

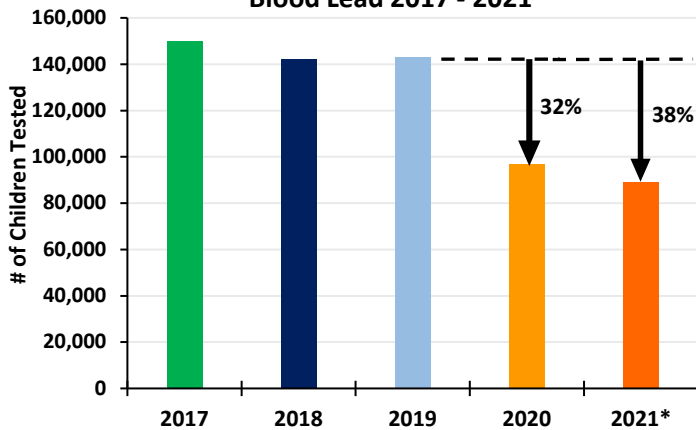
# Childhood Blood Lead Testing: Impact of COVID-19

## MICHIGAN DATA BRIEF FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



- Lead exposure is going undetected due to a drop in blood lead testing.
- Testing in 2021 remains lower than pre-pandemic levels.
- Testing in your office is more important than ever.

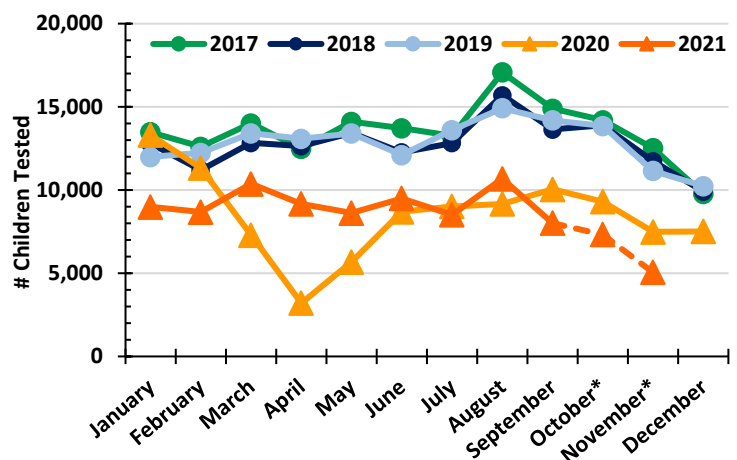
Number of Michigan Children < 6 Tested for Blood Lead 2017 - 2021



\*Data for 2021 are provisional

Data Source for these data MDHHS Data Warehouse, Data Current as of 12/4/2021

Monthly Number of Michigan Children < 6 Tested for Blood Lead: January 2017 to November 2021\*



\*Data for Oct and Nov 2021 are provisional and shown as dashed lines

### How can your practice respond?

- Contact your patients who are overdue for blood lead testing.
- Know your local context (e.g., is WIC open and testing?).
- Make lead exposure screening and blood lead testing a priority in your practice.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated the blood lead reference value (BLRV) from 5 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL in October 2021. Read the announcement at [bit.ly/leadMMWR](https://bit.ly/leadMMWR). As outlined in updated guidance from the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units, health care providers should begin providing follow-up testing and other recommended actions for children with blood lead level ≥ 3.5 µg/dL. Read updated MDHHS blood lead testing and follow-up guidance at [bit.ly/leadrefPCP](https://bit.ly/leadrefPCP).



To learn more about lead poisoning prevention and blood lead testing, contact the **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:**  
517-335-8885 or [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe](https://Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe)

