



DELAWARE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Delco Get The Lead Out Forum, Widener University
October 25, 2022

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DCHD in Action

Addressing lead exposures in Delaware County is a collaborative effort. DCHD is working with many partners, including

- Delaware County Office of Housing & Community Development
- Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC)
- Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program
- Local housing and code officials
- Nonprofit organizations, including the Foundation for Delaware County and Children First
- Health Professionals
- Landlords
- Parents

DCHD in Action

DCHD plays a key role in this complex system through case management and surveillance

- DCHD's Maternal & Child Health team monitors and follows up on elevated blood lead levels (≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) in children under the age of 16 years living in Delaware County, sharing information and referrals with families
- DCHD's Epidemiology team evaluates surveillance data to support public health action.
 - DCHD's first childhood lead surveillance report available on our website at <https://delcopa.gov/health/>

2021 Delaware County Findings: Reported Blood Lead Testing

- **9,283** Total number of children who received blood lead tests in Delaware County in 2021
- **9,749** Total number of blood lead tests in Delaware County in 2021

2021 Delaware County Findings: Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

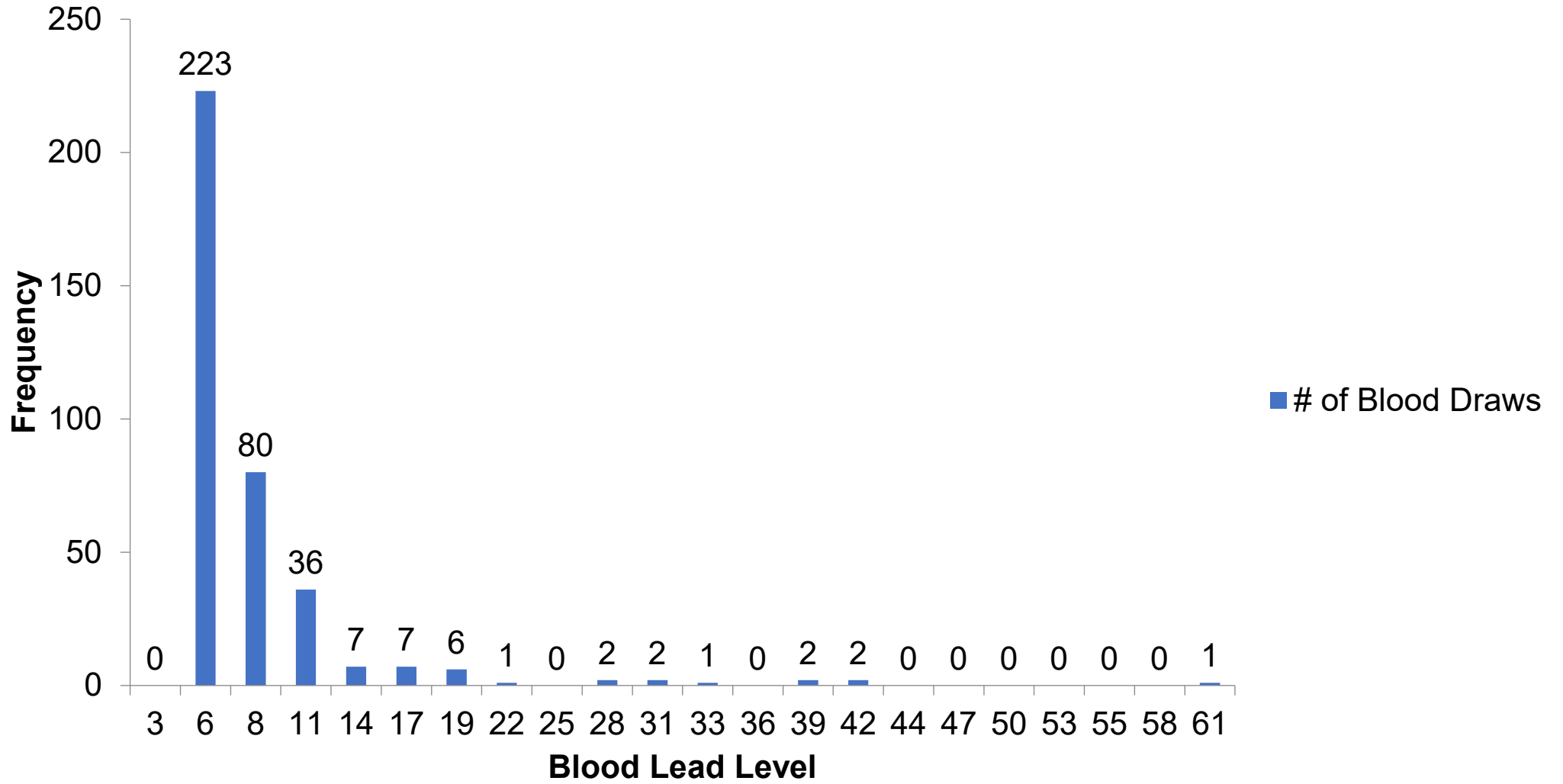
- **294 out of 9,283
(3.2%)**

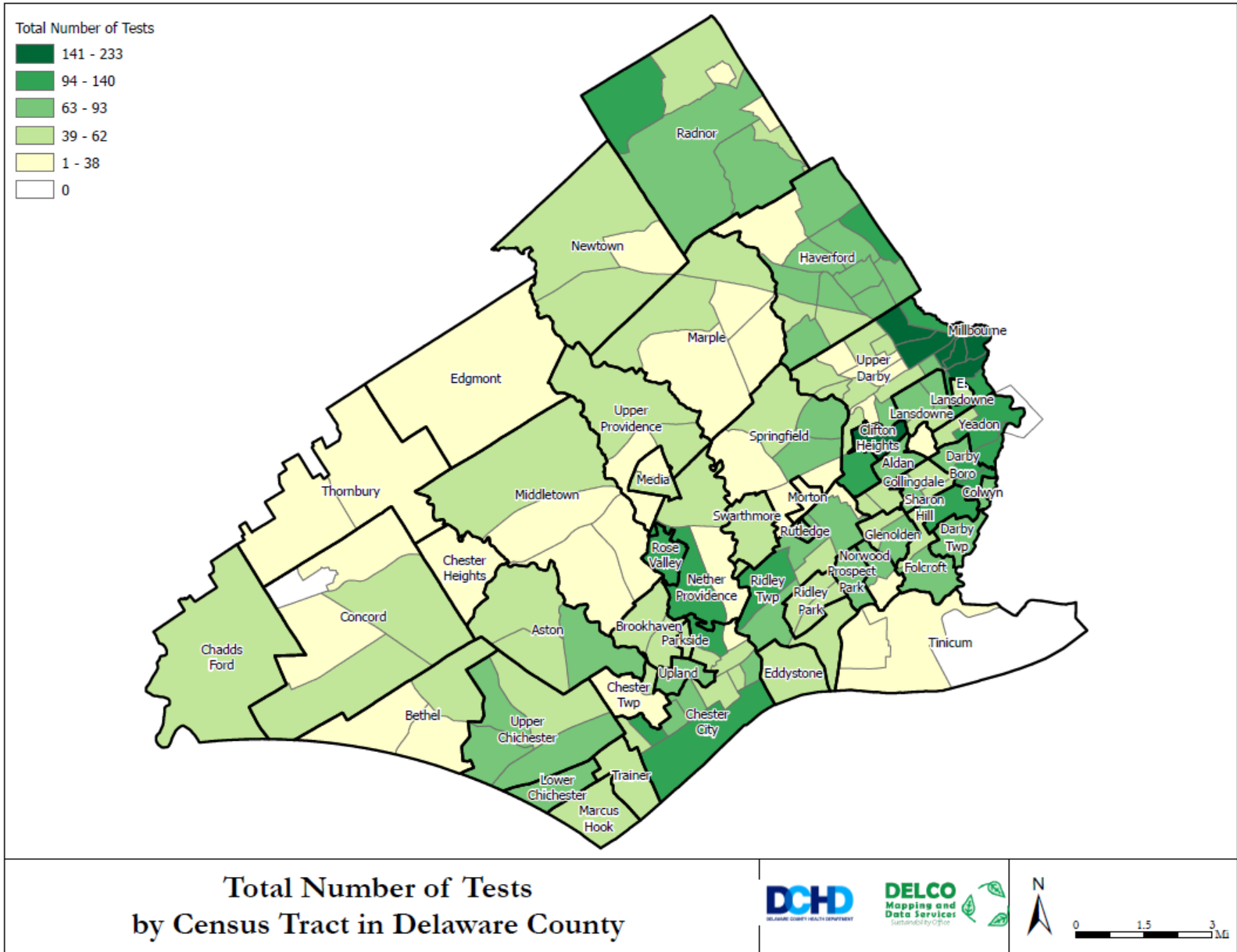
Children tested who met the case definition for a confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL)

2021 Delaware County Findings: Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

- Eastern Delaware County had the highest number of EBLL tests ≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
- Most lead testing results for children in Delaware County are around 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or less
 - In 2021, there were 10 cases whose blood lead level was higher than 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

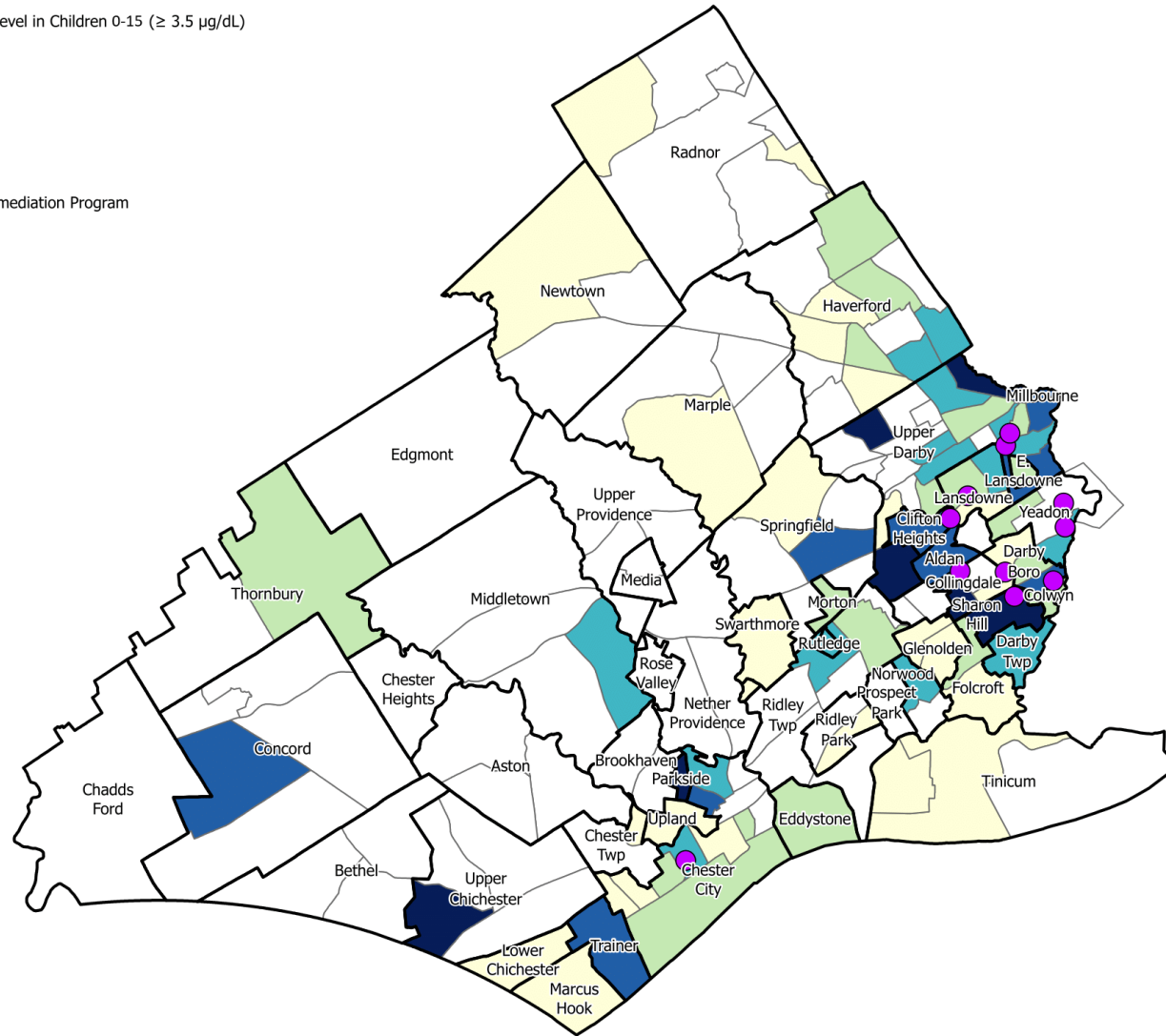
Confirmed EBLL in 2021, Delaware County Histogram



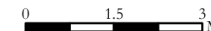


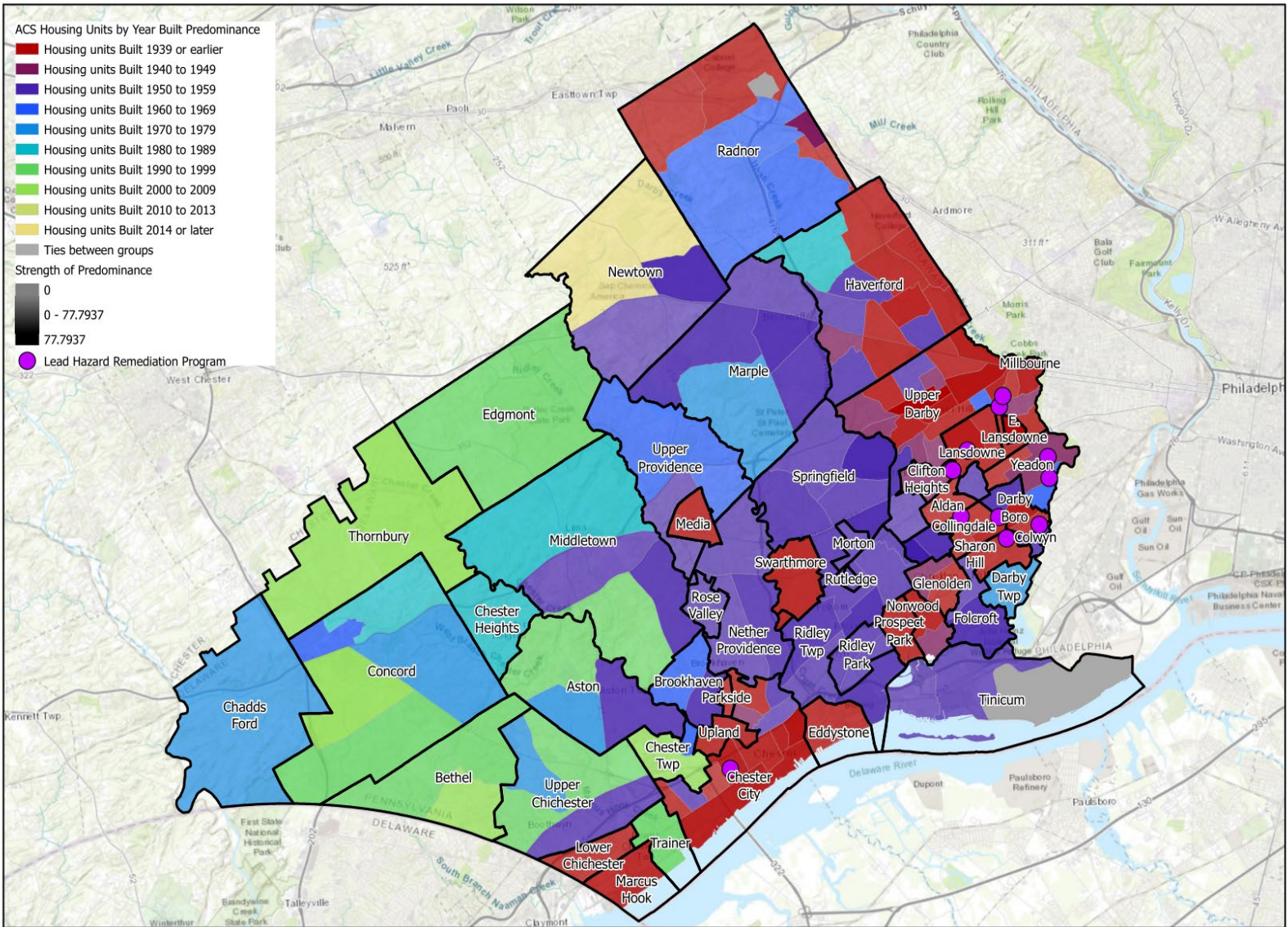
Average Blood Lead Level in Children 0-15 ($\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$)

- 15 - 21
- 11 - 14
- 8 - 10
- 6 - 7
- 4 - 5
- 0
- Lead Hazard Remediation Program



Children 0-15 with BLL $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
by Census Tract in Delaware County

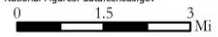




**ACS 2016-2020 Housing Units by Year Built Predominance
by Census Tract in Delaware County**



Current Vintage: 2016-2020
ACS Table(s): B25034, B25036, B25035, B25037
Data downloaded from: Census Bureau's API for
American Community Survey
Date of API call: March 17, 2022
National Figures: data.census.gov





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Thank you!

Characteristics of Children Tested for Lead by Age Category, 2021

	Children aged 0-23 Months (Under 2)		Children aged 0-71 Months (Under 6)		Children aged 0-15	
	N	% of total	N	% of total	N	% of total
Total # of children tested†	4,882	52.59%	8,907	95.95%	9,283	100%
Sex						
Female	2,444	50.06%	4,385	49.23%	4,544	48.95%
Male	2,429	49.75%	4,499	50.51%	4,715	50.79%
Unknown	9	0.18 %	23	0.26%	24	0.26%
Race						
Asian	191	3.91%	364	4.09%	388	4.18%
Black or African American	1,262	25.85%	2,487	27.92%	2,622	28.25%
White	1,656	33.92%	2,832	31.80%	2,900	31.24%
American Indian	17	0.35%	36	0.40%	40	0.43%
Islander	1	0.02%	5	0.06%	5	0.05%
Other	535	10.96%	1,072	12.04%	1,122	12.09%
Unknown	1,219	24.97%	2,112	23.71%	2,206	23.76%
Blank	1	0.02%				
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	287	5.88%	553	6.21%	585	6.30%
Non-Hispanic	797	16.33%	1,455	16.34%	1,513	16.30%
Unknown	3,258	66.73%	6,000	67.36%	6,239	67.21%
Blank	540	11.06%	899	10.09%	946	10.19%

†Number of Pennsylvania children within the age category who had at least one blood lead test done with a specimen collection date in 2020

Characteristics of Children Tested for Lead by Age Category, 2021

	Children aged 0-23 Months (Under 2)		Children aged 0-71 Months (Under 6)		Children aged 0-15	
	N	% of total	N	% of total	N	% of total
Total # of children tested†	4,882	52.59%	8,907	95.95%	9,283	100%
Maximum BLL (µg/dL)*						
< 3.5	4,675	95.76%	8,357	93.83%	8,692	93.63%
3.5-4.9	90	1.84%	235	2.64%	249	2.68%
5-9.9	82	1.68%	219	2.46%	232	2.50%
10-19.9	28	0.57%	73	0.82%	84	0.90%
20-44.9	5	0.10%	20	0.22%	23	0.25%
45-59.9	2	0.04%	1	0.01%	1	0.01%
60-69.9	-	-	1	0.01%	1	0.01%
≥ 70	-	-	1	0.01%	1	0.01%

†Number of Pennsylvania children within the age category who had at least one blood lead test done with a specimen collection date in 2020

*Highest venous blood lead level (BLL) obtained per child in 2020, or highest BLL from a capillary or unknown specimen source, if no venous test was performed

Data sources: Pennsylvania Department of Health, PA-NEDSS

Characteristics of Confirmed Elevated BLL (≥ 3.5) of Children Tested for Lead by Race and Age Category, 2021

	Children aged 0-23 Months (Under 2)		Children aged 0-71 Months (Under 6)		Children aged 0-15	
	N	% of total	N	% of total	N	% of total
Total # of confirmed cases	89	30.27%	264	89.80%	294	100%
Sex						
Female	51	57.30%	112	42.42%	121	41.16%
Male	38	42.70%	150	56.82%	171	58.16%
Unknown	0	0.00%	2	0.76%	2	0.68%
Race						
Asian	4	4.49%	18	6.82%	19	6.46%
Black or African American	39	43.82%	124	46.97%	140	47.51%
White	21	23.60%	36	13.64%	43	14.63%
American Indian	0	0.00%	3	1.14%	3	0.85%
Islander	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.11%
Other	15	16.85%	48	18.18%	52	17.63%
Unknown	10	11.24%	33	12.50%	38	12.13%
Blank	-	-	2	0.76%	2	0.68%
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	13	14.61%	31	11.74%	32	10.88%
Non-Hispanic	12	13.48%	36	13.64%	45	15.31%
Unknown	54	60.67%	160	60.61%	176	59.86%
Blank	10	11.24%	37	14.02%	41	13.95%

Elevated Blood Lead Confirmation Status per Case Definition by Age Category, 2021

	Children aged 0-23 Months		Children aged 0-71 Months	
	N	% of total	N	% of total
Total # of children tested	4,882	100%	9,283	100%
Confirmation Status				
Not elevated (< 3.5 µg/dL)**	4,706	96.39%	8,441	90.93%
Unconfirmed elevated†	4,710	96.48%	8,441	90.93%
Confirmed 3.5-9.9 µg/dL	74	1.52%	224	2.41%
Confirmed ≥ 10 µg/dL	37	0.76%	96	1.03%