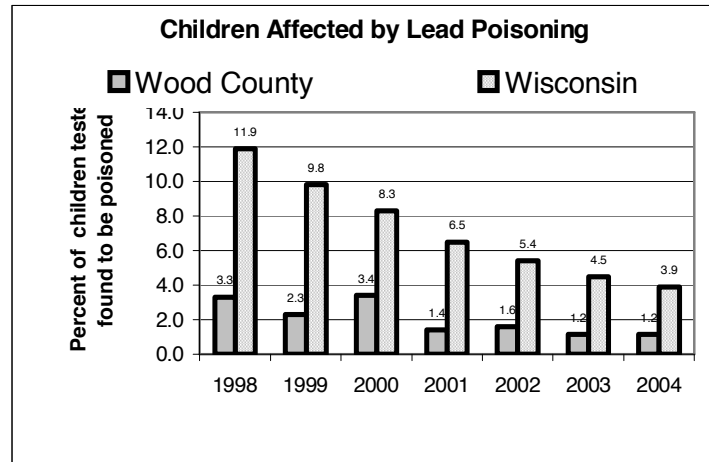


**Center for
Disease Control and
Prevention
Recommends
Blood Lead Level
Testing for
Young Children with
Poisoning Risk
Factors**



Key Facts

- Wood County consistently remains significantly lower than the state average for percentage of children affected by lead poisoning.
- In 2004, 60 % of the one and two year old children enrolled in the Wood County Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program received a documented blood lead test.
- Paint of homes built before 1978 remains on the list of suspected lead sources.
- A simple blood test will provide enough evidence to prove lead poisoning in the most vulnerable population—our children.

Why is this Information Important?

Lead poisoning is caused by ingesting or inhaling lead. Even low levels of lead in the blood may damage the nervous system, harm hearing, lower IQ scores and make learning difficult. High amounts of lead in the bloodstream may cause coma, convulsions or death. Lead is found in many common environments of children, making most children at risk of lead poisoning.

Lead Testing

Lead screening consists of a finger poke or needle stick for a small blood sample. Testing a child's blood is the only way to know for certain if a child has an elevated blood lead level. Lead has been found in various environments: cooking and drinking water traveling through lead pipes or lead soldered pipes, contaminated soil, food grown in lead polluted soil or food stored in dishware containing lead.

Children who meet any of the following criteria should be tested for lead poisoning: living or spending time in a home built before 1950; living or spending time in a home built before 1978 which is currently undergoing renovations; having a sibling or playmate with blood lead poisoning; children eligible for, or enrolled in WIC and/or medical assistance.

Sources: Department of Health and Family Services; Wood County Department of Health