Data Details-Childhood Lead

Interpreting the Data

What these data tell us:

- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children tested for lead poisoning prior to 36 months of age (by year of test) by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children tested for lead poisoning at 36 to <72 months of age (by year of test) by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children tested with elevated blood lead levels under 36 months of age (by year of test) by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children tested with elevated blood lead levels between 36 and 72 months of age (by year of test) by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children tested for lead poisoning prior to 36 months of age (by birth year cohort) by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children tested with confirmed blood lead levels ≥10 µg/dL prior to 36 months of age (by birth year cohort) by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of children under age 5 years living in poverty by State and County.
- These data can be used to determine number and percentage of pre-1950 houses by State and County.

What these data do not tell us:

- These data estimate testing rates in children living in communities which may be at a greater risk of exposure due to older housing, rather than yielding a more direct measure which would be based on individual children and the actual age of their house.
- These data may include children with the address of the provider, clinic, or Head Start program rather than the child's home address, resulting in some

children counting as a test in the wrong county, or not being counted at all. This data also includes children with no address recorded and therefore they are assigned to unknown county designation.

Limitations of the data

Data collection using the number of pre-1950s housing from Census does not account for houses which have been renovated or have had lead removed. Also, this data does not account for other lead sources in the community.

Children may be exposed to lead paint in neighboring counties when visiting family or spending significant amounts of time in daycare.

About these measurements

Measures included

South Carolina childhood lead data are presented in three ways:

1. the number (frequency) of children in poverty and housing age
2. the number (frequency) and percent of children tested for lead by age group
3. the number (frequency) and percent of children tested for lead with elevated BLLs by age group

Frequency of measurement

Data collection for childhood lead exposures diagnosed in South Carolina can be driven by several reasons: Medicaid coverage, suspected exposure, and historical tracking. Consequently, frequency of testing can vary.

Calculation Methods

Annual number and percentage of children tested for lead, by age group

The number of children in the selected age group who had a reported lead test during the selected year, divided by the number of children in that age group that year

Example:

$$\frac{\text{Number of children up to 6 years of age with a reported blood lead test in 2010}}{\text{Total number of children up to 6 years of age in 2010}}$$