

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

EHS Circular Letter #2017-31

Date: September 6, 2017

To: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

From: Krista M. Veneziano, MPH, CHES, RS
Epidemiologist 4
Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Program

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

It is my pleasure to provide you with two copies of the annual Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Report. This annual report is based on data received by the CT DPH during calendar year 2015. 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 *2015 Annual Disease Surveillance Report* can also be viewed on the program's website at http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/lead/surveillance_reports/2015_annual_lead_surveillance_report_final.pdf.

The 2015 report findings are quite compelling. Pediatricians continue to test all children under the age of six at least one time, but only 55% of children are tested in accordance with established medical guidelines and schedules. This is up 2% from 2014. While overall prevalence of children with lead poisoning decreased from 3.0% to 2.9%, prevalence of children with blood lead levels $\geq 20\mu\text{g/dL}$ increased from 0.1% (99) to 0.2% (126). 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, Radon and Healthy Homes Program at (860) 509-7299.

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



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