

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
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Lt. Governor

EHS Circular Letter #2015-18

Date: May 6, 2015

To: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

From: Francesca Provenzano, MPH, CHES, RS
Epidemiologist 4
Lead and Healthy Homes Program

Re: *Annual Disease Surveillance Report on Childhood Lead Poisoning in Connecticut*

It is my pleasure to announce that the annual Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Report is available on the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control web page. The annual report is based on data received by the CT DPH during calendar year 2013. The report includes statewide and town-specific information on blood lead testing rates, compliance with medical guidelines for pediatricians, the prevalence and incidence of childhood lead poisoning, demographic data, and lead inspection and abatement statistics.

The *2013 Annual Disease Surveillance Report* can be viewed on the program's website at www.ct.gov/dph/lead. Once you navigate to the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program webpage, scroll down to *Childhood Lead Surveillance Reports*. Select the hyperlink *Screening and Surveillance* to view the report on 2013 data.

The 2013 report findings are quite compelling. Pediatricians continue to test all children under the age of six at least one time, but only 49% of children are tested in accordance with established medical guidelines and schedules. Prevalence and incidence rates remain unchanged in 2013. Unfortunately, for the first time since 2002, raw numbers indicate a slight increase in the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning. The findings demand that we consider different approaches and strategies to preventing children from becoming severely poisoned.

We believe that you will find the report to be both informative and useful. Should you have any questions regarding the Surveillance Report including specific data, please feel free to contact the Lead and Healthy Homes Program at (860) 509-7299.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, MPH, Chief, Environmental Health Section
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