2020 LEAD EXPOSURE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE DATA BRIEF

In 2020, 3,108 fewer NH children had blood lead level tests than in 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents a 14% drop in the State's pediatric blood lead level testing rates.

Figure 1: Annual number of children 72 months or younger tested for blood lead levels, 2016 - 2020.

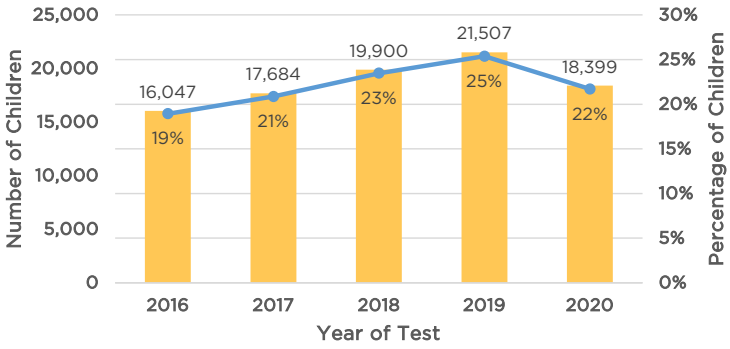
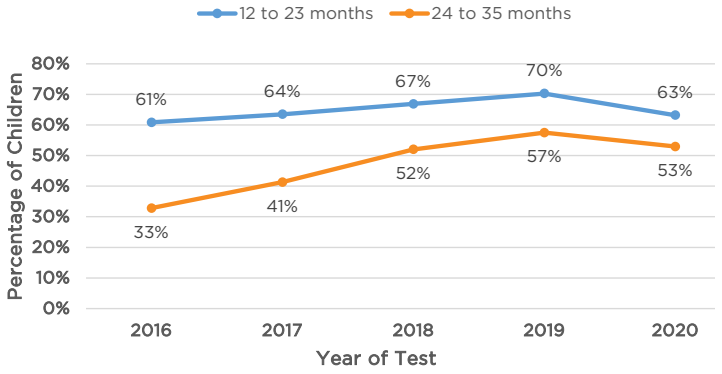
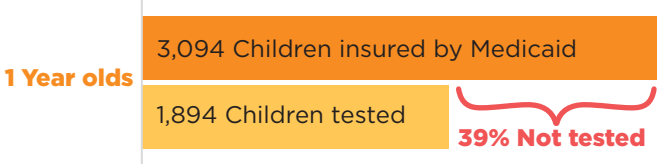


Figure 2: Percentage of 1- and 2-year-old children tested for blood lead levels, 2016 - 2020.



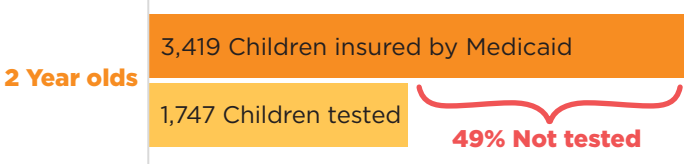
Decreases in the number and rate of children 72 months and younger tested for blood lead levels, as compared to 2019 data were closely associated with the statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 3: Number of NH one-year-olds enrolled in Medicaid tested for blood lead level, 2020.



Among the number of NH's one-year-olds continuously enrolled in Medicaid for at least 12 months prior to their 2 year birthday, an estimated 61% were tested for blood lead level in 2020. This proportion has remained relatively stable in recent years (2017-2020).

Figure 4: Number of NH two-year-olds enrolled in Medicaid tested for blood lead level, 2020.



Among the number of NH's two-year-olds continuously enrolled in Medicaid for at least 12 months prior to their 3 year birthday, an estimated 51% were tested for blood lead level in 2020. The testing rates among two-year-olds enrolled in Medicaid has increased from 42% (2017) to 51% (2020).

Numbers in New Hampshire in 2020

Figure 5: Percentage of children 72 months and younger, tested for blood lead level by School Administrative Unit 2020[1].

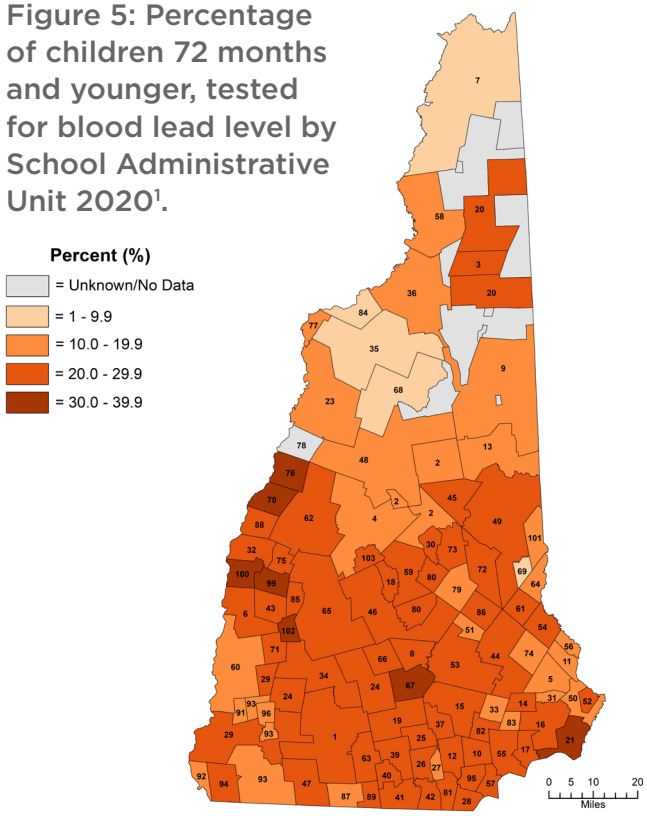


Figure 6: Number of children 72 months and younger, with blood lead level elevations of 5µg/dL or greater by School Administrative Unit 2020[1,2].

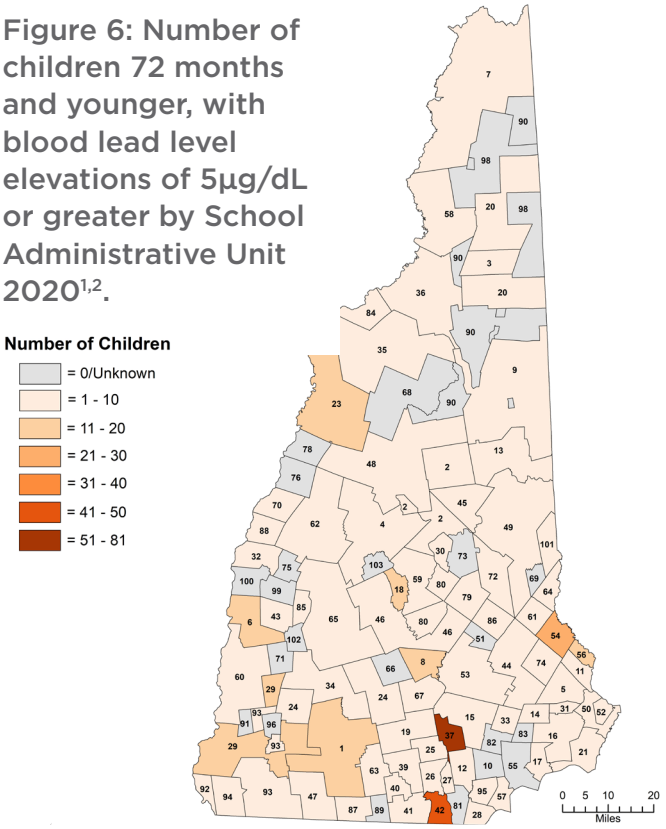


Figure 7: Number of children 72 months and younger, with blood lead level elevations of 5µg/dL or higher by town.

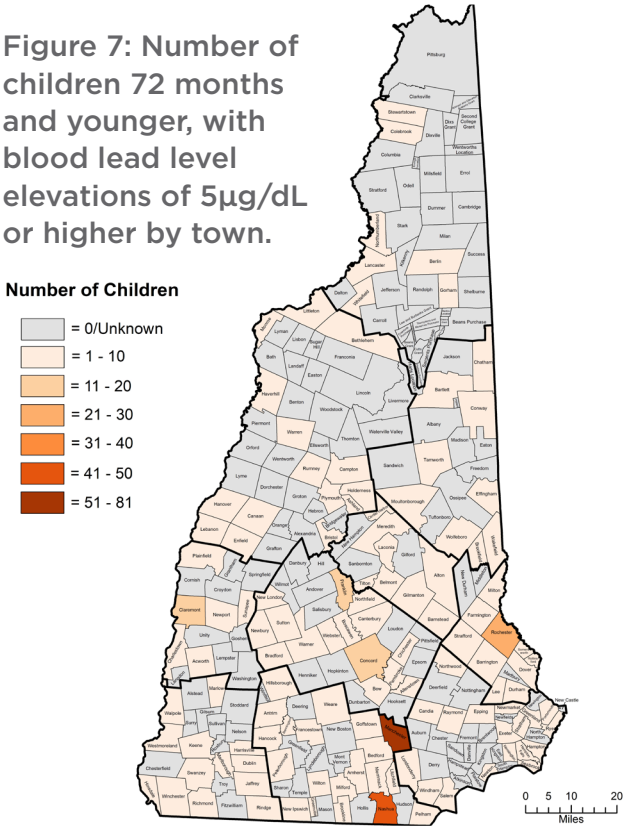
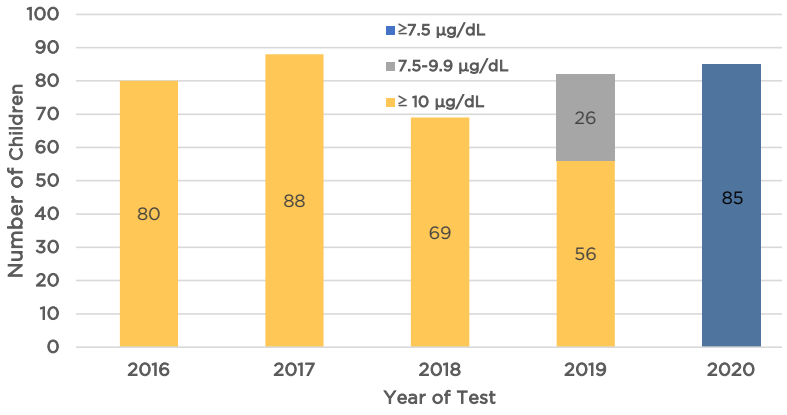


Figure 8: New children 72 months and younger, above the state action limit requiring medical nurse case management, 2016 - 2020.

On July 1, 2019, the NH action level requiring a public health nurse home visit and a lead exposure investigation was lowered from 10 µg/dL or higher, to 7.5 µg/dL or higher for children ages 72 months or younger.



[1] A SAU map with towns can be found at https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/sau-map.pdf
[2] 5µg/dL is the blood lead level at with lead exposure investigations and medical case management is recommended for children 72 months and younger.

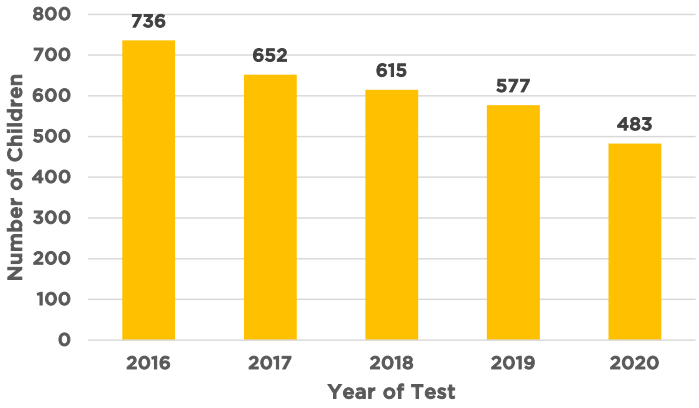
Testing at 1&2 years old

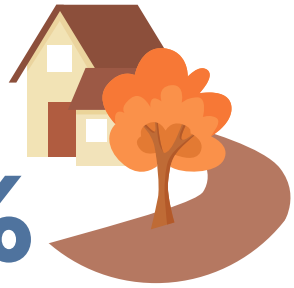
NH requires blood lead level testing of all children ages 1 and 2 years.

Effective April 9, 2018, NH became a Universal blood lead level testing state. ***All*** NH children are required to have their blood tested for lead at age 1 year, and ***again***, a second test, at age 2 years. It is also recommended to test all children 3 to 6 years who have not been previously tested.

Figure 9: Number of children aged 72 months and younger with elevated blood lead levels at CDC's Reference Level of 5 µg/dL or higher, at which lead exposure investigations and medical case management are recommended.

In 2020, 3,108 fewer NH children had blood level tests than in 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents a 14% drop in the State's pediatric blood lead level testing rates.



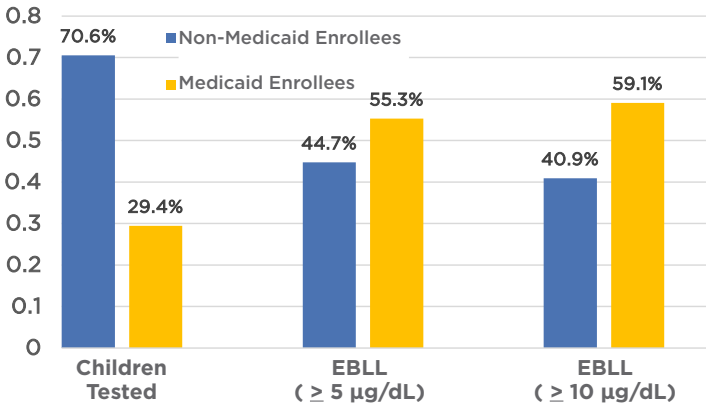


36%

In 2020, 36% of children with elevated blood lead levels in NH at the CDC's reference level of 5 µg/dL or greater, were residing in rural areas. Rural areas are those communities with a population density of 150 persons or less per square mile.

Figure 10: NH Medicaid enrollees constitute a higher proportion (%) of tested children aged 72 months or younger with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL).

In NH, the percentage of children aged 72 months or younger with confirmed EBLL above the CDC reference level of 5 µg/dL who were enrolled in Medicaid (2020) exceeded the percentage of Medicaid enrolled children tested for blood lead. Among NH's children with EBLL, 55% were Medicaid enrollees. Yet only 29% of NH children tested for blood lead levels were enrolled in Medicaid.



NH DIVISION OF Public Health Services
Improving health, preventing disease, reducing costs *for all*
Department of Health and Human Services

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Lead by the Numbers in 2020

Lead poisoning is

100%

preventable

56%

Of structures in NH's highest risk communities that were built prior to 1978 when lead paint was banned for residential use.

42,057

Or 50% of NH children, 72 months or younger, reside in housing units built before the 1978 ban on lead in residential paint, where they are potentially exposed to lead hazards.

14% ↓

In 2020, 3,108 fewer NH children had blood lead level tests than in 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents a 14% drop in the State's pediatric blood lead level testing rate.

1 in 3

Parents of children with blood lead levels greater than 5 µg/dL, report that renovations have taken place in the home within the last six months.

1 in 5

Attention Deficit Disorder cases were attributed to lead exposure.

www.aap.org

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

Medical Nurse Case Management

Nurse case management services are provided by NH DHHS Division of Public Health Services at no cost to the families of all children with confirmed elevated blood lead levels above the State's public health action level. Nurse case management services begin with a nurse home visit to each child's home and continue until child's blood lead level has dropped below 5 µg/dL or until child is over 72 months of age.

Table 1: **NH Statewide and Select High-Risk Communities**
2020 Testing Data for Children Aged 72 Months and Younger

TOWN	AGE GROUP (IN MONTHS)	TOTAL NUMBER SCREENED	POPULATION CENSUS 2010	PERCENTAGE SCREENED (%)[3]	SCREENING RATES, (PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM A YEAR EARLIER)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH EBLL (≥ 5 µg/dL)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR CASE MANAGEMENT (≥ 7.5 µg/dL)
BERLIN	0 to 11	4	87	4.6	↓ -50.0	0	0
	12 to 23	79	75	105.3	↓ -1.3	< 5	0
	24 to 35	62	102	60.8	↑ 5.1	0	0
	36 to 72	8	284	2.8	↓ -61.9	< 5	<5
CLAREMONT	0 to 11	2	128	1.6	↑ 0.2	0	0
	12 to 23	103	172	59.9	↑ 0.0	9	< 5
	24 to 35	64	177	36.2	↓ -13.5	7	0
	36 to 72	56	526	10.6	↓ -36.4	< 5	< 5
CONCORD	0 to 11	7	440	1.6	↓ -72.0	< 5	0
	12 to 23	275	452	60.8	↓ -5.2	11	< 5
	24 to 35	234	489	47.9	↑ 0.4	5	0
	36 to 72	76	1,441	5.3	↓ -11.7	0	0
CONWAY	0 to 11	4	89	4.5	↑ 301.3	0	0
	12 to 23	55	95	57.9	↑ 189.5	< 5	0
	24 to 35	41	99	41.4	↑ 70.9	0	0
	36 to 72	14	329	4.3	↑ 75.1	< 5	< 5
DOVER	0 to 11	6	374	1.6	↓ -72.7	0	0
	12 to 23	136	356	38.2	↓ -42.6	< 5	< 5
	24 to 35	185	341	54.3	↑ 1.7	< 5	0
	36 to 72	24	1,087	2.2	↓ -69.6	0	0
FARMINGTON	0 to 11	3	87	3.4	↓ -50.0	0	0
	12 to 23	62	98	63.3	↑ 51.2	< 5	0
	24 to 35	41	72	56.9	↑ 2.5	< 5	0
	36 to 72	12	265	4.5	↓ -25.0	5	0
FRANKLIN	0 to 11	3	99	3.0	↓ -72.7	< 5	0
	12 to 23	70	96	72.9	↑ 7.7	7	< 5
	24 to 35	42	95	44.2	↓ -30.0	< 5	< 5
	36 to 72	19	318	6.0	↓ -24.0	0	0
GREENVILLE	0 to 11	0	19	0.0	– 0.0	0	0
	12 to 23	15	23	65.2	↓ -6.3	< 5	0
	24 to 35	8	26	30.8	↓ -46.7	0	0
	36 to 72	4	84	4.8	↓ -33.3	0	0
HAVERHILL	0 to 11	8	45	17.8		0	0
	12 to 23	13	35	37.1	↑ 1198.7	< 5	0
	24 to 35	22	69	31.9	↑ 633.0	6	< 5
	36 to 72	11	123	8.9	↑ 448.7	< 5	0
HILLSBORO	0 to 11	3	67	4.5	– 0.0	0	0
	12 to 23	41	77	53.2	↓ -12.8	< 5	0
	24 to 35	36	74	48.6	↓ -5.3	< 5	0
	36 to 72	13	240	5.4	↓ -38.1	< 5	< 5
HINSDALE	0 to 11	2	45	4.4	↑ 0.1	0	0
	12 to 23	21	31	67.7	↓ -34.4	< 5	0
	24 to 35	14	41	34.1	↓ -54.8	0	0
	36 to 72	3	133	2.3	↓ -57.1	0	0

[3]Screening Rates Presented may exceed 100% in situations where number of children screened exceeds 2010 Census Population.

TOWN	AGE GROUP (IN MONTHS)	TOTAL NUMBER SCREENED	POPULATION CENSUS 2010	PERCENTAGE SCREENED (%)[3]	SCREENING RATES (PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM A YEAR EARLIER)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH EBLL (≥ 5 µg/dL)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR CASE MANAGEMENT (≥ 7.5 µg/dL)
HUDSON	0 to 11	19	257	7.4	↓ -13.6	0	0
	12 to 23	161	255	63.1	↓ -13.4	0	0
	24 to 35	158	285	55.4	↓ -10.7	0	0
	36 to 72	64	953	6.7	↓ -1.5	0	0
KEENE	0 to 11	5	159	3.1	↑ 399.2	0	0
	12 to 23	143	182	78.6	– 0.0	< 5	0
	24 to 35	119	185	64.3	↑ 1.7	< 5	0
	36 to 72	23	613	3.8	↓ -54.8	< 5	< 5
LACONIA	0 to 11	9	178	5.1	↓ -18.2	0	0
	12 to 23	93	178	52.2	↓ -26.8	< 5	0
	24 to 35	95	174	54.6	↓ -15.9	< 5	0
	36 to 72	21	506	4.2	↓ -22.3	< 5	0
LEBANON	0 to 11	1	184	0.5	↓ -66.7	0	0
	12 to 23	115	174	66.1	↑ 25.0	< 5	< 5
	24 to 35	97	160	60.6	↑ 31.1	< 5	0
	36 to 72	54	443	12.2	↑ 38.5	< 5	0
MANCHESTER	0 to 11	27	1,525	1.8	↓ -37.2	0	0
	12 to 23	992	1,512	65.6	↓ -10.1	28	< 5
	24 to 35	875	1,498	58.4	↓ -6.5	35	6
	36 to 72	184	4,165	4.4	↓ -61.2	18	5
NASHUA	0 to 11	41	1,076	3.8	↑ 5.3	0	0
	12 to 23	737	1,088	67.7	↓ -7.4	27	< 5
	24 to 35	595	1,078	55.2	↓ -16.9	11	0
	36 to 72	166	3,274	5.1	↓ -47.8	< 5	< 5
NEWMARKET	0 to 11	6	101	5.9	↓ -40.0	0	0
	12 to 23	43	123	35.0	↓ -31.7	< 5	0
	24 to 35	39	123	31.7	↓ -20.4	< 5	< 5
	36 to 72	6	327	1.8	↓ -33.3	< 5	0
NEWPORT	0 to 11	2	74	2.7	↑ 0.1	0	0
	12 to 23	57	92	62.0	↑ 1.8	0	0
	24 to 35	50	77	64.9	↑ 42.9	< 5	0
	36 to 72	12	214	5.6	↓ -47.8	< 5	0
PETERBOROUGH	0 to 11	1	58	1.7	– 0.0	0	0
	12 to 23	36	63	57.1	↓ -2.7	< 5	0
	24 to 35	29	63	46.0	↓ -14.7	< 5	0
	36 to 72	4	171	2.3	↓ -33.4	< 5	0
PITTSFIELD	0 to 11	0	63	0.0	↓ -100.0	0	0
	12 to 23	26	47	55.3	– 0.0	0	0
	24 to 35	23	45	51.1	↑ 21.1	0	0
	36 to 72	4	171	2.3	↓ -69.2	0	0
ROCHESTER	0 to 11	9	333	2.7	↓ -43.7	< 5	0
	12 to 23	223	384	58.1	↓ -5.1	9	< 5
	24 to 35	193	380	50.8	↑ 40.9	11	0
	36 to 72	28	1,043	2.7	↓ -58.2	< 5	< 5
SOMERSWORTH	0 to 11	7	170	4.1	↓ -22.2	< 5	0
	12 to 23	83	163	50.9	↓ -16.2	< 5	< 5
	24 to 35	58	157	36.9	↓ -12.1	< 5	0
	36 to 72	12	480	2.5	↓ -67.6	< 5	< 5
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	**0 to 11**	**519**	**12,944**	**4.0**	**↓ -26.3**	**7.0**	**1.0**
	12 to 23	**8,542**	**13,521**	**63.2**	**↓ -10.0**	**223.0**	**51.0**
	24 to 35	**7,390**	**13,959**	**52.9**	**↓ -8.2**	**170.0**	**25.0**
	36 to 72	**1,948**	**44,293**	**4.4**	**↓ -40.7**	**83.0**	**8.0**
TOTAL	**0 to 72**	**18,399**	**84,767**	**21.7**	**-14.5**	**483.0**	**85.0**