

Lead-Safe Texas

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Blood Lead Surveillance Branch
Texas Department of State Health Services
dshs.texas.gov/lead

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With the support of communities throughout Texas, regional public health offices, and Texas healthcare workers, BLSB is working diligently toward a safer, healthier Texas.

About this Newsletter

This newsletter provides information on lead poisoning prevention. You will find all newsletters on our website at dshs.texas.gov/lead/newsletters.

About the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Blood Lead Surveillance Branch (BLSB) maintains a surveillance system of blood lead test results for children and adults. Our goal is to eliminate lead poisoning as a public health problem in Texas. We do this by working with health, housing, and environmental organizations. With the support of communities, regional public health offices, and Texas healthcare workers, BLSB is working diligently toward a safer, healthier Texas.

What is Lead?

Lead is a highly toxic metal. In the past, lead caused extensive environmental contamination and health problems in many parts of the world. In 1978, the federal government banned the sale of lead-containing paint for consumer use to reduce the amount of lead in the environment.

If a home was built before 1978, there may be a chance it contains lead-based paint. Lead can also be in soil, drinking water, amulets, pottery, cosmetics and even toys.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2023

Every year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of Lead Hazard Control, and Healthy Homes, teams up with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote and observe National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW). In 2023, NLPPW is October 22-28. The goal of NLPPW is to bring awareness to lead poison and increase prevention efforts. The theme of NLPPW this year revolves around three key points:

1. Get the facts
2. Get your home tested
3. Get your child tested

For NLPPW 2023, the Texas Blood Lead Surveillance Branch will be promoting the EPA's social media campaign. The social media campaign will align with the CDC's key points and will be posted throughout the week on various DSHS platforms including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) (formerly Twitter). The campaign highlights the need for collaboration among individuals, organizations, industry, and state and local governments to lower childhood exposure to lead.



Want more information on NLPPW? Visit [the CDC's website](#).

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week



Get the Facts



Get Your Child Tested



Get Your Home Tested



Oct.
22-28,
2023



For Providers: Importance of Timely Blood Lead Level Reporting

Texas law requires the reporting of all blood lead tests for children under 15 years of age. It is very important for health care providers to report all blood lead levels for many reasons.

1. Blood lead level reports are used for surveillance.

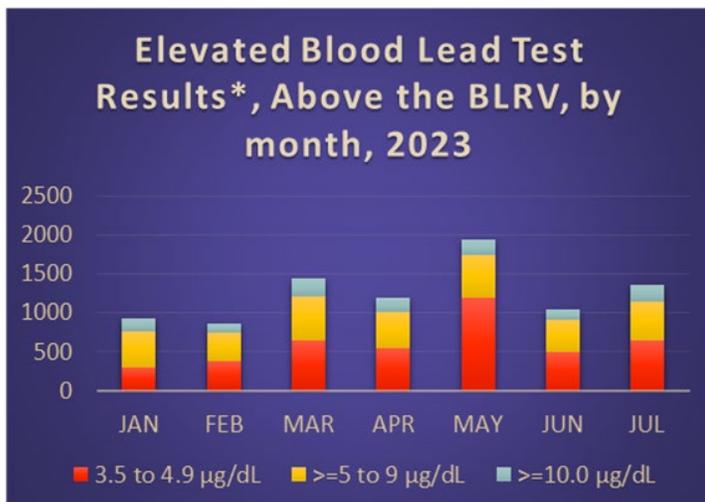
Surveillance data is electronic information that is collected, recorded, and analyzed. BLSB maintains a surveillance system of all blood lead results for children younger than 15 years of age and a separate surveillance system of blood lead test results on individuals 15 years of age and older. The collection of surveillance data is important. It helps us find trends in elevated blood lead cases. This aids in conducting public health risk assessment. These insights play a pivotal role in shaping program interventions, alerting the public to unusual increases in blood lead cases, and influencing policy and research. Without surveillance data, DSHS is incapable of evaluating the risk of lead poisoning in the community. This could potentially lead to adverse consequences for the population of Texas.

2. Timely planning for patient care.

Timely reporting helps health care providers quickly identify elevated blood lead levels in patients. Early detection helps providers create personalized care plans. These plans can include specific guidance on reducing lead exposure, managing health complications related to lead toxicity, and providing support to patients and their families. It also allows us to quickly identify and address the potential sources of lead in the patient's environment.



Data Updates



On January 1, 2023, the DSHS implemented the blood lead reference value (BLRV) of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) in accordance with the CDC. The figure provided on the left portrays the number of elevated blood lead test results the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch has collected since implementing the BLRV.

**Data is preliminary and subject to change*

Electronic Waste and its Effects on Blood Lead

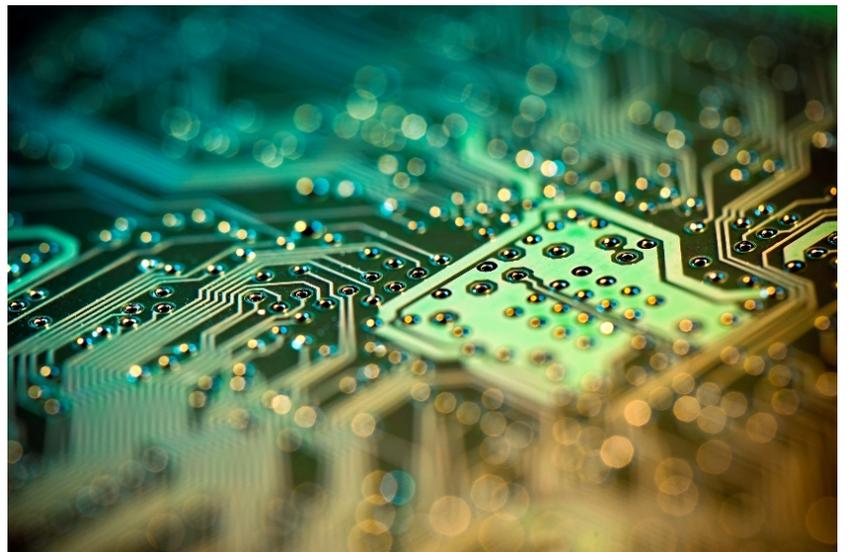
Typical E-Waste devices include but are not limited to the following:

- Old CRT tube televisions
- LCD, OLED, and plasma televisions
- LCD monitors, smart displays, and tablets
- Laptops with LCD monitors
- OLED desktop monitors, laptops, and tablets
- Computers, computer monitors, and printers
- VCRs
- Portable DVD players with video screens
- Cell phones and telephones
- Radios

Lead exposure has historically focused on lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust, but an increasingly concerning source is electronic waste (e-waste). Discarded electrical and electronic devices called e-waste does not naturally break down. Its accumulation in the environment can release toxic substances, including lead, through processes like leaching. This poses a significant health risk to children and adults living nearby.

The surge in global e-waste prompted the World Health Organization (WHO) to call for more effective measures to protect children from the hazardous chemicals. According to data from the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership (GESp), e-waste volumes grew by 21% in the five years leading up to 2019. It resulted in a 53.6 million metric tons of e-waste generated that year. This trend is expected to continue due to the widespread adoption of electronic devices, coupled with their rapid obsolescence.

Only 17.4% of the e-waste produced in 2019 reached the appropriate recycling facilities. Most of the waste was illegally disposed of in low- or middle-income countries. Addressing this growing e-waste problem is crucial to safeguarding public health and the environment from lead and other hazardous substances.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Lead-Related Product Recalls

Soojimus Children’s Cup

Recall #: 23-774

On July 20, 2023, Soojimus issued a recall notice to consumers notifying them of levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban in their CUPKIN Double-Walled Stainless Steel Children’s Cups (8-oz. and-12 oz). Both sizes of the recalled cups were sold in 12 color combinations, including a matching straw. "Cupkin" is printed on the front and bottom of the cups. The recalled product was improperly manufactured and sold on Amazon and Cupkin.com from January 2018 through March 2023 and included about 346,000 cups. Consumers who have purchased this product should immediately stop use of the cups and contact Soojimus for a full refund.



CultureFly L.O.L. Surprise! Trick or Treat Subscription Boxes

Recall #: 23-752

On May 4, 2023, CultureFly issued a recall notice notifying consumers that their L.O.L Surprise! Trick or Treat Themed Subscription Boxes exceed federal lead paint ban levels. The purple boxes have an image of three dolls, spiderwebs, skulls and bats. It also has “L.O.L. Surprise!” and “Trick or Treat” printed on top. The metal doll pin has blue, pink, and purple hair in pigtails, blue eyes, pink shoes and is wearing a bra and underwear. They include magnetic, cut-out clothes to dress the doll. Consumers should immediately stop use of this product and contact CultureFly for a \$10 refund.



Bunch Bikes Preschool Electric Bicycle

Recall # 23-761

On May 25, 2023, Bunch Bikes issued a recall notice to consumers notifying them of levels of lead that exceed the federal lead paint ban in their Preschool Electric Bicycles. This recall includes the Preschool front-loading electric cargo tricycle. The recalled bikes are painted with a yellow exterior and black interior color with a high-gloss finish. The recalled bikes have the Bunch logo on the side of the passenger box and were sold as The Preschool 2020 edition starting in 2020, The Preschool and The Preschool 3.0. riders should immediately stop use of this product and contact Bunch Bikes for free replacement wood panels.



If you experience any issues with these recalls or believe the company is being non-responsive to your refund request, use the [recall complaint form](#) found on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

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