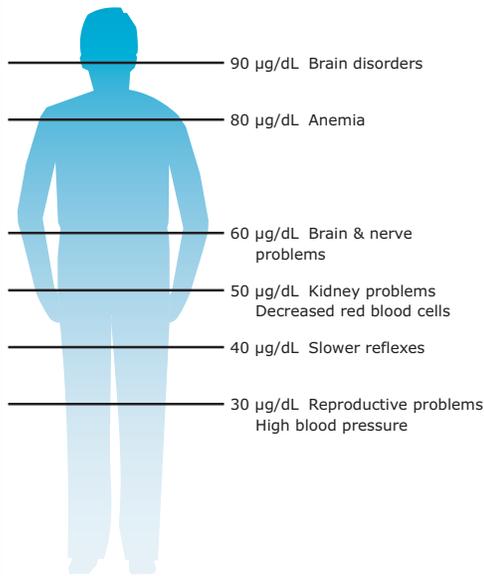


How Lead Affects Your Health

Health Effects in Adults micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL)



Your blood can be tested to see if you have had a recent exposure to lead. An elevated blood lead level shows that lead is building up in the body faster than it can be eliminated.

If you have any questions about lead or other occupational exposures, contact your local health department or the Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 W. 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
1-800-588-1248.

LEAD has no known beneficial effects in the human body. Lead exposure can damage many systems in your body.

The amount of damage depends on...

- How much lead your body was exposed to
- How long the exposure lasted

Brain and Nervous System

Disorders with symptoms that may include...

- Headache
- Nervousness
- Sleeplessness
- Dulled hearing
- Tiredness
- Irritability
- Memory problems
- Reduced hand-eye coordination

Digestive System

Stomach disorders with symptoms that may include...

- Weight loss
- Nausea
- Poor appetite
- Constipation
- Stomach pain

Reproductive System

- Men may become sterile.
- Women may have trouble becoming pregnant or have miscarriages.

Lead exposure is especially dangerous for an unborn child because lead can cause...

- Premature birth
- Learning disabilities
- Low birth weight
- Stunted growth

Blood

Lead damages the bone marrow that forms red blood cells. Anemia occurs when there is a decrease in red blood cells.

Other Effects

- Muscle pain
- Associated with blood pressure increases in men and women
- Joint pain

High levels of lead may cause coma or death.