

Blood Lead Levels in Flint Talking Points September 24, 2015

MDHHS
9/24

- The results of the Hurley Children's Hospital are under review by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- The analysis that Hurley conducted is different from the way MDHHS has analyzed data regarding blood lead levels in Flint.
- MDHHS is looking to see if we can replicate the results of the Hurley study to see how they achieved their results.

Differences in Analysis

- MDHHS data provides a much more robust picture of the entire blood lead levels for the Flint area, and specifically, accounts for data over the full course of the past five years.
- Looking at the past five years as a whole provides a much more accurate look at the seasonal trends of lead in the area.
- Seasonal exposure is higher in the summer for a variety of reasons including children playing outside in the soil, and when windows are open and lead paint is more likely to be in the air. This seasonal increase would be unrelated to the water system.
- Our data includes children from the entire city, including all medical facilities, rather than just Hurley, has a larger age group of children, and includes a much larger sample size.
- The MDHHS analysis looks specifically at the first elevated blood lead level for each child, which provides an accurate picture of when first exposure occurred.
- The Hurley data includes a smaller sample size, much more limited time period (January-September of 2013 and 2015 only), and a smaller age group of children.

WIC Children

- In homes with infants on WIC, if the household has documentation from an official source of unsanitary water supply issues, that family may be eligible to receive ready-to-feed formula.
- Each household would have to be looked at on an individual basis.
- Families should contact WIC to see if they are eligible.
- WIC cannot cover bottled water.