

# 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  $\geq 14.5$  mcg/dL (decreased from  $\geq 19.5$  mcg/dL); or two BLLs  $\geq 9.5$  mcg/dL (decreased from  $\geq 14.5$  mcg/dL), the second of which must be venous and drawn at least 30 days after the first BLL.
- Children with BLLs  $\geq 4.5$  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:

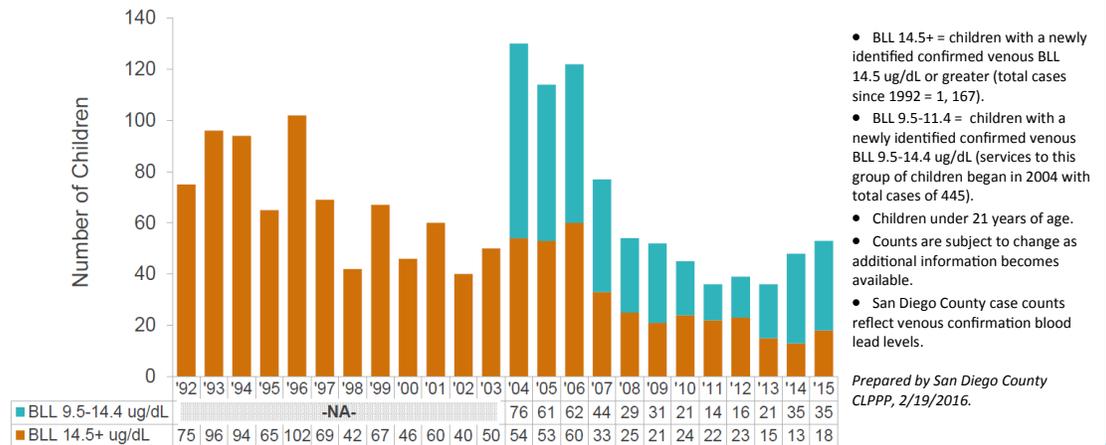
- Living in or spending time in homes, childcare centers, or buildings built before 1978, especially renovated/ remodeled homes.
- Playing in bare soil and dust that may contain lead.
- Eating non-food items (e.g., dirt/paint chips) AKA pica.
- Recent travel to a country outside of the U.S. with a high 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



## 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.