



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Colorado's Lead Screening Recommendations

Section 25-5-1104 (1)(a), C.R.S. required the Board of Health to develop standards concerning the method and frequency of screening of young children for elevated blood lead levels in Colorado and to consult with recognized medical, public health, and environmental professionals and appropriate professional organizations to develop such standards.

Colorado guidelines currently recommend testing for **all low-income children** in Colorado. Children should be screened at 12 months and 24 months of age with either a capillary or venous blood specimen. Low-income children include:

1. Medicaid-eligible children
2. Child Health Plan Plus-eligible children
3. Colorado Indigent Care Program-eligible children

Additional recommendations and guidance:

- Low-income children between the ages of 36 months and 72 months of age should have a screening blood lead test if they have not been previously screened for lead.
- Children residing in the Denver area in Zip codes 80216, 80203, 80204, or 80205 are considered to be at increased risk for lead exposure, based on studies in those low income neighborhoods, and should be tested according to the above schedule. Screening rates are not currently adequate to include or exclude other Zip code areas as high risk.
- Children residing in or regularly visiting pre-1978 homes in poor condition may also be at increased risk of lead exposure from chipping paint or dust, or if renovation is being done or has been done in the past without taking proper precautions. Care givers should consider blood lead screening for these children. The potential for exposure to lead-based paint increases with the age of the building.
- Refugee children between 1 and 6 years old eligible for Domestic Health Screenings at Denver area refugees clinics should be screened at intake with a repeat test in 3 to 6 months