AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: **3A**
MEETING DATE: 1/7/2025

REPORT TO THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

DEPARTMENT: Health X INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

SECTION: Access to Care

SUBJECT: Policy, Practice, People of Lead Program

PREPARED BY: Bridget Cardinali FILING ID:

REVIEWED BY: Audra Martine IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

Policy: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program

By delegation of the State's authority to enforce safe environmental health practices, the Health Department provides a variety of services related to lead. These include education, assessment, environmental testing, and follow up activities. Applicable legal references include:

Wisconsin Statute 254 – Environmental Health – Subchapter II - Toxic Substances
http://docs.legis.wi.gov/statutes/statutes/254.pdf
Covers definitions of lead poisoning or exposure, requirements for reporting and response to reports, screening recommendations, care of children affected, lead investigation practices, etc.

Wisconsin Administrative Code – Chapter DHS 163 – Certification for the Identification, Removal, and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards
http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/110/163.pdf

Wisconsin Administrative Code – Chapter DHS 181 – Reporting of Blood Lead Test Results
http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/110/181.pdf

Practice:

Childhood lead poisoning has been linked to life-long negative health outcomes including lower IQ levels, learning difficulties, and behavioral challenges. The goal of this program is to protect children from lead poisoning through early detection and intervention. The main educational strategy for this work is informing parents of the recommendation to have their children (up to age 6) tested for lead which they can schedule with their own health care provider or at the health department. We monitor results for all children in the county through a state database, the Wisconsin Blood Lead Registry, where results are entered from all health care providers. The Health Department follows up with parents of children having lead levels over 3.5 mcg/dL to offer education and an environmental evaluation.

Funding for the program includes support through a state consolidated contract as well as reimbursement for services through Medicaid. County tax levy supplements these funds.

All children ages 1-6 years old are eligible for capillary blood lead screening at the health department, regardless of insurance status. All children in La Crosse County are eligible for a nurse home visit and environmental evaluation once they are identified with high lead levels.

People:

Two case examples will be discussed as part of the attached presentation.

LA CROSSE COUNTY
Health Department
Nationally Accredited

Lead in La Crosse County

An Overview

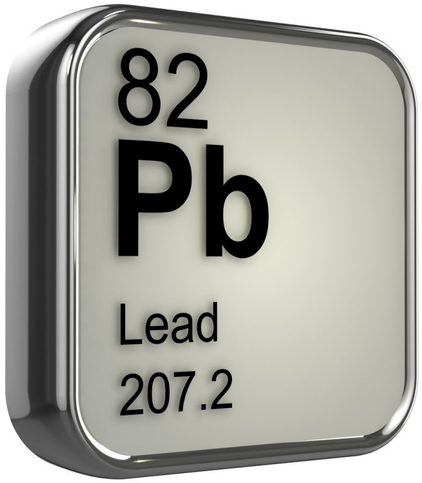
Topics Covered:

1. What is lead?
2. Why is this important?
3. Testing and Efforts
4. What we do
4. Personal Stories

What is Lead:

- lead (Pb), a soft, silvery white or grayish metal
- Lead is very malleable, ductile, and dense
- Highly durable and resistant to corrosion
- Believed to be the oldest of metals
- Used by anctient Romans in plumbing
- The symbol Pb for lead is an abbreviation of the Latin word for lead, plumbum

– Encyclopedia Britannica (Updated Online December 10, 2024)





Lead is found in many places:

- Lead-based paint (which results in lead-contaminated dust in the home also)
- Soil
- Children's toys and jewelry
- Drinking water
- Workplaces
- Hobbies
- Traditional home remedies and cosmetics
- Lead-glazed ceramic ware (lead-oxide is used as glaze and can leech into food/water)
- Meat
- And more







Why is it important?



Lead can cause developmental delays and learning disablilities



Lead can lower IQ and reduce attention span



Lead can cause a range of other health and behavioral effects



Adults are affected too

In adults, lead can cause nausea, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, hearing loss, and more. It can harm nearly all body systems.

Of note, lead is stored in our bone marrow and can be released during pregnancy or a traumatic event.

Testing Recommendations:

As of January 1, 2024, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) updated testing recommendations to “universal testing”.

This means:
All children AT age 1 AND
All children AT age 2 OR
all children between the age of 3-5 years old should be tested if they have not been already.



How is our County doing with testing?

Children age 1 year to 2 years old with at least 1 lead test who live in La Crosse County



Children age 3 years to 5 years old with at least 1 lead test who live in La Crosse County



Our Efforts:

Our goal is to improve testing rates and knowledge regarding lead within our County.

- Offer lead testing at the Health Department
- Mail “recall letters”
- Work with Quartz
- Lead in Water Testing and Remediation (WTR)
- Collaborate with WIC
- Create social media posts
- Post paper flyers in public spaces
- Bring information to Back to School events
- Work on education for Community Health Workers to stress the importance of encouraging testing

Child Lead Levels	#	%
Below 3.5	24	80%
Above 3.5	6	20%
Total	30	100%

Insurance		
	#	%
Medicaid	26	87%
Private	3	10%
Not insured	1	3%

Referral Type		
	#	%
WIC	21	70%
Recall	4	13%
Walk-in	0	0%
Social media	0	0%
Poster	0	0%
Referral from provi	0	0%
Vaccine Visit	2	7%
Health Check	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Unknown	3	10%

Refferal to Home Lead Program		
	#	%
Yes	6	20%
No	24	80%

Primary Provider		
	#	%
Yes	23	77%
No	5	17%
Unknown	2	7%
Refused	0	0%

What we do:



Nursing Case Management:

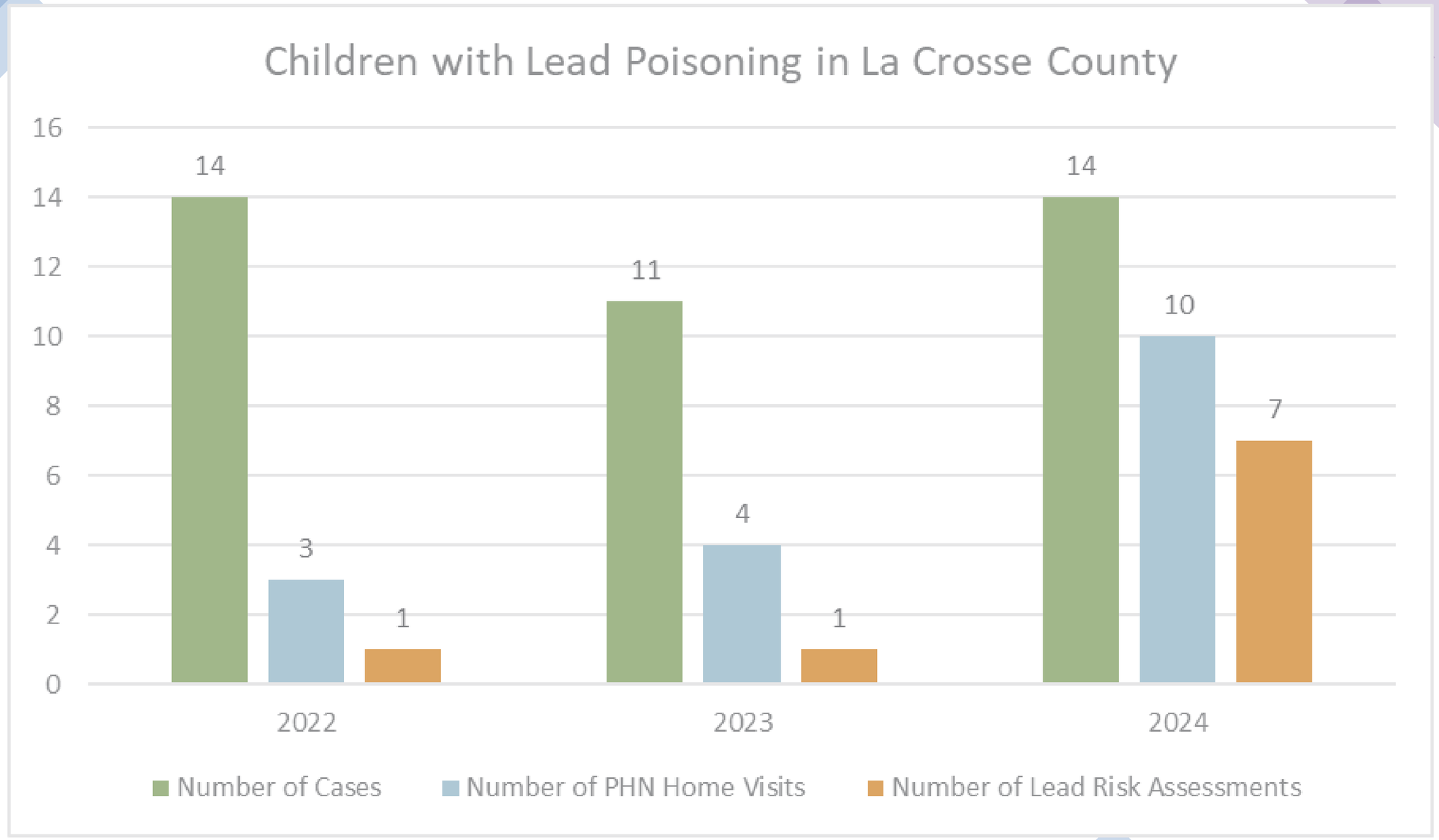
- A Public Health Nurse follows up on all children who test at 3.5 mcg/dL and above
- Services include:
  - Phone call and/or home visit to identify possible risk factors for lead exposure and to provide education
  - Developmental screening
  - Reminders to complete lead testing every 1-3 months
  - Consultation with provider’s office

What we do:

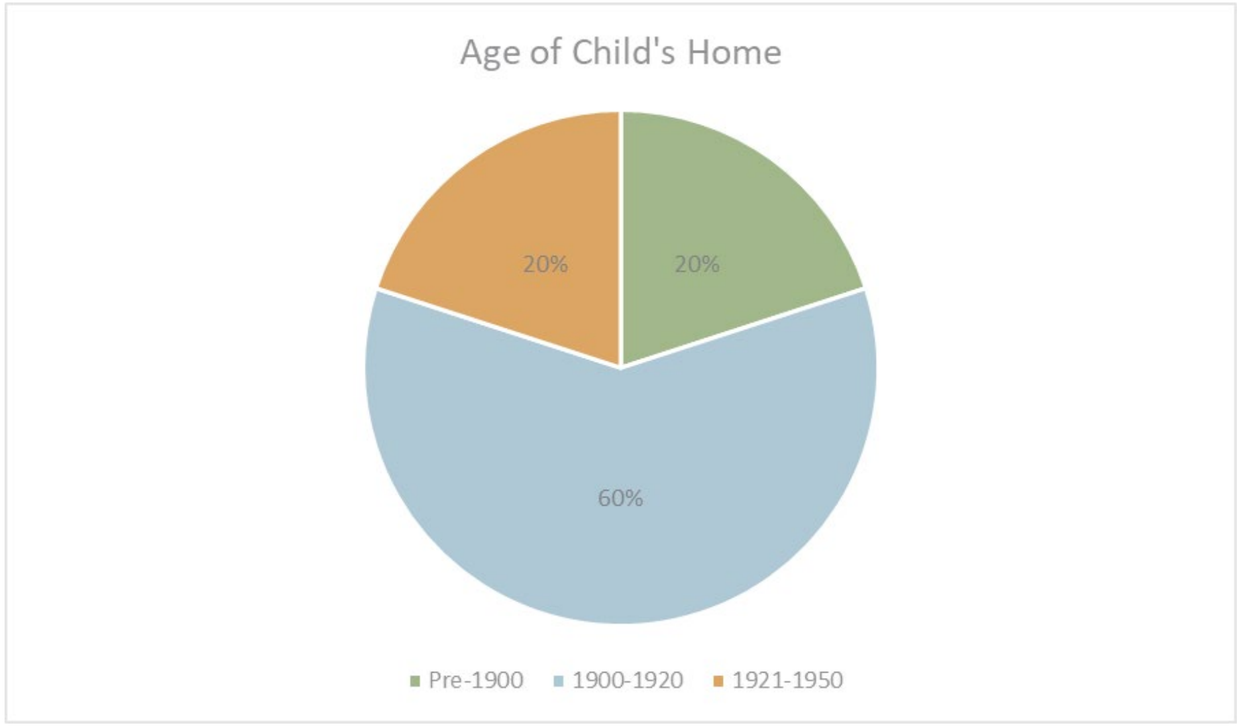


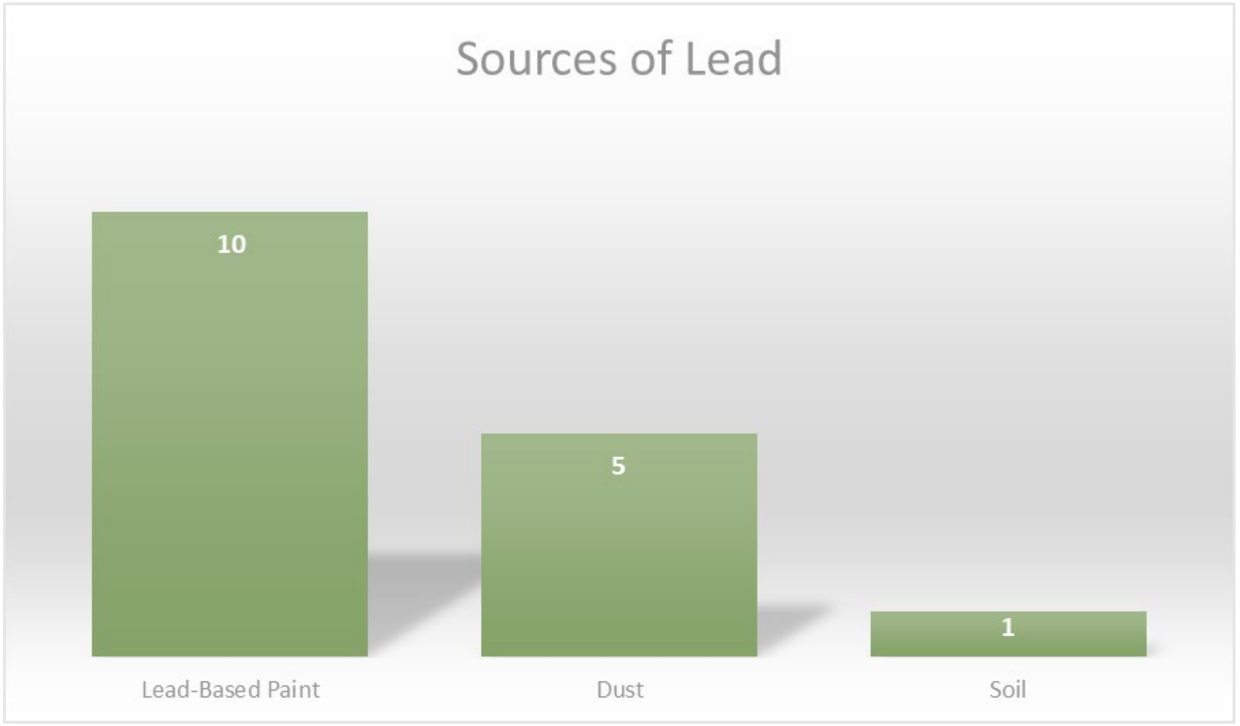
Environmental Investigation:

- Children who test 5 mcg/dL and above as resources allow
- Identifies sources of lead within the home and places child frequently visits
- Lead risk assessment includes testing of paint, dust and soil
- Water can also be tested but is not usually included in the assessment
- Questionnaire to determine potential exposures through hobbies, parent occupation, and other less common sources
- Some labs are also able to test other substances like spices and makeup
- Write orders to property owner to correct hazards


Children with Lead Poisoning in La Crosse County
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
14
3
1
11
4
1
14
10
7
2022
2023
2024
Number of Cases
Number of PHN Home Visits
Number of Lead Risk Assessments

2024 Cases


Age of Child's Home
20%
20%
60%
Pre-1900
1900-1920
1921-1950


Sources of Lead
10
5
1
Lead-Based Paint
Dust
Soil

Sharing personal stories



Case #1:

- 9-month-old with lead level of 11.1 mcg/dL
- Owner-occupied home built in 1880
- Renovations on home which included sanding varnish off pillar in living space
- Lead risk assessment determined varnish was lead-based and lead was found in the dust throughout the home
- Family needed to complete a thorough cleaning of everything in the home
- Child’s level dropped to below the level of concern within 8 months

Sharing personal stories



Case #2:

- 12-month-old with lead level of 41.8 mcg/dL
- Rental unit from home built in 1901
- Lead risk assessment identified lead-based paint throughout the unit on windows, doors, trim, cabinets, floors, and exterior foundation and deck
- Also identified all lead-dust hazards on all floors and windowsills as well as the bathtub which was the highest of all the samples we have seen
- Family had a pet that was seen hanging out in the windowsill
- This unit was condemned
- Child’s last level (3 years and 2 months after initial test) was not yet below the level of concern, but it is close

Updated: 7/2/2024

LA CROSSE COUNTY Health Department

Childhood Lead Testing:

Why should my child get lead testing?



- Anyone can be exposed to lead
- Lead is a metal that can be found in the home
- Lead gets into our bodies as dust, in water, or on things we use or eat
- Effects of elevated blood lead levels can last forever



When to test a child's blood for lead?

- All children at age 1
- All children at age 2
- All children between 3 and 5 who have not had a lead test before

SCAN ME

Scan to learn more about protecting your child from lead exposure

Schedule your child's lead test with their doctor, local community clinic, or call

La Crosse County Health Department

to schedule a free lead test.

608-785-9872

https://lacrossecounty.org/health

300 4th St. N., 2nd Floor, La Crosse WI. 54601

Updated 7/8/2024

¿QUÉ ES EL PLOMO Y POR QUÉ DEBERÍAMOS ANALIZAR LA SANGRE DE LOS NIÑOS PARA DETECTARLO?

¿Qué es el plomo?

El plomo es un metal que puede estar en la tierra, pintura vieja, vajilla de cerámica y más.



¿Por qué esto importa?

Cuando el plomo ingresa al cuerpo de un niño(a), puede causar retrasos en el aprendizaje y el crecimiento, y problemas de conducta.

¿Cómo sé si mi hijo(a) ha estado expuesta al plomo?

La mejor manera de saber si su hijo(a) ha estado expuesto al plomo es hacerle una prueba de detección de plomo.



¿Cuándo se le debe hacer la prueba a mi hijo(a)?

- Todos los niño(a)s a la edad de 1 año
- Todos los niño(a)s a los 2 años de edad
- Todos los niño(a)s de entre 3 y 5 años que no se hayan hecho una prueba de plomo antes

Escanea el código QR para obtener más información sobre cómo proteger a su hijo(a) de la exposición al plomo

800 4th St. N., 2° piso, La Crosse WI. 54601

608-785-9872

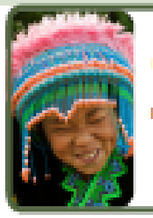
https://lacrossecounty.org/health

LA CROSSE COUNTY Health Department

Updated 7/8/2024

Kev kuaj koj tus menyuam cov ntshav rau cov hlau lead yog qhov tseem ceeb rau lawv txoj kev noj qab haus huv!

Testing your child's blood for lead is important to their health!



Vim li cas qhov no tseem ceeb?

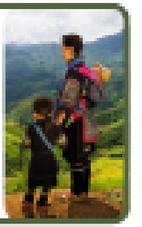
Lead yog cov hlau uas muaj nyob hauv ntau yam. Thaum nws nkag mus rau hauv peb lub cev nws tuaj yeem ua teeb meem nrog kev kawm, kev loj hlob, thiab kev coj cwj pwm uas tuaj yeem nyob mus ib txhis.

Lead is a metal that is found in many things. When it gets into our bodies it can cause problems with learning, growing, and behavior that can last forever.

Yuav nrhiav tau qhov twg?

Cov hmoov txhuas tuaj yeem pom hauv cov xim qub, av, cov kav dej qub, qee cov txuj lom, cov khoom ua si, cov hnlav nyiaj hnlav kub, qee cov tshuaj hauv tsev, thiab lwm yam.

Lead can be found in old paint, soil, old water pipes, some spices, toys, jewelry, some traditional home remedies, and more.





Thaum twg kuv tus menyuam yuav tsum tau kuaj?

Txhua tus menyuam hnub nyoog 1- thiab 2 xyoos yuav tsum tau kuaj xyuas cov hlau lead. Yog tias koj tus menyuam muaj hnub nyoog 3 txog 5 xyoos thiab tsis tau kuaj yav dhau los lawv yuav tsum tau xim tam sim no.

All 1- and 2-year-olds should be tested for lead. If your child is between 3 and 5 years old and has not been tested in the past they should be tested now.



Kuv tuaj yeem ua qhov no tau qhov twg?

Tham nrhog koj tus kws kho mob lossis chaw kho mob hauv zej zog txhog qhov kuaj hlau lead. Hu rau La Crosse County Health Department 608-785-9872 teem sijhawm kuaj dawb.

Talk your child's doctor or local community clinic about this test. You can also call La Crosse County Health Department at 608-785-9872 to schedule an appointment for a free lead test.

Yog xav paub ntxiv mus saib: https://www.cdc.gov/lead

800 4th St. N. La Crosse WI 54601

608-785-9872

https://lacrossecounty.org/health

Thank you!