



## Are you screening your patients for LEAD exposure?

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### Key Points:

- Per the **Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)** publication “**2015 Childhood Lead Surveillance Report**”, for kids 7 years old and younger, **only “7% of all Hoosier children were screened for lead poisoning in 2015”**.
- Lead poisoning is the #1 preventable disease condition in young children that can permanently damage the child’s developing brain and other organ systems. Once a child is lead poisoned, the chances for academic, social, and occupational success are significantly decreased.
- The **AAP** and **CDC** agree that there is **NO SAFE LEVEL** of Lead Exposure for children
- **FSSA** mandates that children with **Medicaid** insurance should have lead screening done at a minimum at **9-12 months** and **2 years of age**.
- The ISDH is working to increase blood lead screenings in Indiana, but they need your help. Don’t assume every at risk infant and toddler is automatically being screened by WIC. If you don’t have copy of the actual results (often available on **CHIRP**) then please consider doing your own lead screening.

### Examples of risks for childhood lead poisoning:

- Children living in housing constructed prior to 1978 who may be exposed to lead pipes or lead-based paints; exposure to well water; or living near heavy industrial sites (e.g. Northwest Indiana).
- Children with a previously elevated blood lead level or with signs and symptoms of lead poisoning
- Children with high incidence of hand-to-mouth activity, such as thumb sucking or nail biting; children with a history of pica
- Children with poor nutritional status (increased fat, decreased calcium, iron, and other nutrients), predisposing them to enhanced lead absorption in the intestines

### Resources:

1. **How do I code, bill, and interpret office lead screenings?**  
**FSSA Indiana Health Coverage Programs: See link below (pages 31-33)**  
<http://provider.indianamedicaid.com/media/155529/epsdt.pdf>
2. **Who do I contact if my patient has an abnormal lead level?**  
**Your local county Health Department:**  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/24822.htm>

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3. **What the rate of lead screening and disease in my county?**

*ISDH 2015 Childhood Lead Surveillance Report: See link below (pages 18-24)*

[http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Lead\\_Report\\_2015\\_w\\_reportable\\_disease.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Lead_Report_2015_w_reportable_disease.pdf)

4. **What is the AAP policy related to lead screening and treatment?**

*Pediatrics: Lead Exposure in Children: Prevention, Detection, and Management: See link below*

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/116/4/1036>