the extent possible, recognizing that lead is widespread in the environment.

While there is no general federal requirement for school districts to inspect all facilities for lead-based paint, EPA does have regulations on renovation of existing facilities. EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) rule may apply in cases where districts operate facilities that fall under the rule's requirements. Under this rule, businesses engaged in renovation, repair, or painting activities in certain facilities built prior to 1978 must be certified and use certified workers, including contractors. In addition, they must follow specific practices to prevent lead contamination, including inspecting for lead-based paint.[9] According to EPA guidance, to determine if their facilities have lead-based paint, school districts should hire a certified professional. For example, a certified inspector or risk assessor conducts an inspection to determine if the facility has lead-based paint and where it is located. A certified renovator can test surfaces or components being disturbed for lead by, for example, using a lead test kit or by taking paint chip samples and sending them to an EPA-recognized testing laboratory.[10] Abatement of lead-based paint also may be ordered by a state or local government in response to a lead-poisoned child or voluntarily undertaken at any time, according to EPA.[11]

In collaboration with other organizations, EPA created guidance in 2009 which recommends schools take preventive measures to reduce potential exposure to paint dust or chipped paint.[12] Also, the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services co-chair the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children (Task Force), which also includes other federal departments and offices.[13] In December 2018, the Task Force released a plan which seeks to reduce harm to children from exposure to lead, including lead-based paint.[14] In March 2019, EPA updated its Healthy School

[9]Lead; Renovation, Repair and Painting Program, 73 Fed. Reg. 21,692 (Apr. 22, 2008) (codified at 40 C.F.R. pt. 745). In addition, EPA regulates the training and certification of workers who remediate lead paint hazards. See 40 C.F.R. §§ 745.225, 745.226. Facilities covered by the RRP rule include child-occupied facilities which are defined as those visited regularly by a child under 6 years of age and could include facilities such as daycare centers, preschools, or kindergarten classrooms. See 40 C.F.R. § 745.83. These regulations also apply to other types of facilities, such as homes and residential buildings.

[10]EPA, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*, EPA-740-K-10-001 (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 2011). Under a proposed rule issued in July 2018, EPA proposed lowering the dust-lead hazard standard from 40 micrograms per square foot (μg/ft^2) on floors and 250 μg/ft^2 on window sills to 10 μg/ft^2 on floors and 100 μg/ft^2 on window sills. Review of the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and the Definition of Lead-Based Paint, 83 Fed. Reg. 30,889 (July 2, 2018). Lead discovered in paint in excess of these standards may constitute a hazard and require abatement. On June 21, 2019 EPA announced that it was submitting the final rule for publication in the Federal Register. As of June 24, 2019 the final rule had not been published.

[11]See https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-abatement-vs-lead-rrp.

[12]EPA, *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Reference Guide,* EPA 402/K-07/008 (Washington, D.C.: Jan. 2009). To create the 2009 guidance, EPA collaborated with the American Federation of Teachers, Association of School Business Officials, National Education Association, National Parent Teacher Association, and American Lung Association.

[13]This task force was created in 1997 by Executive Order 13045. Exec. Order No. 13,045, § 3 (1997). Among other duties, the Task Force was created to identify children's environmental health and safety issues (including lead), develop federal interagency strategies, and communicate information to federal, state, and local decision makers. It has 17 members.

[14]President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. *Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts* (Dec. 2018).

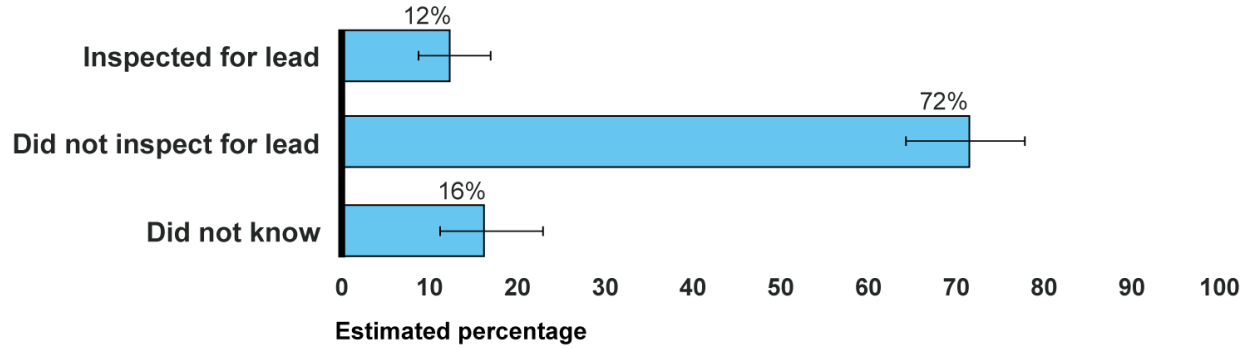
Environments website to include the report, Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments, which provides information on environmental health concerns, such as lead, found in schools.[15] Also, EPA created the Healthy Schools Checklist, a voluntary assessment to help schools reduce and prevent exposures to common environmental health hazards.

Few School Districts Inspected for Lead-Based Paint and All of Those Finding Lead Reported Remediating It or Planning to Do So

An Estimated 12 Percent of School Districts Inspected for Lead-Based Paint

Nationwide, an estimated 12 percent of school districts inspected for lead-based paint in 2016-2017, according to our survey of school districts, while about three-quarters of school districts had not inspected their schools for lead-based paint during that period (see fig. 1).[16] We estimate about one third of public school students were enrolled in school districts that inspected for lead-based paint. Specifically, an estimated 15.3 million students were in districts that inspected as compared with 22.4 million students in districts that had not inspected.[17]

Figure 1: Estimated Percentage of School Districts That Inspected for Lead-Based Paint in 2016-2017



Source: GAO survey of public school districts. | GAO-19-461R

Notes: GAO's survey was administered from July to October 2017 and asked school districts to report information based on the 12 months prior to the survey. This figure includes only school districts with schools built before 1978 and that also obtained drinking water from a public water system. The thin bars display the 95 percent confidence interval for each estimate.

[15]Healthy School Environments (https://www.epa.gov/schools); EPA, *Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments,* EPA 908-R-17-001 (Washington, D.C.: Apr. 2017); Healthy Schools Checklist (https://www.epa.gov/schools/healthy-schools-checklist).

[16]This estimate, and all estimates in this section, is for school districts with at least one school built before 1978 and that also obtained drinking water from a public water system. We do not know if any school districts inspected for lead-based paint before the 12 months leading up to our survey. According to Education, in the 2014-2015 school year, about 98,000 public elementary and secondary schools were overseen by about 16,000 school districts nationwide. Our July 2018 report on lead in school drinking water used Education's Common Core of Data for school year 2014-2015. See GAO-18-382, appendix I. For additional information about our survey questions and estimates, see the enclosure.

[17]The estimate of 22.4 million students represents the upper bound of students who may be at risk of lead-based paint in schools. The estimate includes the total student population in school districts with at least one school built before 1978—when lead paint was banned in the United States—that had not inspected. Because these districts may also have schools built after 1978, it could include students in school buildings with no possibility of lead-based paint.

In the 100 school districts with the largest student populations, inspections for lead-based paint were conducted more often than in other school districts. Specifically, according to our survey, an estimated 63 percent of the 100 largest school districts reported inspecting for lead-based paint compared with 12 percent of all other school districts.[18]

In our interviews, school district officials described their inspections of school buildings for lead-based paint. For example, an official with one school district told us that the district has lead-based paint in some of its school facilities, and the district is inspecting all schools or other buildings where children are present. The district official said that in the facilities that have not yet been inspected, if someone observes peeling paint, the paint department staff will inspect the paint to determine if it has lead before re-painting the surface in question. He told us that as of April 2017, inspections in 63 of the facilities had revealed nine cases of lead-based paint in the 12 months prior.

Some school districts inspected for lead in some but not all of their schools. In our survey, for those that report that they had inspected some, but not all, school buildings for lead-based paint in the last 12 months, we asked how they determined which schools to inspect. The most frequently reported criteria school districts provided for selecting schools to inspect for lead-based paint included:

- planned repairs or remodeling (an estimated 100 percent of school districts cited this reason) and
- age of school (an estimated 88 percent of districts).[19]

In our interviews with school district officials, some said they do not inspect for lead-based paint regularly, but will do so if they are conducting renovations, among other reasons. For example, in June 2017, officials with one school district told us they had not tested for lead-based paint in any of their student-occupied buildings in the last 12 months. However, these officials said that when the district renovates schools, it uses consultants to identify environmental concerns, such as lead-based paint or asbestos. Officials with another school district told us in May 2017 that they knew their school buildings had lead-based paint. The district officials said if they disturb the paint, they will test it for lead.

According to our survey, for an estimated 77 percent of school districts, officials reported no schedule for conducting recurring lead inspections, but said they would inspect as needed.[20] Officials in an estimated 6 percent of school districts said they had an inspection schedule and 12 percent did not know if they had one.[21]

[18]For the estimate of 12 percent, the lower bound is 8 percent and the upper bound is 17 percent. The size of a school district was the only demographic factor associated with any substantial difference in the extent to which school districts inspected for lead-based paint. We also compared school districts by geographic region, poverty level, population density, racial composition, or whether the district was a charter school district, however, these estimates were either unreliable (because they were based on fewer than 20 responses) or had confidence intervals that overlapped.

[19]For the estimate of 100 percent, the lower bound is 93 percent and the upper bound is 100 percent. For the estimate of 88 percent, the lower bound is 67 percent and the upper bound is 97 percent. The number of school districts that reported they (1) selected schools to inspect for lead-based paint based on number of students in the school or (2) inspect some schools for lead every year, resulting in all schools being inspected over several years, was too small to be reliable enough to meet our standards of reporting.

[20]For the estimate of 77 percent, the lower bound is 70 percent and the upper bound is 83 percent.

[21]The estimate of 6 percent is the combined responses of school districts that reported (1) yes, at least once a year, (2) yes, every 2 years, and (3) yes, less frequently than every 2 years. The number of school districts for each of

About Half of the Schools Districts That Inspected Found Lead-Based Paint

Of the school districts that inspected for lead-based paint in 2016-2017 (an estimated 12 percent), lead was found in about half.[22] An estimated 15.2 million students were enrolled in school districts that found lead-based paint.[23]

In the 100 school districts with the largest student populations, lead-based paint was found more often than in other school districts. Specifically, 51 percent of the 100 largest school districts found lead-based paint compared with an estimated 8 percent of other school districts, which may be because most of the 100 largest school districts (an estimated 63 percent) inspected for lead, as discussed above.[24]

All School Districts That Found Lead-Based Paint in Their Schools Took Action to Reduce or Eliminate It or Had Plans to Do So

All of the school districts that reported finding lead-based paint also reported taking action to reduce or eliminate it, remediating as needed, or having a schedule to do so.[25] In our interviews with school district officials, they also discussed ways they addressed lead-based paint in their schools. For example, officials from one school district told us they do not retain an inventory of

---

these responses individually was too small to be reliable enough to meet our standards of reporting. In addition, the number of school districts that reported they did not have a schedule for conducting recurring lead inspections, but were developing one, was too small to be reliable enough to meet our standards of reporting. For the estimate of 6 percent, the lower bound is 3 percent and the upper bound is 12 percent. For the estimate of 12 percent, the lower bound is 7 percent and the upper bound is 17 percent.

[22]For this analysis, we combined responses of school districts that found lead (1) in cracked or peeling paint, (2) as a result of repairs or renovations, and (3) in lead-based paint that was encapsulated. The number of districts that responded they found lead "in cracked or peeling paint" or "in lead-based paint that was encapsulated" was too small to be reliable enough to meet our standards of reporting on them separately. Also, the number of school districts that responded they did not know if their district found lead-based paint was too small to be reliable enough to meet our standards of reporting on them separately. For this combined estimate of 49 percent, the lower bound is 32 percent and the upper bound is 67 percent.

[23]The estimate of 15.2 million students applies to school districts that may or may not have inspected, but found lead (1) in cracked or peeling paint, (2) as a result of repairs or renovations, and (3) in lead-based paint that was encapsulated. Also, the estimate of 15.2 million students represents the upper bound of students who may be at risk of lead-based paint in schools. The estimate includes the total student population in a school district with at least one school built before 1978—when lead paint was banned in the United States—that found lead-based paint. Because these districts may also have schools built after 1978, it could include students in school buildings with no possibility of lead-based paint.

[24]For the estimate of 8 percent, the lower bound is 5 percent and the upper bound is 12 percent. The size of a school district was the only demographic factor associated with any substantial difference in the extent to which school districts found lead-based paint in schools. We also compared school districts by geographic region, poverty level, population density, racial composition, or whether the district was a charter school district, however, these estimates were either unreliable (because they were based on fewer than 20 responses) or had confidence intervals that overlapped.

[25]Some of the school districts reported finding lead-based paint that was encapsulated (contained by a special coating), so there would be no need to remediate it. In responding to our survey, officials from two school districts reported they found lead and had not taken action to reduce or eliminate it and did not have a schedule to do so at the time of our survey. When we contacted the first district, the district official clarified that his district had already taken steps to remediate lead-based paint that they had found in many schools as reported in the survey. When we contacted the second district, the district official clarified—and provided reports from an inspector to show—that the amount of lead-based paint discovered fell below the EPA standard for lead dust. As discussed above, lead dust that is inhaled or ingested can still have negative health effects on children.

all instances in which they found lead-based paint in their schools but that any lead-based paint that exists in the district has been painted over multiple times since large-scale renovations in the 1990s. The district officials told us that any time they are notified of cracking or peeling paint in a school building, the affected area is painted over within 24 hours.

Agency Comments, Third-Party Views, and Our Evaluation

We provided a draft of this report to the U.S. Department of Education, EPA, and HHS for review and comment. Education and EPA provided technical comments only which we incorporated as appropriate. HHS responded that the agency reviewed the draft report and had no comments.

- - - - -

We are sending copies of this report to the Secretaries of Education, EPA, and HHS and appropriate committees. In addition, this report is available at no charge on the GAO website at http://www.gao.gov.

If you or your staff members have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at (202) 512-7215 or nowickij@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. Major contributors to this report were Scott Spicer (Assistant Director), Jason Palmer, and Linda Siegel. Other contributors were Jean McSween, Jon Melhus, Mimi Nguyen, Corinna Nicolaou, Dae Park, Diane Raynes, James Rebbe, Sirin Yaemsiri, and Patricia (Kim) Yamane.

Jacqueline M. Nowicki, Director
Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues

Enclosure

Enclosure I: Survey of Lead Testing and Remediation Efforts

This enclosure provides the questions on lead-based paint in schools that we asked in our survey of local educational agencies (referred to in this correspondence as school districts) and their responses. We restricted our analysis to school districts that had at least one school built before 1978—because that was the year when the federal government banned the sale of lead-based paint for consumer use—and those that obtained drinking water from a public water system. Based on our analysis of the survey results, we estimate that 70 percent of school districts had at least one school built before 1978 and had obtained drinking water from a public water system.[26] Our survey was comprised of two types of questions: those for which several possible answers were provided to choose from (closed-ended) and those that allowed respondents to provide their own answers (open-ended). We did not verify the statements of those who completed the survey. In this enclosure, we include all survey questions and aggregate results of responses to the closed-ended questions; we do not provide information on responses provided to the open-ended questions. Estimates noted with superscript "a" are based on fewer than 20 responses, were considered unreliable, and were not included in our findings. We conducted this survey under a prior GAO engagement on lead in school drinking water; for a more detailed discussion of our survey methodology, see appendix I of that GAO report, and for our survey questions on lead in school drinking water, see appendix II of that report.[27] Survey questions 11 through 15 (and responses) presented below relate to lead-based paint in schools.

Inspecting Schools for Lead-Based Paint

11. In the past 12 months, has your local educational agency (LEA) (or a contractor working on behalf of your LEA) inspected any schools for lead-based paint? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes	12	9	17
No	72	64	78
Don't know	16	11	23

A. Whose personnel conducted any of the inspections? (Check one per row.)

Response		Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
LEA personnel	Yes	57	35	76
	No	43	24	65
	Don't know	0	0	0
Contractor hired for the purpose of lead inspections	Yes	67	45	84
	No	33[a]	16	55
	Don't know	0	0	0
Personnel with another organization	Yes	47[a]	26	68
	No	53	31	73
	Don't know	0[a]	0	7

[26]For the estimate of 70 percent, the lower bound is 63 percent, and the upper bound is 76 percent.

[27]GAO-18-382.

B. To the best of your knowledge, did the personnel conducting the inspections follow a protocol? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes	95	81	99
No	0	0	0
Don't know	5[a]	1	19

a. To the best of your knowledge, were any of the following entities involved in developing the protocol?

Response		Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
A private contractor	Yes	41	24	60
	No	50	31	69
	Don't know	9[a]	3	23
A federal government agency	Yes	27	13	48
	No	59	38	77
	Don't know	14[a]	5	32
Your state government agency	Yes	62	41	79
	No	28	14	50
	Don't know	10[a]	4	25
A local government agency	Yes	17[a]	6	39
	No	73	51	87
	Don't know	10[a]	4	27
Other	Yes	0[a]	0	8
	No	84	65	94
	Don't know	16[a]	6	34

b. What other entities were involved in developing the protocol?

[open-ended]

C. If the inspections were conducted for lead-based paint, but were not conducted in every school, how was it determined which schools would be inspected? (Check one per row.)

Not applicable: inspections were conducted in every school (Check box then skip to D.)

Response		Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Not applicable: Inspections were conducted in every school	Not checked	60	42	75
Not applicable: Inspections were conducted in every school	Checked	40[a]	25	58

Response		Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Whether repairs or remodeling were taking place in the school	Yes	100	93	100
	No	0[a]	0	7
	Don't know	0	0	0
Age of school	Yes	88	67	97
	No	11[a]	3	33
	Don't know	0[a]	0	7
Whether school was an elementary school	Yes	50	24	75
	No	50	25	76
	Don't know	0	0	0
Number of students in the school	Yes	11[a]	3	35
	No	89	66	97
	Don't know	0[a]	0	8
Our LEA inspects some schools, but not all schools, every year; all schools are inspected over the course of several years	Yes	12[a]	3	35
	No	88	65	97
	Don't know	0[a]	0	8
Other	Yes	20[a]	7	47
	No	69	42	87
	Don't know	11[a]	3	33

a. What other factors determined which schools would be inspected?

[open-ended]

D. Did your LEA report the inspection results to the following groups? (Check one per row.)

Response		Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Local school board	Yes	48	30	67
	No	46	29	65
	Don't know	6[a]	2	20
Parents	Yes	33[a]	16	56
	No	58	37	76
	Don't know	9[a]	3	24
General public (e.g., media)	Yes	32[a]	15	55
	No	59	38	77
	Don't know	9[a]	3	24
Other	Yes	10[a]	3	29
	No	80	61	91
	Don't know	10[a]	3	26

a. What other groups did your LEA report the inspection results to?

[open-ended]

E. Were the inspections based on the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes	67	50	81
No	10	4	25
Don't know	22[a]	12	38

12. Does your LEA have a schedule for conducting recurring inspections for lead-based paint hazards in your schools within any of the following time frames? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes, at least once a year	2[a]	1	5
Yes, every two years	4[a]	1	10
Yes, less frequently than every two years	0[a]	0	2
Not now, but our LEA is developing a schedule	5[a]	3	11
No, but will inspect as needed	77	70	83
Don't know	12	7	17

Remediation of Lead-Based Paint in Schools

13. Has your LEA discovered lead in any of your schools in the last 12 months? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes, in cracked or peeling paint	4[a]	2	8
Yes, as a result of repairs or renovations	3	1	5
Yes, but the lead-based paint is encapsulated	2[a]	0	4
No	86	81	91
Don't know	5[a]	3	11

14. Has your LEA taken any steps to remediate lead-based paint in at least one of your schools in the last 12 months? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes	7	4	12
No	66	58	74
Don't know	27	20	35

A. In the last 12 months, did your LEA hire contractors or use LEA personnel who had certification by the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct lead-based paint repairs or renovations? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes	91	72	98
No	0[a]	0	8
Don't know	9[a]	2	28

B. How much do you estimate your LEA has spent on remediating lead-based paint in the last 12 months? (Please include materials, labor, and any other expenditures related to remediation of lead-based paint in your estimate.)

Response	Mean	Lower bound	Upper bound
Mean cost of remediating lead-based paint	$40,000	$21,000	$60,000

C. What are some of the reasons why your LEA has not yet taken remedial actions in any of your schools with a) lead found in cracked or peeling paint, or b) lead found in paint as a result of repairs or renovations in the past 12 months?

[open-ended]

15. Does your LEA have a schedule to take any steps to remediate lead-based paint in any of your schools within any of the following time frames? (Check one.)

Response	Estimated Percentage	Lower bound (percentage)	Upper bound (percentage)
Yes, at least once a year	1[a]	0	3
Yes, every two years	0[a]	0	2
Yes, less frequently than every two years	1[a]	0	6
No schedule, but will remediate as needed	86	79	90
Don't know	11	7	17

(103105)