Mississippi State Department of Health  
Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program  
Fact Sheet  
February 2016

Program Goal: Promote statewide efforts to eliminate lead poisoning in children less than 72 months of age, and promote the development of strategies to decrease housing-related environmental hazards (i.e., mold, mildew, carbon monoxide, smoke, and pests) that may contribute to undesirable health conditions.

Who is Tested?
The state of Mississippi does targeted screening of Medicaid-enrolled or Medicaid-eligible children ages 6-72 months of age through the Cool Kids Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Medicaid recipients or Medicaid-eligible children are routinely screened at 12 and 24 months and at any time risk factors are identified through the Blood Lead Screening and Healthy Homes Summary.

Reference Value for Lead Poisoning
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has set the Reference Value for lead poisoning at ≥5µg/dL. Any child with a venous blood lead level of ≥5µg/dL that is reported to the Mississippi State Department of Health’s Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program receives the following services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Lead Level</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-14 µg/dL</td>
<td>Educational Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥15 µg/dL</td>
<td>Home visit and environmental assessment</td>
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</tbody>
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Trend of Children Less than 6 Years old with Blood Lead Levels >=5 µg/dl among Children Tested in Mississippi, 2009-2014

While there is a national discussion of concern about all elevated lead levels in children, based on the trend in MS from 2009 to 2014, the percentage of children with blood lead levels >=5 µg/dl among children tested has decreased.

Prevention Tips
- Teach children to wash their hands after playing outside and before meals.
- Discourage children from eating things that fall on the ground and placing non-food items in the mouth.
- Wash bottles, toys and pacifiers often.
- Don’t let children eat loose pieces of paint or chew on painted surfaces.
- Give your child something healthy to eat every 2-3 hours to reduce lead absorption.
  - A healthy diet is high in iron, protein, vitamin C and calcium and low in fat and oil.
- If you suspect lead in your water,
  - According to the Environmental Protection Agency, let the water run for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking or cooking.
  - Use a home water filter (such as PUR) to remove lead from the water before drinking or cooking.
  - Use bottled water or nursery water for making baby formula and juices.
  - During bath time, do not let small children get water in their mouth.

For additional information please contact the Mississippi State Department of Health’s Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program at 601-576-7619.