



# Springfield's 2017 Childhood Lead Screening Progress Report

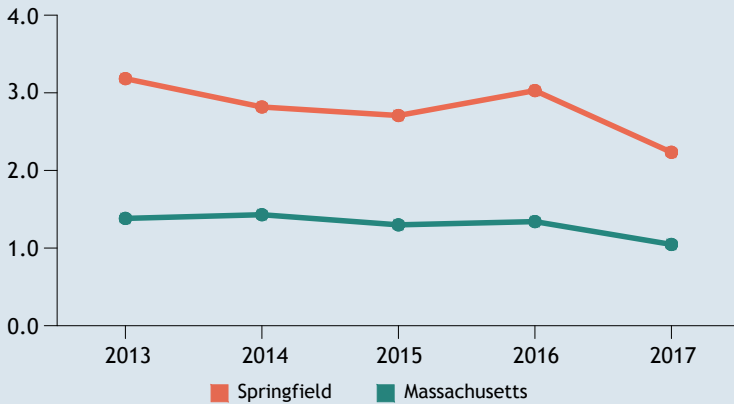
There is no safe level of exposure to lead. Children in Massachusetts continue to be exposed, and even low levels of lead may cause lasting harm. State law requires health care providers to screen every child and to report results. Action should be taken for a blood lead level  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , and a child is poisoned at  $\geq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .

**Springfield is a high-risk community.** Children in high-risk communities are at greater risk for lead exposure due in part to a larger proportion of older homes and/or relatively higher rates of poverty. The Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program assesses a community's risk level annually.

## How many children in Springfield have elevated blood levels compared to the state?

A childhood blood lead level  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  indicates the child's exposure is higher than 97.5% of children nationally and that the child is in need of intervention according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Percentage of Children with First-Time Blood Lead Levels  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$



## How many children in Springfield are not receiving a follow-up test?

Chronic, low-level lead exposure can have harmful effects on a child. It is important to identify children at low levels to prevent further exposure and lead poisoning. State regulations **require** children with elevated capillary tests  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  to receive a **venous** follow-up test. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) provides free home visits and inspection services to children based on elevated venous levels. Without the required venous follow-up test, children may not receive these services and chronic exposure to lead may continue.



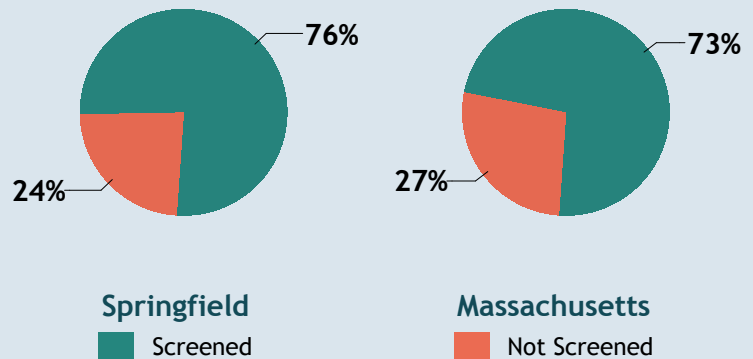
53%

Percentage of children **without** the required venous follow-up test.

## Are all children in Springfield screened for lead?

Screening is the only way to know if a child has been exposed to lead. **Screening is required by the state**, and all children must be screened between 9-12 months, at age 2, and at age 3. Children in high risk communities must also be screened at age 4. **All blood lead results must be reported to the state health department**, and must include complete demographic information such as race and ethnicity. This data enables the CLPPP to identify populations that can most benefit from targeted outreach and prevention activities.

Screening Rate 9-47 Months



## Why is screening through age 3 important?

In Massachusetts, nearly 20% of children did not have an elevated blood lead level until age 3. All children must be screened annually through age 3. In Springfield, 77% of children are screened at age 3.

## Did You Know?

Capillary tests are prone to contamination. Venous tests are always confirmatory and recommended over capillary tests. An alcohol swab alone will not decontaminate a child's hand. Always wash the child's hand with soap and water first.

Call the Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 1-800-532-9571

# Lead Poisoning and a Child's Environment

Any child can be exposed to lead, regardless of family income, racial and ethnic background, or neighborhood. Even though initial symptoms may not be obvious, the effects of elevated blood lead levels can be profound. The health outcomes of lead exposure can include slowed growth and development, learning difficulties, damage to hearing and speech, and behavior problems.

## Educating parents on lead hazards and de-leading resources

Children in Massachusetts are primarily exposed to lead through lead paint in older homes. Unsafe home renovations are a common cause of childhood lead exposure. To protect children, the Massachusetts lead law requires all homes with children under 6 to be delead. Resources for families can be found at [mass.gov/dph/clppp](http://mass.gov/dph/clppp).

## Old houses and lead-containing paint hazards

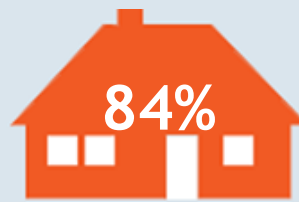
Lead-containing paint was banned in 1978. Prior to that year, many household paints contained dangerous levels of lead. The number of homes built before 1978 is a contributing factor to a community's rate of elevated blood lead levels.

### Did You Know?

Low interest or 0% loans and grants are available for deleading homes. For more information, read about the "Get the Lead Out" program at [masshousing.com](http://masshousing.com).

Spread the word!

### Percentage of Homes Built Before 1978



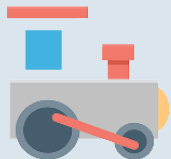
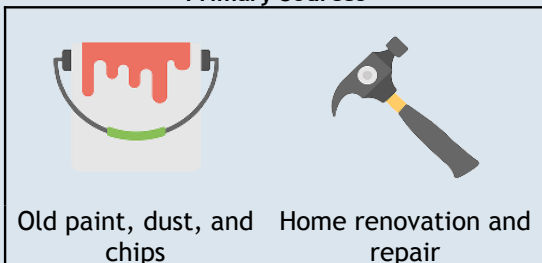
Springfield



Massachusetts

## Potential Sources of Lead

### Primary Sources



## Resources

For information about blood lead testing, Massachusetts lead poisoning prevention regulations, and annual and high-risk data reports, visit [mass.gov/dph/clppp](http://mass.gov/dph/clppp).

To access screening data, blood lead results at the census tract level, and inspection data by address, visit [mass.gov/dph/matracking](http://mass.gov/dph/matracking).

For information about lead in drinking water, visit [mass.gov/dph/lead-sources](http://mass.gov/dph/lead-sources).

For medical information and advice on protecting children from environmental hazards, visit [pehsu.net](http://pehsu.net).

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