

## What Information Do I Report?

- Child's name
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Address
- Blood lead result
- Type of blood sample
- Name of testing laboratory
- Address of testing laboratory

## How Do I Report?

- fax  
512-458-7699
- phone  
1-800-588-1248
- Mail Address  
Tx CLPPP 4c420  
Texas Dept. of Health  
1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78756

## Are Texas Children Lead Poisoned?

A 1999 Texas news article stated that in a classroom of 25 children, one child will have a blood lead level of concern. But the specific picture of childhood lead poisoning across the state of Texas is not so clear. A review of the Texas Department of Health's (TDH) Child Lead Registry showed that 6% of Texas children under the age of 15 had a blood lead test, with about 4% of those children showing elevated lead levels. That means as many as 191,000 children in the state may have elevated blood lead levels.

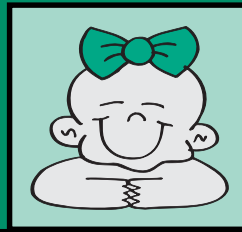
**What is TDH Doing About this Problem?** A 1996 law mandated reporting of elevated blood lead results to the Child Lead Registry. In 2000, TDH convened a Lead Advisory Group to develop screening guidelines for all Texas children. Because so few Texas children are tested, the Advisory Group could not determine where children or which children were at highest risk for lead poisoning. After receiving comments from health care providers on a plan for Texas, the Advisory Group recommended we follow the Medicaid screening requirements for all children.

### Screening Guidelines for 2001-2002.

The screening guidelines recommend all children ages 1 and 2 have a blood lead test and that all blood lead results be reported to the TDH Child Lead Registry. During the 2-year pilot period, TDH is providing updates on testing to health care providers. This newsletter is our progress report to you. By the end of 2002, Texas will have a final screening plan based on the pilot screening data.

The screening guidelines recommend all children ages 1 and 2 have a blood lead test.

contact us at  
1-800-588-1248



## How Can TDH Help Me?

The Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (TX CLPPP) helps health care providers and families of children with elevated blood lead levels to identify and reduce lead hazards.

With the assistance of Federal monies, TDH funds several local health department CLPPPs to screen and follow up children in their jurisdiction. This network of CLPPPs, along with the TDH Regional Offices, provide help to all Texas children. This network conducts home assessments and environmental investigations for children with elevated blood lead levels in their jurisdiction.

TDH provides lead-related educational material at several reading levels to parents. Topics include prevention and intervention. We cover nutrition to prevent uptake of lead, remediation of areas containing lead-based paint, warnings about using home remedies containing lead, information on take-home exposure from work, and posters for health care providers to alert parents about lead exposure. In addition, we provide data to local entities as they seek additional funding sources for activities relating to lead exposure.

Future newsletters will outline these activities which may help you with your patients. We hope you will consider us a partner in protecting Texas children from lead exposure.

Teresa Willis, Director  
Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program

## Are Children Being Tested?

In 2001, the recommended screening guidelines that all children be tested went into effect. A review of data reported to the Child Lead Registry in 2001 gives us a picture of where children are being tested. The following graph and table reflect results for all children ages 1 and 2 who were tested during January through June 2001. We included all sample types (venous, capillary, and unknown). Some children had several tests during that period, but were counted only once.

**County Information.** Since Texas has 254 counties, space would not permit us to show how all counties ranked in screening. We list counties in two categories, the counties testing the most and the counties testing the fewest number of children in their county. The county location is based on the child's address. When the address is missing, the county of the provider is used. Using population data from the TAMU Texas State Data Center, we calculated the percentage of children tested in the county.

**TDH Regional Information.** The health care providers who tested the largest number of children are also listed by region on the next page.

**Lead poisoning does not  
always produce  
symptoms. It can be  
detected with a simple  
blood test.**

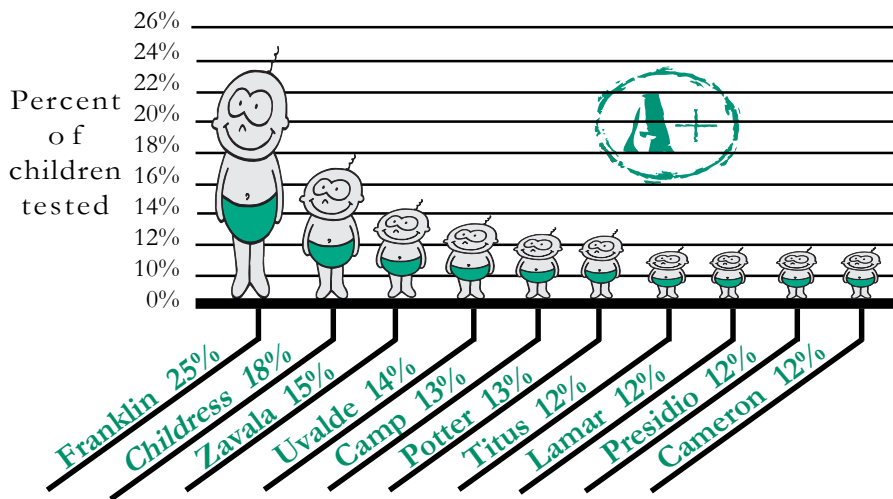


## Are Children in My County Being Tested?

Percentages are based on the 1 and 2 year-old population in the county.

10 counties testing the most  
1 & 2 year olds.

10 counties testing the fewest  
1 & 2 year olds.



All 10 counties tested less than 1% of the 1& 2 year old population.

Yoakum

Kenedy

Sabine

Kent

Randall

King

Gaines

Loving

Blanco

McMullen

## CONGRATULATIONS

on performing the most blood lead testing in your region!

**Region 1:** Lubbock Children's Health Clinic

**Region 7:** Austin Regional Clinic

**Region 2:** Professional Association of Pediatrics, Abilene

**Region 8:** San Antonio Metropolitan District

**Region 3:** East Dallas Health Clinic

**Region 9:** Memorial Hospital & Medical, Midland

**Region 4:** Diagnostic Clinic of Longview PA

**Region 10:** Texas Tech University Health Science Center, El Paso

**Region 5:** Angelina Pediatrics, Lufkin

**Region 11:** Brownsville Children's Clinic

**Region 6:** The Kids Clinic, Houston

**These providers will be receiving a congratulatory certificate in the mail.**

# Tx CLPPP *News*

Tx CLPPP News is published quarterly at no cost by the Texas Department of Health, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756. Periodicals postage pending at Austin, TX.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Tx CLPPP at 1100 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78756.

Send questions, comments, and subscription request to:

Tx CLPPP

Texas Department of Health

1100 W. 49th St.

Austin, Tx 78756

or call:

1-800-588-1248



■ Do you need lead educational materials for your patients? You can order directly from the TDH Web site at:

[www.tdh.state.tx.us/lead](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/lead).

■ For patients with possible take-home exposure to lead, occupational information is available by calling:

1-800-588-1248.

■ Future developments: CMEs for lead poisoning. Topics to be covered in future newsletters.

Funded in part by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Grant # US7/CCU618510-02. This does not necessarily represent the views of CDC.

**INSIDE:** How can TDH help me? County and Regional testing statistics.