



UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE  
COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN

### Why should I worry about lead in my children?

- Most children will not look or act sick when they have lead poisoning.
- Lead can lead to serious health problems.
- There is no safe blood lead level.



### Who is at risk?

- Children under the age of 6 years old.
- Young children are developing and absorb lead more easily. They also tend to put their hands and other objects in their mouths.

### How are children exposed to lead?

- Swallowing and breathing lead dust
- Eating paint chips or soil that has lead
- Children may eat, chew, or suck on lead-painted objects.
- Lead paint can become invisible dust over time.
- Opening and closing windows and doors can cause the paint to crumble into dust
- Lead dust clings to hands, toys, and objects children put in their mouths.



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Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
Unified Government Public Health  
Department  
619 Ann Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Phone: (913) 573-5848



## LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN

### What are some signs of lead poisoning?

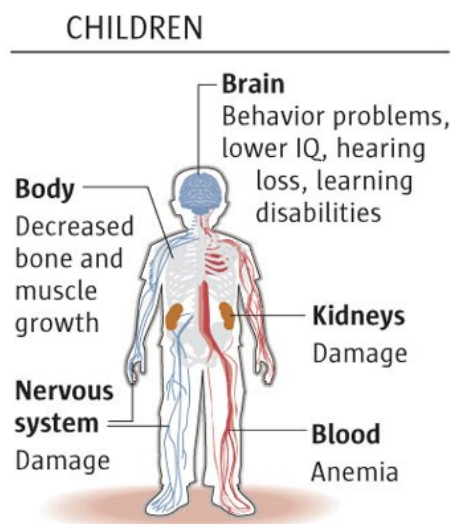
- Tired or cranky
- Diarrhea/constipation
- High blood pressure
- Vomit
- Nausea
- Weight loss
- Irritability
- Anemia
- Convulsions, coma, and death

### What are the health effects of lead poisoning?

- Hurt the brain, kidneys, and nervous system
- Slow down growth and development
- Make it hard to pay attention and learn
- Damage hearing and speech
- Cause behavior problems

### Blood lead testing

- It is recommended that children are tested for lead at ages 1 and 2.
- Contact your health care provider to have your child tested for lead poisoning.
- A blood test is the only way to determine if your child has a high lead level.
- Additional testing may be recommended depending on the test results.
- Your health care provider will monitor your child's blood lead level and provide information about prevention.



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