Is Potential Lead Exposure Being Missed in Children Near You?

**KNOWN RISKS**

- Living with a parent who works with lead
- Local drinking water contamination
- Exposure to lead-based paint, common in older housing
- Proximity to lead mines and smelting sites

**Factors Examined By ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)**

- Low rates of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving blood lead screening (<50%)

**IN COMBINATION WITH**

- One or more lead-contaminated drinking water sites
- Older housing (Built prior to 1950)

Lead is a toxic heavy metal. Even low blood lead levels (BLLs) in children can cause neurological disorders, developmental delays, behavioral problems, and poor school performance.

Focused screening in areas at increased risk for lead exposure can identify those with elevated BLLs, as well as help find and eliminate specific exposure hazards.

To help inform blood lead screening among at-risk Medicaid-enrolled children in South Carolina, the University of South Carolina’s Institute for Families in Society, Division of Medicaid Policy Research, used geographic information system (GIS) technology to identify local communities with:

- Low Medicaid blood lead screening rates (<50%), AND Increased lead exposure risk, defined as:
  - One or more lead-contaminated drinking water sites, AND/OR
  - Greater than 15% of housing units built prior to 1950.

See the reverse side for a map of the findings.

**SOURCES & NOTES**

1. SC MMIS, CY2014 HEDIS Quality Measures.
2. ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are geographic approximations of USPS ZIP Code Service Areas.
4. Mapped sites represent drinking water systems with elevated lead levels in the time period 2011 to 2015 as measured by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Point locations do not indicate the geographic extent of drinking water systems.
5. CDC. Recommendations for blood lead screening of Medicaid-eligible children aged 1-5 years: an updated approach to targeting a group at high risk. MMWR 2009;58(No. RR-9).
6. Statewide, 8% of housing units were built prior to 1950.

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Developed by the Division of Medicaid Policy Research at the USC Institute for Families in Society
April 2016
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Low Medicaid Blood Lead Screening (<50%) and Increased Lead Exposure Risk Areas 2014

**Areas Shown**
- Low Blood Lead Screening and >15% Older Housing in ZCTA
- Low Blood Lead Screening and Lead-Contaminated Drinking Water Site in ZCTA
- Sites with Lead Contamination

See the reverse side for more information about the risks of lead exposure in children and about the mapped data.

**Blood Lead Screening Rates**
- National: 71% or 50th Percentile
- South Carolina: 47% of 21,958 eligible children (10th Percentile)
- Risk Areas in SC: 41% of 1,779 eligible children

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