

Childhood Lead Poisoning

A child who looks and acts healthy can have lead poisoning. The only way to know a child has lead poisoning is by performing a simple blood test. The HHLPPP collects these test results to monitor lead poisonings around the state and to ensure poisoned children receive appropriate services. While no safe blood lead level in children has been identified, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health action be taken at any blood lead levels 5 µg/dL and above.

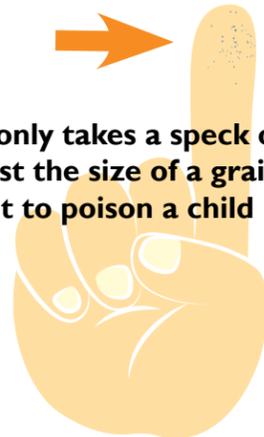
In 2015, only 16.8% of New Hampshire children under the age of 6 were tested for lead poisoning

16.8%



660 New Hampshire children were identified with lead poisoning in 2015 and received care coordination from the HHLPPP

It only takes a speck of lead dust the size of a grain of salt to poison a child



An estimated 40% of NH's school-age children have had an elevated blood lead level at some point in their lives



1 in 3 lead poisoned children lives in a home that was renovated in the past 6 months

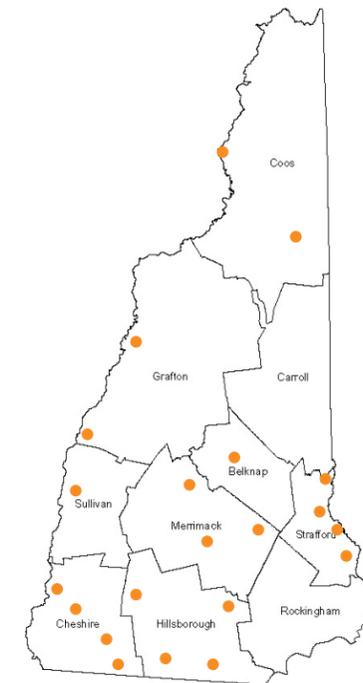


NH Department of Health and Human Services, Special Medical Services is a program for children with special health care needs who have, or are at risk for, a chronic medical condition, disability or special health care need. Children with special health care needs require health and related services of a type beyond that generally required by children.

34% of children receiving Special Medical Services who were tested were lead poisoned, compared to 4% of children statewide.

4% 34%

New Hampshire's 21 Highest Risk communities include:



Antrim
Berlin
Claremont
Concord
Dover
Franklin
Greenville

Haverhill
Keene
Laconia
Lebanon
Manchester
Nashua
New Castle

Pittsfield
Rindge
Rochester
Somersworth
Stratford
Troy
Walpole

What to do

1. Test all one and two year olds for lead.
2. Hire a licensed lead inspector to find out if your home has lead hazards.
3. Use an EPA "RRP Certified" contractor who understands how to use lead-safe work practices when renovating or repairing your home.
4. Regularly wash hands, toys, bottles, pacifiers, floors, windowsills, and other areas where leaded dust may settle.
5. Be careful that you don't bring home lead dust from your job site or hobby.
6. Check if you qualify for a lead grant to cover some of the costs of removing lead from your home.

This report was developed and printed under funding opportunity NUE1EH001271 received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For more information, see the full 2015 Lead Exposure Surveillance Report at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/publications.htm> or contact HHLPPP at (800)897-LEAD.

References

- <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/>
- <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/publications.htm>
- <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>
- http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Lead-Poisoning-Fact-Sheet.pdf



8352
**Healthy Homes & Lead
 Poisoning Prevention Program**
 Division of Public Health Services
 State of New Hampshire
 29 Hazen Drive
 Concord, NH 03301



660

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN WERE POISONED BY LEAD IN 2015

[OPEN TO LEARN MORE](#)

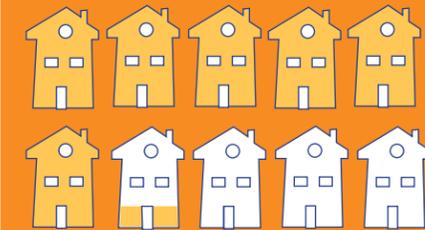


2015 LEAD POISONING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. However, nearly 1 million children living in the United States have blood lead levels high enough to impair their ability to think, concentrate, and learn.

The most common source of lead exposure for children today is lead paint in older housing and the contaminated dust and soil it generates. New Hampshire has the oldest housing of anywhere in the United States. The developing brains of young children are especially vulnerable to lead contaminated dust and soil. The damage to a child's brain caused by lead poisoning can be permanent.

The NH Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HHLPPP) works to address the risk of lead poisoning and other health and safety issues that stem from the home environment. As part of this mission, the HHLPPP collects data on blood lead levels of children and adults across the state in order to target resources towards high risk communities and populations.



New Hampshire has the oldest housing of anywhere in the United States, with 62% of its homes built before lead-based paint was banned in 1978.

Children exposed to even low levels of lead can have learning disabilities, lower IQ, speech and language delays, hearing loss, increased aggression, impulsivity, behavior problems, poor school performance, and failing test scores.

