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Lead-Safe Texas

Welcome to Our First Issue of Lead-Safe Texas

This semi-annual newsletter will give you information on lead poisoning prevention news and updates. All newsletters will be available on our website at: www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead/Newsletters.shtm.

We hope you all enjoy our first issue! We welcome your feedback. Visit our website at: www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead/adult.shtm.



Acronyms Used Throughout This Issue

ABLES Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Program

NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

DSHS Texas Department of State Health Services

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration



WHO ARE WE? Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Program

The **ABLES** Program at **DSHS** receives blood lead test results for persons 15 years of age and older. Our purpose is preventing lead exposure.

The information we gather helps us to:

- Teach workers, companies, and doctors ways to reduce or eliminate lead exposure
- Find out if other family members are affected
- Develop plans to prevent future lead exposures

IS IT THE LAW?

In 1986, the Texas Legislature made it a law to report adult blood lead levels to **DSHS**. At first, the reporting level was 40 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL).

In 1999, **NIOSH** defined a high blood lead level in an adult as 25 mcg/dL. Because of this, **DSHS** changed the reporting level from 40 mcg/dL to 25 mcg/dL.

In 2002, a change to the Texas Administrative Code made the reporting of all blood lead levels a law.

Why is our level lower than **OSHA's** Guidelines?

New studies show that lead is dangerous to people with blood lead levels below 25 mcg/dL. Because of this, **NIOSH** changed the definition of a high lead level from 25 mcg/dL to 10 mcg/dL.

The chart to the right shows the difference between **OSHA's** guidelines and **ABLES** level.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The **ABLES** program contacts people when blood lead levels get to 10 mcg/dL or higher.

The law states that the doctor or laboratory must report certain information, including address, phone number and employer name. If the doctor or laboratory does not report all the information we need, we may contact them for missing information.

The **ABLES** Program might also contact the company for worker information. If you are an employer, make sure that the doctor testing your workers is reporting the right information. Call us at 1-800-588-1248 if you do not know what information to report.



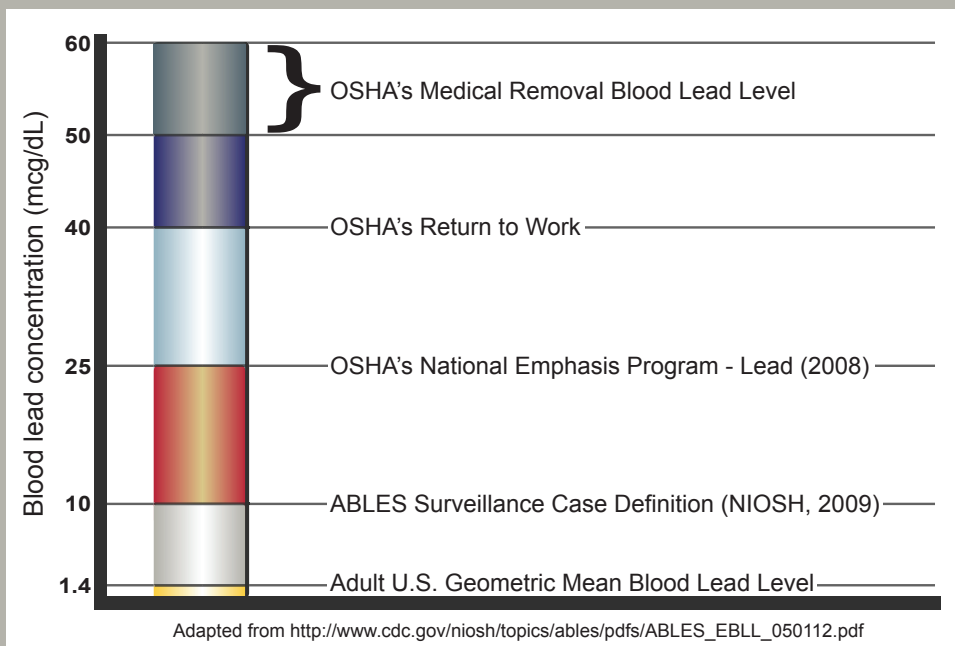
HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can call the **ABLES** Program at 1-800-588-1248.

We would like to help you to lower lead exposures at work. The **ABLES** program does not give out penalties or fines.



ABLES Elevated Blood Lead Level Case Definition in Perspective



NEXT ISSUE:

Lead Poisoning Prevention Guidelines for Prenatal Care Providers in Texas

On November 1, 2012, we published the guidelines on our website at: www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead.

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