

Lead Update 2016

Important Information for Healthcare Providers to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Key Messages about Childhood Lead Poisoning:

- No safe blood lead level (BLL) in children has been identified.
- Early childhood lead poisoning can adversely affect academic performance and IQ.
- 5 mcg/dL is the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reference value to identify elevated BLLs.
- The only sure way to avoid lead-associated neuro-developmental morbidity is to prevent lead exposure through primary prevention.

Change in State Case Definition for Lead Poisoning, Effective July 1, 2016:

- **New criteria for a state case are:** A person, aged birth to 21 years, with one venous BLL ≥ 14.5 mcg/dL (decreased from ≥ 19.5 mcg/dL); or two BLLs ≥ 9.5 mcg/dL (decreased from ≥ 14.5 mcg/dL), the second of which must be venous and drawn at least 30 days after the first BLL.
- Children with BLLs ≥ 4.5 mcg/dL receive, at a minimum, monitoring, outreach, and education services.

Please note: A state case receives enhanced case management from the County of San Diego Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Refugee Screening Guidelines:

- Test BLL for all refugee children 6 months to 16 years old at entry to the U.S.
- Repeat testing of all refugee children, 6 months to 6 years of age, 3 to 6 months after the children are placed in permanent residences.
- Evaluate child's iron status, including hemoglobin/hematocrit and red blood cell indices.

Potential Sources of Lead Poisoning:

Ammunition
(lead bullets)



Cosmetics, Folk Remedies, Traditional Medicines

(azarcon, greta, kohl, surma)



Food
(candy, spices, imported products)



Jewelry
(costume)



Paint
(pre-1978)



Soil



Toys
(paint, metal, plastic)



Traditional Glazed Ceramics
(glaze, paint)



Health Care Provider Mandates California Code of Regulations Title 17

Anticipatory Guidance for Healthcare Providers:

- Provide oral or written guidance to a parent or guardian of the child at **every periodic assessment**, including, at a minimum, information that children can be harmed by exposure to lead, especially deteriorating or disturbed lead-based paint and dust, and are particularly at risk of lead poisoning from the time the child begins to crawl, until 72 months of age.

Screen (blood lead test) all children in publicly-supported programs (e.g., Medi-Cal, Child Health and Disability Prevention, WIC, and Targeted Low Income Children's Program):

- At 12 and 24 months
- Children age 24 months to 72 months who were not tested at 24 months or later

Assess all children who are not in publicly-supported programs:

- Ask: "Does your child live in, or spend a lot of time in, a place built before 1978 that has peeling or chipped paint, or that has been recently remodeled?"
- If the answer is "Yes," or "Don't Know," test the child

Risk Factors for Lead Poisoning in Children Ages 0 to 6 Years:

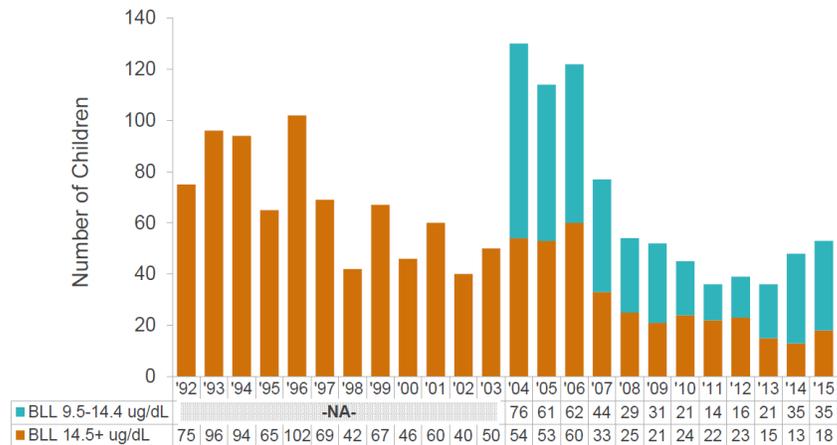
- Living in or spending time in homes, childcare centers, or buildings built before 1978, especially renovated/ remodeled homes.
- Playing in bare soil and dust that may contain lead.
- Eating non-food items (e.g., dirt/paint chips) AKA pica.
- Recent travel to a country outside of the U.S. with a high incidence of lead poisoning.
- Recent immigrants, refugees, or international adoptees coming to the U.S.
- Living with a household member that has exposure to lead (e.g., parent with occupational exposure from car repair, firing range, or home remodeling).
- Consuming food or beverages prepared or served in imported clay pots or ceramic dishware containing lead-based paint.
- Use the lead checklist to identify possible risks in your home: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/documents/Checklist.pdf>.

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Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Services:

- Public Health Nurse Case Management for children with elevated blood lead levels (BLLs)
- Home visits for children with BLLs \geq 9.5 mcg/dL to identify and eliminate the source of lead exposure and provide education to the family
- Reminders to clients and healthcare providers to obtain follow-up BLLs, as necessary
- Environmental investigations to test for lead in paint, dirt, dust, and water
- Oversight of remediation of identified environmental lead hazards
- Education and outreach to health care and child care providers, parents and families, and community organizations
- Collaboration with community partners and health care stakeholders
- Development/distribution of materials for health care providers and the community

Number of Children Receiving Services from the County of San Diego Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), by Year



- BLL 14.5+ = children with a newly identified confirmed venous BLL 14.5 ug/dL or greater (total cases since 1992 = 1, 167).
- BLL 9.5-11.4 = children with a newly identified confirmed venous BLL 9.5-14.4 ug/dL (services to this group of children began in 2004 with total cases of 445).
- Children under 21 years of age.
- Counts are subject to change as additional information becomes available.
- San Diego County case counts reflect venous confirmation blood lead levels.

Prepared by San Diego County CLPPP, 2/19/2016.

Well Fed=Less Lead: The Role of Nutrition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

Give children a healthy diet with foods rich in calcium, iron, and vitamin C. A healthy diet helps prevent lead absorption into the body.

Calcium Sources		Iron Sources		Vitamin C Sources	
Milk Cheese & yogurt Leafy greens Broccoli Eggs Dried beans		Iron-fortified cereals Leafy greens Broccoli Lean red meats Corn tortillas Raisins		Orange juice Bell peppers Broccoli Kiwi Strawberries Tomatoes	

2016 Lead-Contaminated Product Recalls and Alerts

Alikay Naturals Bentonite Me Baby Alert 1/29/2016	KHS America Monkey Glockenspiel Recalled 2/4/2016	Best Bentonite Best Bentonite Clay Alert 3/23/2016	LaRose Industries Cra-Z-Jewelz Gem Creations Recalled 6/2/2016	Far East Brokers Chairs and Swings Recalled 6/9/2016	L.L. Bean Kids Insulated Water Bottle Recalled 7/19/2016	
Things Remembered Silver Bracelet and Charm Necklace Recalled 7/19/2016	Gel Spice, Inc. Various Ground Turmeric Recalled 8/5/2016	JM Exotic Ground Turmeric Alert 8/5/2016	Ton Shen/Life Rising DHZC-2 tablets Recalled 8/25/2016	M&M's World Branded Jewelry Recalled 8/25/2016	Oriental Packing Co. Curry Products Recalled Aug. 2016	Chinese Skin Cream Tested 2016

Lead-contaminated product recalls can be found on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission website at <https://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/>. Lead-contaminated candies can be found on the California Department of Public Health website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/Documents/fdbLiCLiC07.pdf>.

Note: Although the number of children with BLLs over 9.5 mcg/dL has decreased, there are still many children who fall in the 4.5-9.5 mcg/dL range. The current CDC reference value to identify children who have elevated blood lead levels is 4.5 mcg/dL.