

# Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee (LEPAC)

2023 Annual Report to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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## Overview of LEPAC Activities in 2023

The objective of the Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee (LEPAC) is to review research and federal programs and services related to lead poisoning and to identify effective services and best practices for addressing and preventing lead exposure in communities. Following the enactment of Public Law 114-322, “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act,” and subsequent nomination of committee members, LEPAC held one meeting in 2023 and seven meetings in total since its establishment in 2018.

The meeting that was held October 16-18, 2023, included a series of presentations followed by facilitated discussions on current Federal efforts to prevent, reduce, and eliminate childhood lead exposure. Federal members of LEPAC provided an update on current initiatives to prevent lead exposure, including presentations by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Other LEPAC members and the Preventing Lead Exposure in Adults Workgroup (PLEA) also provided updates on the status of activities. Detailed meeting notes and meeting presentations are available on committee actions are available on the [LEPAC website](#).<sup>1</sup>

## Summary of Committee Actions

- The LEPAC meeting included a series of presentations and discussions related to recent federal actions to protect individuals from lead exposure.
- The Preventing Lead Exposure in Adults (PLEA) Workgroup provided an update on the status of activities to review the literature on lead exposures, identify gaps in knowledge, and provide recommendations to public health agencies to take action to prevent exposures and mitigate lead-related adverse effects in adults. The workgroup expects to issue a final report to LEPAC during 2024.

## Looking Ahead

- The LEPAC will hold its next meeting during winter 2024 following the appointment of a sufficient number of new members for quorum to the advisory committee. LEPAC expects to hold one meeting in 2024.
- Additional information including meeting notes can be found on the [LEPAC website](#)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/php/lead-advisory-committee/lepac-meetings.html>

## Appendix I LEPAC Member Roster

### Lead Exposure and Advisory Committee (LEPAC) Member Roster

The committee consists of 15 voting Federal and non-Federal members, including the Chair, appointed by the HHS Secretary. Members include experts in the fields of epidemiology, toxicology, mental health, pediatrics, early childhood education, special education, diet and nutrition, and environmental health. Half of the committee (eight members) consists of Federal representatives. CDC has previously solicited Federal members from HHS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Federal membership of the committee may change over time depending on the needs of the committee.

Non-Federal members are deemed Special Government Employees (SGEs) and were solicited via a Federal Register Notice. A [Federal Register Notice](#) soliciting new SGE members for LEPAC was issued in summer 2024. All members are invited to serve for a term of not more than three years, and the HHS Secretary may reappoint members for consecutive terms.

CDC also selected a Federal employee to serve as the Designated Federal Official (DFO) to attend each meeting and ensure that all procedures are within applicable statutory, regulatory, and HHS General Administration Manual directives.

#### Designated Federal Officer:

##### **Paul Allwood, Ph.D, M.P.H, R.S.**

Branch Chief  
Lead Poisoning Prevention and Surveillance Branch  
Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice  
National Center for Environmental Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### Chair:

##### **Matthew Ammon, M.S.**

Director  
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Washington, DC  
Term: 4/25/2023-6/30/2025

#### Members:

##### **Tammy Barnhill- Proctor, M.A.**

Supervisory Education Program Specialist  
Office of Innovation and Early Learning

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, District of Columbia 20202  
Term: 4/25/2023 - 6/30/2024

**Wallace Chambers Jr., Ph.D., M.A.S., M.H.A, R.E.H.S.**  
Commissioner of Environment  
Cleveland Department of Public Health  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
Term: 10/15/2021 – 6/30/2023

**Rebecca Catherine Fry, Ph.D., M.S.**  
Carol Remmer Angle Distinguished Professor in Children's Environmental Health  
UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, CB #7431  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27599  
Term: 4/25/2023- 6/30/2025

**Nathan Gruber, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.**  
Clinical Associate Professor  
Department of Pediatrics  
Albany Medical Center  
Albany, New York 12208  
Term: 10/20/2021 – 6/30/2023

**Mary Elizabeth (Mary Beth) Hance**  
Senior Policy Advisor, Division of Quality and Health Outcomes, Children and Adults Health Program Group, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, CMS  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland, 21244  
Term 5/7/2023- 6/30/2024

**Tina Helene Hanes, R.D.N., R.N.**  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1320 Braddock Road  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Term 4/25/2023- 6/30/2024

**Kristina M. Hatlelid, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
Toxicologist  
Division of Health Sciences  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
Term: 4/25/2023- 6/30/2025

**Karla Johnson, M.P.H.**  
Administrator  
Marion County Public Health Department  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205  
Term: 10/15/2021 – 6/30/2023

**Aaron M. Lopata, M.D., M.P.P.**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Maternal & Child Health Bureau  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18W33  
Rockville, MD 20857  
Term 4/25/2023-6/30/2025

**Erika Marquez, Ph.D, M.P.H.**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Public Health  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-3030  
Term: 10/15/2021 – 6/30/2023

**Anshu Mohllajee, Sc.D., M.P.H.**  
Research Scientist Supervisor I  
California Department of Public Health  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch  
Richmond, California 94804  
Term: 10/18/2021 – 6/30/2023

**Grace M. Robiou- Ramirez de Arellano, M.P.H.**  
Director, Office of Children's Health Protection  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Term 4/25/2023 - 6/30/2025

## Appendix II Preventing Lead Exposure in Adults Workgroup

The Preventing Lead Exposure in Adults (PLEA) Workgroup is gathering and reviewing information on relevant literature and consulting with experts to define and update the status of adult lead exposures in the United States for CDC/ATSDR to consider when setting priorities and undertaking initiatives related to lead. For example, the PLEA Workgroup may discuss the following topics:

- Epidemiology of adult lead exposures
- Take-home lead exposures from jobs and hobbies
- Effects of long-term exposures, including exposures during childhood, on cardiovascular and other diseases
- Best practices for preventing lead exposure in adults
- Populations at higher risk for lead exposure in adults
- Communication strategies regarding adult lead exposures and long-term health effects

The PLEA Workgroup will generate a final report on this topic which will be presented to the LEPAC for review and consideration. Recommendations by LEPAC regarding the report will inform future lead-related activities by CDC/ATSDR and other parties.

The PLEA Workgroup consists of at least two Special Government Employee volunteers from the LEPAC, one of whom will serve as Workgroup Chair. A Designated Federal Officer who is a CDC/ATSDR employee will be designated to serve as the DFO for the workgroup and will help manage the workgroup. Approximately 5-7 individuals with subject matter expertise in lead poisoning prevention in adults are on PLEA throughout the information gathering stages of the workgroup .

The workgroup may also include non-voting liaison members and representatives from federal agencies represented on the LEPAC, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Other expert consultants, including ad hoc experts from federal agencies currently not represented on the LEPAC may be invited to participate in specific meetings as determined by the Workgroup Chair and DFO.

Following review and approval, the final PLEA Workgroup report will be available on the [LEPAC website](#).

### Preventing Lead Exposure in Adults Workgroup Member Roster

#### Designated Federal Officer:

##### **Perri Ruckart, Dr.PH.**

Team Chief, Health Scientist  
Lead Poisoning Prevention & Surveillance Branch  
Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice  
National Center for Environment Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention NCEH, CDC

Workgroup Chair:

**Anshu Mohllajee, Sc.D, M.P.H.**

Workgroup Chair

Research Scientist Supervisor I

California Department of Public Health

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch

Members:

**Remy Babich, Ph.D.**

PennOSHS Program Manager and Contract Epidemiologist

Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology

Bureau of Epidemiology

Pennsylvania Department of Health

**Alicia Fletcher, MPH**

New York State Department of Health

Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention

**Michael J. Kosnett, M.D., M.P.H.**

Associate Clinical Professor

Division of Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology

Department of Medicine

University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

Colorado School of Public Health

**Erika Marquez, Ph.D. MPH**

Assistant Professor

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Rebecca Tsai, Ph.D.**

Epidemiologist

Health Informatics Branch

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)