

Lead screening in children

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Nebraska

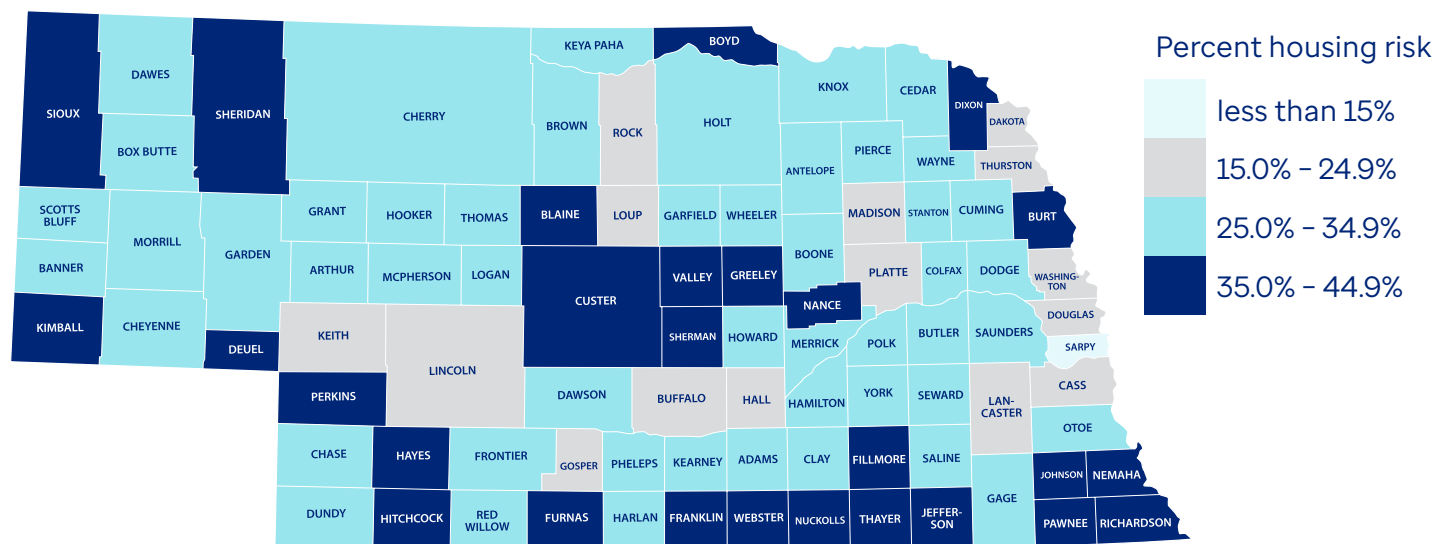
Nebraska requires all Medicaid-eligible children to be screened for lead. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to a child's overall health and well-being. There is no safe level of lead in the blood of a child. Even low levels of lead, 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) or lower, have been associated with developmental disabilities and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Risk factors for lead exposure

- Those who live or spend time in a house or building built before 1978
- Low-income households
- Immigrants, refugees or recent adoptees from a foreign country
- Those who live or spend time with someone who works with lead or has hobbies that expose them to lead

Housing with lead risk

Percentage of homes with elevated lead risk due to age of housing



Data source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates (Table B25034); Jacobs et al. The prevalence of lead-based paint hazards in U.S. housing. Environ Health Perspect. 2022 Oct; 110(10); A599-606.

Requirements

CMS

Children enrolled in Medicaid are required to get tested for lead at ages 12 and 24 months. They are also required to be tested if they are ages 24–72 months and have no record of ever being tested.^{1,3}

For children not enrolled in Medicaid, the CDC recommends focusing testing efforts on high-risk neighborhoods and children.^{2,3}

HEDIS®

The Lead Screening in Children (LSC) measure, which aims to improve the screening rate for children, is defined as the percentage of children, age 2, who had 1 or more capillary or venous lead blood tests for lead poisoning by their second birthday.

The measure allows for monitoring of lead screening rates at the national level and lets states to develop strategies and treatment plans based on performance findings.

The LCS measure has strict timelines per measurement specifications, unlike the CMS requirements, which allow some testing flexibility.

Resources

- [Nebraska Blood Lead Testing Plan](#)
- [Nebraska Department of Health Updated Blood Lead Testing Guidelines](#)



Questions? We're here to help.

For chat options and contact information, visit our [contact resources](#).

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

¹[medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/lead-screening](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/lead-screening)

²[cdc.gov/lead-prevention/testing/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/testing/index.html)

³[cdc.gov/lead-prevention/hcp/clinical-guidance/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/hcp/clinical-guidance/index.html)