

**How Can I Determine if a Child has Been TESTED?**

Polk County Health Department has a data base on all Polk children who have been tested for lead poisoning since 1992. We can check the database for you.



RISK CALCULATOR	
LOW RISK	HIGH RISK
Test at ▼ Ages 12 & 24 months ▼ If older than 24 months & no previous test, test once ▼ Continue to assess risk ▼ No additional testing needed if risk does not change	Test at ▼ 12 months 18 months 24 months 3 years 4 years 5 years

**LEAD POISONING HURTS KIDS FOR LIFE**

**ARE YOU TESTING YOUR PATIENTS?**

**How Often Should Children Be Tested For Lead Poisoning?**

The Iowa Department of Public Health recommends all children under 6 years of age be tested for lead poisoning. State and federal law require all children covered by Medicaid be tested for lead poisoning. The schedule is shown below. 12% of children who have a normal blood lead level at 12 months have an elevated blood level at 18-36 months.



**Polk County Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition**

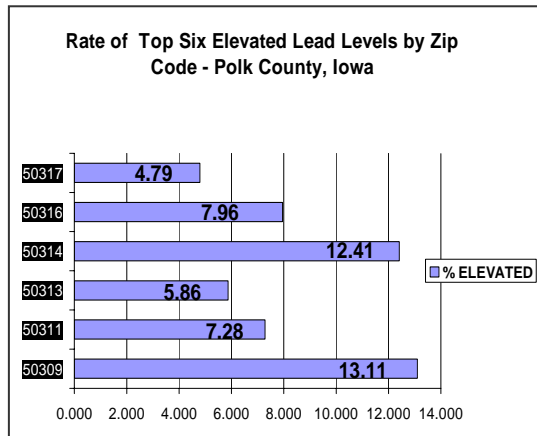
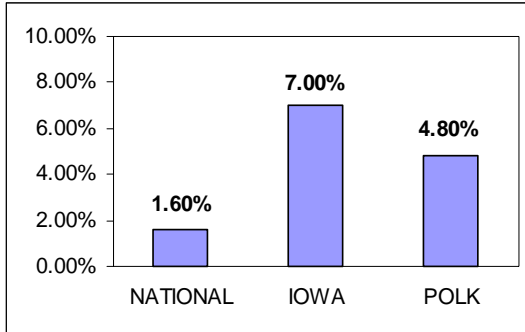
c/o Polk County Health Department  
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 Des Moines, Iowa 50314  
 Phone: 515-286-3798  
 Fax: 515-286-2033  
[Bmurphy@co.polk.ia.us](mailto:Bmurphy@co.polk.ia.us)  
[www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health)



**A MESSAGE FROM THE POLK COUNTY LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COALITION**

## Is Lead Poisoning Still a Problem in Our Area?

Yes, lead poisoning is still a problem in Polk County! Compare our rates:



The rate of lead poisoning in Polk County is so high because 60% of its housing stock was built before 1978, the year lead paint was outlawed.

## Who Is At Risk For Lead Poisoning?

Children under the age of 6 years, and especially under the age of 3, are at risk for lead poisoning if there are lead-based paint chips or its invisible dust on the floor, window sills or in the dirt around the perimeter of the home.



*Children can be exposed to lead in their own home or in the home of a relative or daycare provider.*

**The only way to tell if a child is lead-poisoned is to do a blood lead test.**

## What are the Health effects of Lead Poisoning?

Lead Poisoning can cause life-long health problems with learning, behavior, speech and hearing as well as many others. Children with very high lead poisoning levels may have brain damage or even die.

**The effects of lead poisoning can last a lifetime.**

## What Happens When A Child is Lead Poisoned?

If a child in your practice has an elevated lead level call the Polk County Health Department at 286-3798. We will assist your patient and their family by serving as care coordinators. We will work with the physician, environmental inspector, Area Education Agencies, nutritionist, public health nurses and home repair specialists to make sure the family receives all the services necessary.

**Lead Poisoning is Easy to Prevent! Please Test you're your Pediatric Patients.**

**If a family cannot afford a blood lead test, the Iowa Department of Public Health will pay for the analysis at the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory. Please call the Polk County Health Department to find out how you can use this program.**