



# Environmental Public Health Tracking

USING EPHT DATA AND RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Effects of Building Demolitions on Blood Lead Levels in Children

---

### What was the problem/situation?

Childhood blood lead testing data for 2003 indicate that 63% of Missouri children with elevated blood lead levels live in the city of St. Louis. However, only 6% of the state's children live in St. Louis. United States Census data show that 94% of the housing stock in St. Louis was built before 1979. As urban renewal has increased, so has the number of demolitions within the city.

### How was Tracking involved?

The Missouri Tracking Program partnered with the Center for Applied Environmental Public Health at Tulane University to examine the relationship between demolition of housing units constructed before 1979 and blood lead levels in children living near demolition sites. The study compared children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years who were exposed to at least one demolition and a second group that was not exposed to a demolition site.

### What action was taken to resolve the problem?

The Missouri Tracking Program partnered with the Center for Applied Environmental Public Health at Tulane University to examine the relationship between demolition of housing units constructed before 1979 and blood lead levels in children living near demolition sites. The study compared children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years who were exposed to at least one demolition and a second group that was not exposed to a demolition site.



**The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program**  
*Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) is a program within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. EPHT is part of a larger initiative to establish Environmental Public Health Tracking systems at the national and state levels.*

