

# 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?

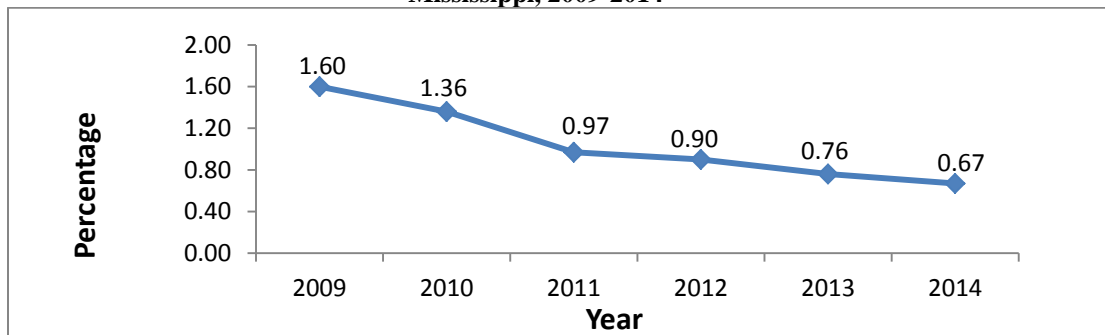
The state of Mississippi does targeted screening of Medicaid-enrolled or Medicaid-eligible children ages 6-72 months of age through the Cool Kids Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Medicaid recipients or Medicaid-eligible children are routinely screened at 12 and 24 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  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ . Any child with a venous blood lead level of  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  that is reported to the Mississippi State Department of Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program receives the following services:

Blood Lead Level	Services Provided
5-14 $\mu\text{g/dL}$	Educational Counseling
$\geq 15 \mu\text{g/dL}$	Home visit and environmental assessment

### Trend of Children Less than 6 Years old with Blood Lead Levels $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dl}$ among Children Tested in Mississippi, 2009-2014



Source: MSLPPHP STELLAR Database

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  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dl}$  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.