Lead-Safe Texas

Volume 7 Issue 2

More Lead-Safe Newsletters can be found at
www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/newsletters

TEXAS
Health and Human Services
Texas Department of State Health Services

Blood Lead Surveillance Branch

In this issue…

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) 2025 is being celebrated October 19 through October 26 under the theme "Healthy Communities Start with Lead-Safe Homes." The goal of the prevention week is to highlight the importance of safe living environments for children and to raise awareness and promote lead-safe practices within our communities. Everybody can start these practices by following three simple steps:

1) **Learn the facts:** Lead is still a problem that we see in many communities today. There are many ways to be exposed to lead but there are also ways to protect your family and community.

2) **Know the risks:** Lead exposure can lead to serious harmful effects for a child such as brain and nervous system damage, delayed development, learning and behavioral problems, and hearing and speech problems, if it's not caught early on.

3) **Getting children tested:** A blood lead test is the best way to find out if your child has lead poisoning. Talk to your healthcare provider about getting a blood lead test.

For more information on NLPPW, visit dshs.texas.gov/lead.

Lead in Household Products

Do you know what's in your cabinets? While old lead paint and dust are still a common form of lead exposure, there are many household items that contain lead.

Lead can be found in many common household items such as spices, makeup, snacks, holistic medicinal remedies, jewelry, toys, and more. Recently there has been an increase in the number of cinnamon products containing lead. So much so, that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a Public Health Alert to make consumers aware of the issue. A list of these products can be found at the FDA health alert website.

The FDA has also recently issued a warning about imported cookware that could potentially leach lead while being used. These products are often made from aluminum, brass, and aluminum alloys known as Hindalium/Hindolium. FDA recommends that consumers stop using this type of cookware and throw them away to avoid further exposure. A list of these products can be found at the FDA health alert website.

Sprout Organics has voluntarily recalled one lot of sweet potato apple and spinach toddler/baby food pouches due to possible lead contamination. These products were sold in Walgreens and some independent stores between September – December 2024, mainly in the southern region of the U.S. The lot code for the recalled products is 4212 and the expiration date is 10/29/2025. If a consumer has a product that matches this information, they can return it to a local store for a full refund. If there are questions about the product, consumers can contact the company at 510-833-6089 or email info@sproutorganics.com.

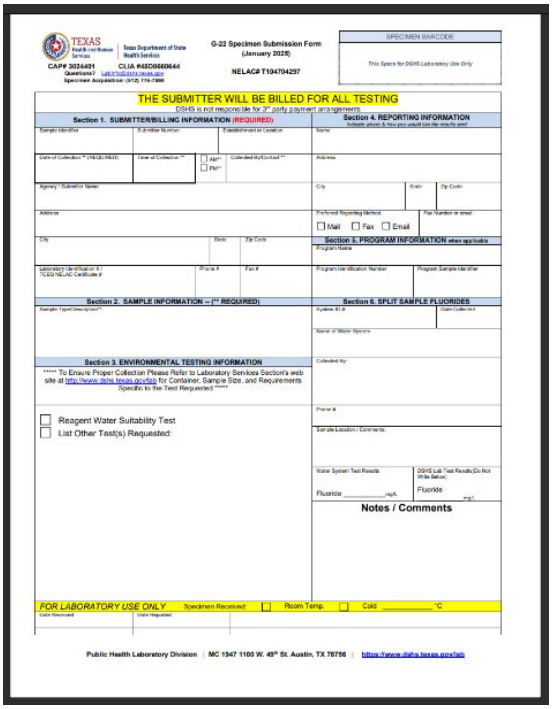
Recalled Cinnamon

Recalled Cookware

Recalled Sprouts Food Pouch

Metals in Food Testing Program

The Environmental Chemistry Unit (ECU) at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)Laboratory has recently started offering a new testing service. In the past the ECU tested water and soil for heavy metals but now can test certain foods. This includes things like spices and candy. Consumers can collect and submit their own samples which can be shipped or delivered to the DSHS Lab at 1100 W 49th St, Austin, Tx 78756 during business hours, which are 8-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Samples that are shipped should be addressed to Laboratory Service, Public Health Laboratory-Check In. Samples should include 100 grams per sample, which is equivalent to 1/2-1 cup of material. If 100 grams are not available, analysis can still be done on the samples with around 10-20 grams, if necessary. These samples can be stored in a plastic bag such as a Ziploc or something similar, and they can be in the original container such as a spice jar or package of candy. When submitting a sample to the lab, it must also include an order form known as the G-22 Form. Each sample should have its own form filled out according to the instructions. Billing for the sample will occur after the testing is done, usually within a month. A single metal request, for example for lead, costs around $61.36 per sample. While a total recoverable metals digestion test costs around $91.84 per sample. After the samples are analyzed, reports will be sent via email, fax, or hard copy. Questions about testing samples can be sent to EnvSciAdmin@dshs.texas.gov.



G-22 Specimen Submission Form
(January 2025)

THE SUBMITTER WILL BE BILLED FOR ALL TESTING

Section 1. SUBMITTER/BILLING INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

Section 2. SAMPLE INFORMATION – (** REQUIRED)

Section 3. ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING INFORMATION

Reagent Water Suitability Test
List Other Test(s) Requested:

Section 4. REPORTING INFORMATION

Section 5. PROGRAM INFORMATION

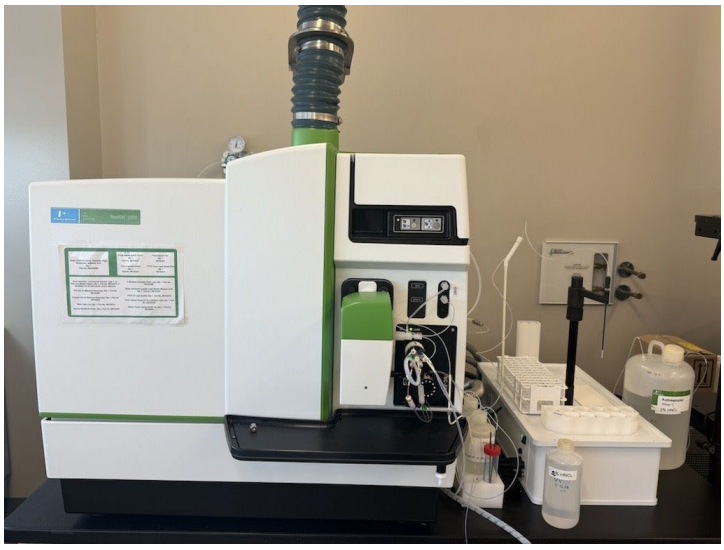
Section 6. SPLIT SAMPLE FLUORIDES

Notes / Comments

FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY

Public Health Laboratory Division | MC 1947 1100 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78756

DSHS laboratory G-22 form

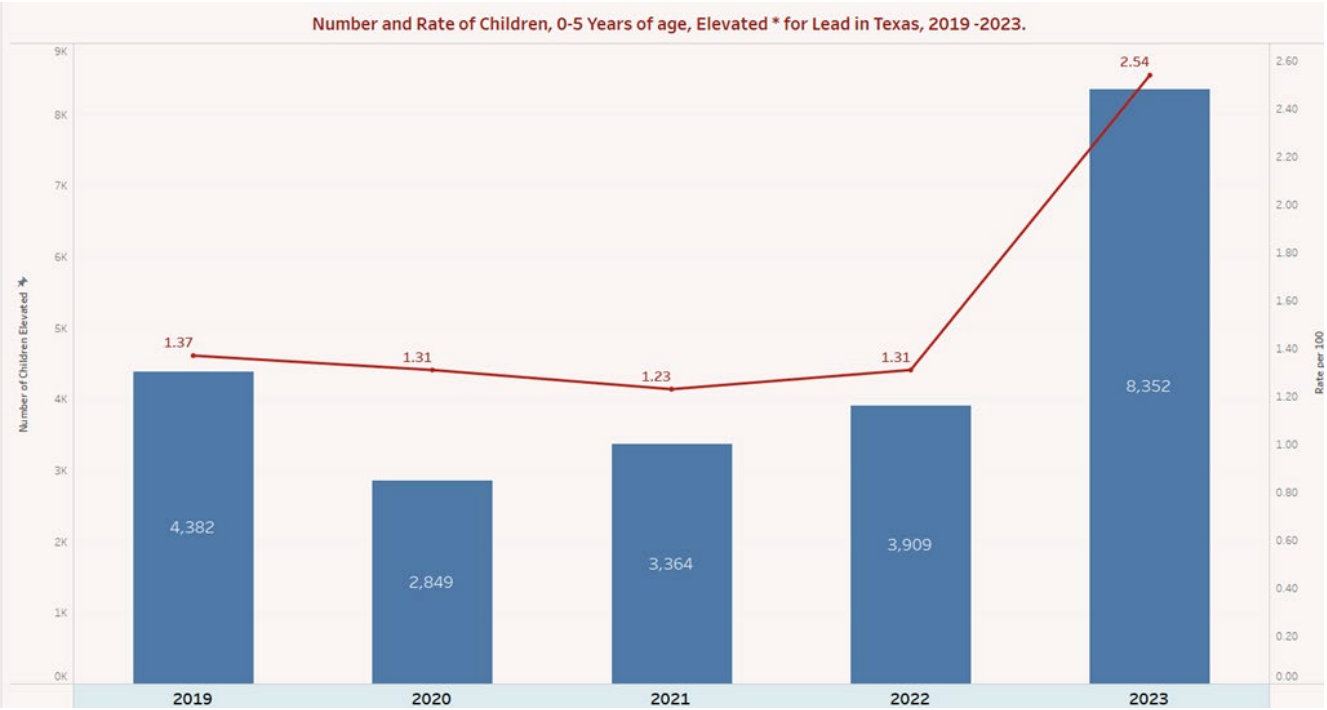


Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICPMS) Instrument

Current Data Trends

After adopting the new blood lead reference value (BLRV) of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (μg/dL) in 2023, DSHS received a significant increase in the number of reports with children with elevated blood lead levels in Texas. To process the increased information, more resources were required for confirmatory testing, case management, environmental lead investigations, and follow-up. The number of children, 0-5 years of age, with a blood lead levels greater than or equal to 3.5 μg/dL in 2023 was 8,352 (2.54% of children, 0-5 years of age, tested). While the number of children with a blood lead levels greater than or equal to the previous BLRV of 5 μg/dL in 2022 was 3,909 (1.31% of children, 0-5 years of age, tested).

Figure 1. Number and Rate of Children, 0-5 years of age, with Elevated* Blood Lead Levels in Texas, 2019-2023.



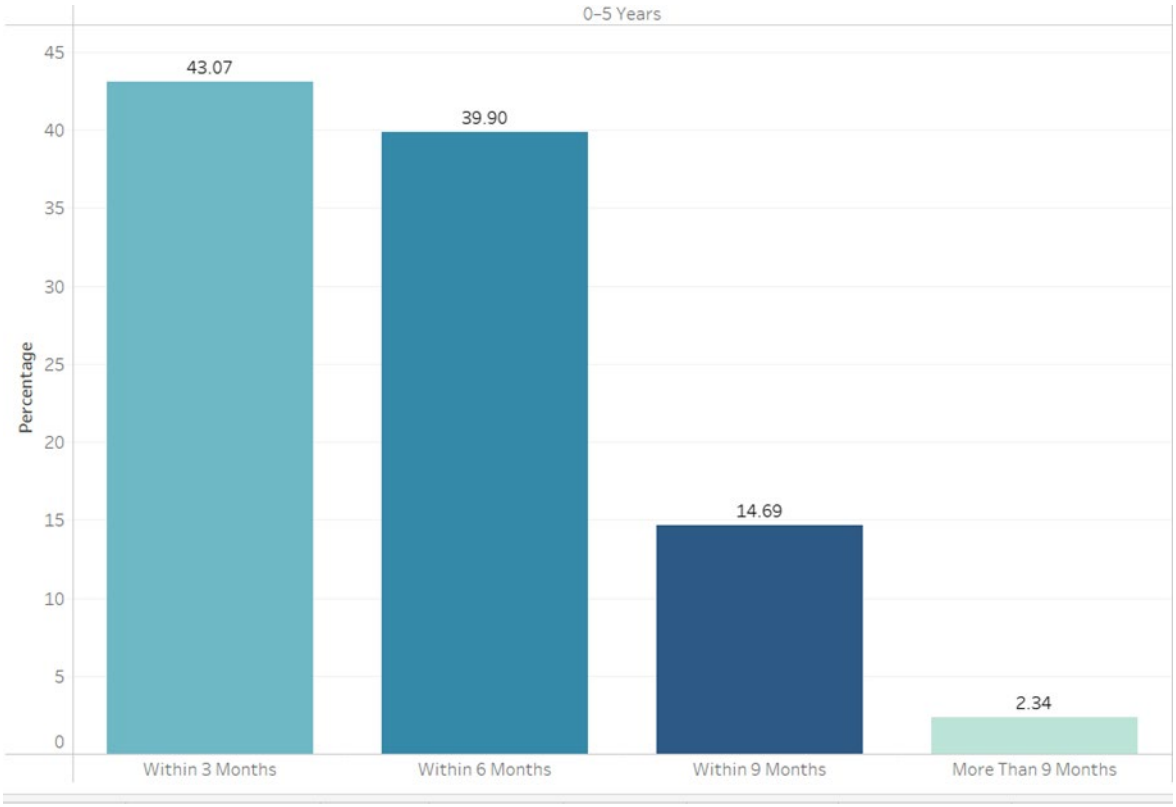
**For 2019-2022 data, a BLRV of 5 μg/dL is used to define elevated and for 2023 data, a BLRV of 3.5 μg/dL is used to define elevated.*

Source: Blood Lead Surveillance Branch, DSHS

Data in 2023 was reviewed to measure the time it took for elevated blood lead levels to normalize (return to levels below the BLRV) among children, 0-5 years of age. Blood lead levels in most children normalize between 3-6 months, with 43% normalizing within 3 months and 40% normalizing withing 6 months.

These findings highlight the importance of screening, retesting, environmental intervention, and education to protect children's health.

Figure 2. Percentage of Children, 0-5 years of age, with a Blood Lead Level Normalizing by Timeframe in Texas, 2023



Source: Blood Lead Surveillance Branch, DSHS

For more information about current data trends or the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch, please visit our website at dshs.texas.gov/lead or email TexasBloodLead@dshs.texas.gov.