

LEAD SCREENING and TESTING in IOWA

Lead is a highly toxic substance that, when exposed to, can (1) cause damage to the brain and nervous system; (2) slow growth and development; (3) cause learning and behavioral problems; (4) cause hearing and speech impediments.

Get the Facts

- One out of every 14 U.S. children tested has elevated Lead levels high enough to damage their health. In Iowa, 890 children had a confirmed elevated blood lead level in 2017.
- 20% of Attention Deficit disorder cases can be attributed to Lead exposure.
- Iowa is one of the top **seven** states for adult Lead exposure.
- More than 50 percent of the homes in Iowa were built prior to 1960 and may contain Lead-based hazards such as deteriorating Lead paint or Lead-contaminated dust.

Lead Exposure in Iowa

Lead can be found throughout a child's environment. Even children without direct exposure can be affected through clothing and shoes of parents and other adults in the community. Some examples:

- Homes with deteriorating Lead paint or Lead-contaminated dust, some water pipes, and stained glass windows.
- Battery recycling plants, shooting ranges, fishing and hunting equipment,
- Foods, cosmetics, jewelry and some traditional medicines imported from other countries

Lead Screening and Testing Guidelines

Screening – The Iowa Periodicity Schedule recommends that a Lead assessment be done at 6 months, 9 months, 18 months, and yearly from ages 3 to 6 years

Testing - The Iowa Periodicity Schedule recommend **two** Lead capillary or venous blood tests — one at 12 months and one at 24 months.

- To meet the HEDIS Measure, members must have at least one Lead capillary or venous blood test on or before the child's second birthday.



For More information and Resources: Refer to Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at [idph.iowa.gov/Environmental Health Services/Childhood Lead Poisoning](http://idph.iowa.gov/EnvironmentalHealthServices/ChildhoodLeadPoisoning)