



# Recommended Blood Lead Screening Plan for Texas Children

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- **All children will receive a blood lead at 12 and 24 months of age**
- **Report All blood lead results to the Texas Department of State Health Services Child Lead Registry\***

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If you have any questions, please contact the  
Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at  
1-800-588-1248.



# Blood Lead Screening Plan for Texas Children

## WHY DOES TEXAS NEED A SCREENING PLAN?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recognizing that all states have different needs to screen children for lead exposure, suggests each state develop a screening plan. Children under age 6 are at high risk for lead exposure to their growing bodies. CDC estimates Texas has 43,600 or 2.26% of children with elevated blood lead levels\*\*. Texas 2000 population showed 1,935,534 children in this age group, an increase from 1990. Using 2000 population base, 13.4% of the children under age 6 were tested in 2004.\*\*\* Applying the 2004 Texas population estimate of 2,068,034 children in that age group we tested fewer than 13.4% of the population.

Children ages 1 and 2 are at highest risk. US Census 2000 shows there are 968,595 children ages 1 and 2. We screened 18.9% of the 2000 population aged 1 and 2. Population 2004 estimates shows an increase to 1,059,949 children in that age group, placing a large number of children at risk.

## WHO DEVELOPED THE SCREENING PLAN?

We convened an Advisory Group to develop a plan for Texas. Because so few children have had a blood lead test, the Group could not find sufficient information in the Texas Child Lead Registry to decide where to focus blood lead screening. The Group held public meetings throughout the state to understand regional needs and differences. Based on comments received during the meetings and from interested parties, the Group developed a screening plan for Texas Children. The recommended plan follows Medicaid (Texas Health Steps) requirements.

\*\*Based on approximations of the number of children aged 1-5 years old expected to have elevated blood lead levels ( $\geq 10$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ). These approximations are calculated using a statistical model based upon Phase II (1991-1994) data from the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III). This model relates the probability of elevated blood lead levels to a child's age, race, family income, and age of residence. The computed probabilities defined by the possible combinations of these variables are then applied to the corresponding available (1990) US Census data to obtain the approximate number of children with elevated blood lead levels.

\*\*\*We used 2000 population counts since we reviewed both city, county, and state screening data and population estimates are not available by city.

## **STATUS OF CURRENT BUDGET PERIOD OBJECTIVES**

Following is the progress of the Texas CLPPP program activities using the CDC recommended 10 essential elements for a successful childhood lead poisoning prevention program.

### **1. Mandated reporting of all blood lead test results from laboratories**

Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 88 and the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 37, Subpart Q, allow the department to conduct activities to eliminate child lead poisoning. Included is a requirement for all blood lead test results to be reported to the department, which went into effect June 2003.

### **2. Targeted screening plan oriented to high-risk populations**

The Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, with the assistance of a Screening Advisory Group, developed a Screening Plan for Texas Children. An evaluation of blood lead screening data showed that only a small percent of children (18%) received a blood lead test. Toward developing a more targeted screening plan, the Group set a goal to increase blood lead testing. Following the Texas Health Steps (Medicaid) requirement, the Group elected to recommend all children have a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months of age. The Group chose to set an achievable goal of 30% of children ages 12 and 24 months of age to screen. The plan is available on the Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (TX CLPPP) Website at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/lead/> and is included in Appendix A. The following chart indicates the increase in screening these children for the years 2000 to 2004.

### 2004 Texas Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	968,595	183,393	18.9 %
<6	1,935,534	259,600	13.4 %
<15	4,914,177	317,114	6.5 %

Texas CLPPP

The Group continues to meet regularly to review statistics on progress toward finding an area where we can do focused or targeted screening. While we have increased screening, we are short of the goal set by the Group. A review of specific funded areas of the State shows us a clearer picture of where additional outreach should be concentrated. Below is information for each of the funded sites and their progress toward achieving the 30% goal of testing children at ages 12 and 24 months (population data from US Census 2000 data.)

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)  
Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

### 2004 Bexar County Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	65,251	10,112	15.5 %
<6	131,910	18,299	13.9 %
<15	332,486	22,140	6.7 %

Texas CLPPP

### 2004 El Paso County Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	35,190	8,433	24.0 %
<6	70,756	11,426	16.1 %
<15	181,229	14,930	8.4 %

Texas CLPPP

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### 2004 City of Dallas Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	60,265	15,841	26.3 %
<6	117,267	21,699	18.5 %
<15	268,579	27,907	10.4 %

Texas CLPPP

### 2004 City of Houston Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	98,084	24,098	24.6 %
<6	191,209	35,794	18.7 %
<15	455,878	45,813	10.0 %

Texas CLPPP

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Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

### 2004 Travis County Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	36,150	6,670	18.5 %
<6	69,158	8,003	11.6 %
<15	163,602	8,646	5.3 %

Texas CLPPP

### 2004 Webb County Population Screened by Age

Age	Population	Screened	% Screened
1-2	12,518	3,424	27.4 %
<6	24,544	4,709	19.2 %
<15	61,212	6,605	10.8 %

Texas CLPPP