

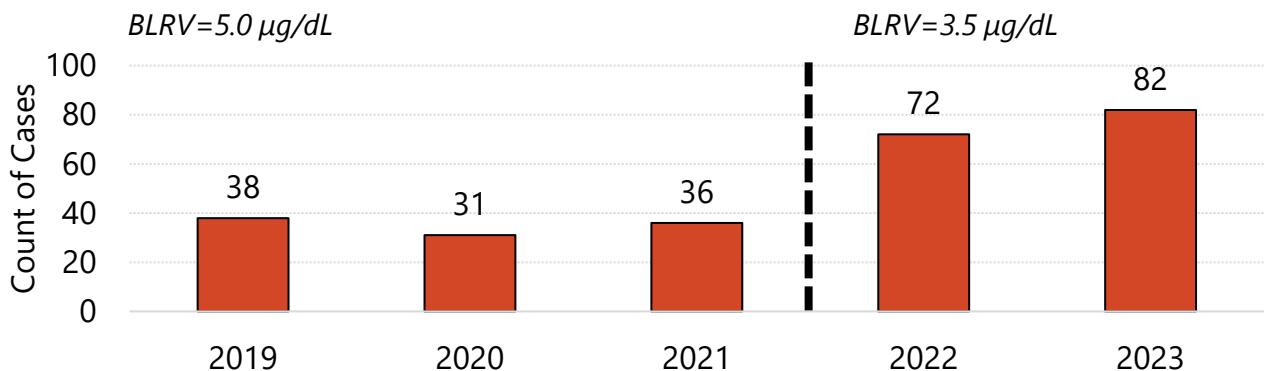
North Dakota Childhood Lead Report, 2019-2023

Children at high-risk for lead exposure should be screened for lead. All Medicaid-enrolled children are **required** to be screened for lead at 12 months and 24 months. If children are not tested at those ages, they must be tested between 24 and 72 months.

Table 1. State-level data for 0-5-year-olds.

Year	Number of All Children in ND Tested	Percent of All Children in ND Tested	Number of Medicaid Eligible Children in ND	Percent of Children Medicaid Eligible in ND	Number of Medicaid Eligible Children Tested in ND	Percent of Medicaid Eligible Children Tested in ND
2019	4,607	7.6%	22,562	37.3%	1,972	10.9%
2020	3,880	6.4%	22,270	36.8%	1,450	13.0%
2021	3,974	6.6%	23,639	39.1%	1,512	9.9%
2022	4,381	7.2%	24,340	40.2%	1,422	8.2%
2023	4,353	7.2%	25,147	41.6%	1,065	3.4%

Elevated Blood Lead Levels for 0-5 Year Olds (Medicaid and Non-Medicaid)*



*Blood lead reference value (BLRV) decreased from 5.0 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL on 01/01/2022 in North Dakota. This count includes confirmed and suspect cases.

7.0% of children 0-5 in North Dakota were screened for lead

Of children 0-5 years old who were tested for lead in North Dakota, **1.3%** of children tested above BLRV.

National statistics: <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/php/data/national-surveillance-data.html>

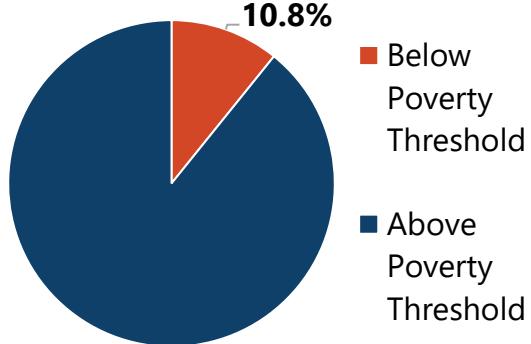
**Data from North Dakota Electronic Disease Surveillance System and Centers for Medicaid Services.

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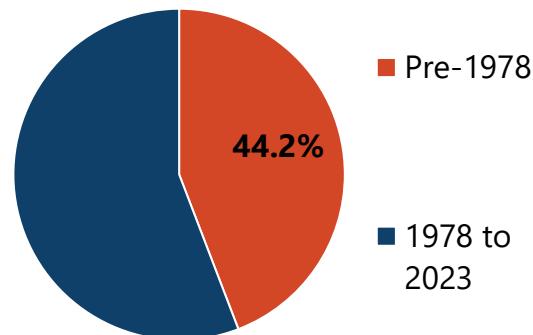
Lead exposure is preventable.

Children under 6 years old are at highest risk of developing adverse effects from lead exposure due to their rapid growth during their early years of life. Children living in housing built before 1978 are at risk for lead exposure. Children living in low-income households are also at an increased risk of lead exposure.

North Dakota Population Below Poverty Threshold



North Dakota Housing Units Built Before 1978



*Data from American Community Survey 2023

*Data estimated from American Community Survey 2023

Harmful effects of lead:

- Damage to brain & nervous tissue
- Slowed growth & development
- Hearing & speech issues
- Learning & behavior problems

Eliminating lead in ND:

- Local community health outreach initiatives
- Engaging in conversations about testing with providers
- Lead education
- Data transparency

Prevention:

- **Test at-risk children**
- Wash hands regularly
- Fix chipping or peeling paint in pre-1978 homes
- Be cautious with antique or foreign-made products
- Eat a well-balanced diet high in **vitamin C, iron, and calcium**
- Cover bare soil in children play areas
- Limit workplace take home exposure by changing shoes and clothes

For more information: www.hhs.nd.gov/health/lead