

ODJFS Office of Ohio Health Plans
Lead Testing Rates for Ohio Medicaid Enrolled Children, Calendar Year 2005
Executive Summary

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Ohio Health Plans (OHP) is pleased to release statewide and county level data showing improvements in lead testing rates of 1 and 2 year olds enrolled in Ohio Medicaid. From calendar year 2004 to 2005, the percentage of 1 and 2 year olds enrolled in Ohio Medicaid who received a blood lead test increased overall and in many local areas. The statewide testing rate increased by 7 percent for 1 year olds and 5 percent for 2 year olds in calendar year 2005 (CY05). Forty three percent (43%) of all 1 and 2 year olds enrolled in Ohio Medicaid received a blood lead test in CY05, up from 38 percent (38%) in calendar year 2004 (CY04).

Also improved was the number of Ohio counties that met or exceeded the goal of testing at least 60 percent of 1 year olds. In CY05, 22 Ohio counties tested at least 60 percent of Medicaid 1 year olds, compared with only 9 counties in CY04 (see yellow highlights on Chart 2). Although testing rates for 2 year olds continues to improve, reaching this age group continues to be a challenge. In CY05, eight Ohio counties met or exceeded the 40 percent testing rate for 2 year olds compared with only 3 counties in CY04 (see blue highlights on Chart 2).

Ashland County demonstrated the greatest improvement among testing for 1 year olds, literally doubling its testing rate from 29 percent in 2004 to 60 percent in 2005. **Highland** County had the highest growth rate among 2 year olds, more than doubling the testing rate from 20 percent in 2004 to 45 percent in 2005.

Other county highlights include:

Clark County has formed a local collaborative focused on improving the number of Medicaid enrolled children tested for lead exposure. Consequently, Clark County's lead testing rates for Medicaid eligible children consistently have been the highest in the state. In CY04, the testing rates of 1 year olds (74%) and 2 year olds (45%) were the highest statewide. In CY05, the percentage of 2 year olds tested ranks Clark County number one in the state.

Cuyahoga County has demonstrated the success of its health care partnerships with an improved testing rate among 1 year olds from 63 percent in CY04 to 72 percent in CY05, and for 2 year olds from 42 percent in CY04 to 47 percent in CY05.

Hamilton, Mahoning and Trumbull counties have each formed local level health related partnerships including organizations such as: County Departments of Job and Family Services (CDJFS), county and city health departments, Help Me Grow, Community Action Agencies, Head Start, Children Services, Every Child Succeeds, Lead Poisoning Prevention Regional Resource Centers, and early learning centers. The local collaboratives have improved blood lead testing rates by identifying and targeting children who are at high risk and educating health care providers

Additionally, two counties not mentioned above but merit mention are **Guernsey** and **Muskingum** counties with one year old testing rates of 80% or better for CY05.

Although CY05 data shows that still fewer than half of all Medicaid enrolled 1 and 2 year olds are being tested for lead exposure, the testing rates represent an ongoing upward trend in the

number of young children who are tested as part of a well child exam or during another physician or clinic visit. CY05 testing rates also represent a significant improvement over the rates since 1999. Prior to 1999 there were no Medicaid specific program initiatives or partnership activities focused on lead poisoning prevention and testing.

ODJFS Office of Ohio Health Plans staff credit partnerships with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), local public health organizations, and health care professionals for the ongoing improvements in the number of Medicaid children who are tested for lead exposure. This testing data is measured on a county by county basis. County-specific and zip code data can be found on the ODJFS web site at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/bhpp/lpplpt/providerlead.stm>.

ODJFS Activities:

In September 2002, ODJFS began sending appointment reminder notices to Medicaid enrolled children and families for vaccinations and lead tests. These reminders are sent as birthday cards and as regular notices printed on Medicaid cards. ODJFS staff has pursued other activities to increase the understanding of lead poisoning and the need for lead testing, including:

- Improvements to the OHP website targeted at both consumer and provider audiences to educate them about the importance of lead testing. The website is continually updated to assure that Medicaid providers have current information regarding the requirements for lead testing.
- Support for county based collaboratives of local health and social service organizations focused on lead testing and lead poisoning prevention.
- Incorporation of lead testing protocols in training for new Medicaid providers. This includes collaborative training efforts with the Ohio State Medical Association for their members.
- Communication of the importance of lead poisoning prevention and provision of lead testing training to local HealthChek coordinators and managers.
- Communication with providers via the quarterly “Provider Update” newsletter which frequently features information about lead testing.
- Inclusion of lead testing performance measures for managed care plans.
- Performance letters to Medicaid Providers who billed for a Well Child exam.
- Development of a Medicaid Consumer brochure on the importance of lead testing and lead poisoning prevention.

ODJFS and ODH continue to work in partnership with data sharing, so much so, that the ODH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is working with ODJFS to develop a permanent data interface that will allow the capture of real time data. This interface will enhance Medicaid Managed Care Plans’ ability to identify children who have not received a test. The interface also will enhance local ODJFS’ ability to work with local health departments in addressing a lead poisoned child’s needs.

Conclusion:

ODJFS has incorporated lead testing as a performance measure that is tracked within the ODJFS Performance Center. The current performance goal for the Office of Ohio Health Plans is to reach a blood lead testing rate of 60 percent among all Medicaid enrolled 1 and 2 year old children. Although we have not yet reached this target threshold, Ohio Medicaid’s testing rate continues to grow each year, as shown in [Chart 1: Medicaid Lead Testing Rate of Growth](#). [Chart 2: County Medicaid Eligible Testing Rate Comparison CY 2004-2005](#) shows that within one year there has been significant county by county improvement in lead testing.

Within 5 years, ODJFS, in partnership with ODH and local agencies, has almost doubled the lead testing rates for Medicaid enrolled children. OHP has collaborated with ODH to develop policies and programs that improve blood lead testing rates throughout the state. The increase in blood lead testing rates of Medicaid children is important because:

- Blood lead testing of 1 and 2 year old Medicaid enrolled children is a federal requirement.
- It is a measure to gauge the success of provider compliance with blood lead testing rates and the outreach efforts of managed care plans in increasing awareness about the importance of lead testing to providers and parents/caregivers.
- Thousands of children in Ohio continue to be lead poisoned annually; without effective blood lead testing strategies targeting at risk children, those children will not receive appropriate case management and other services to reduce ongoing exposure to lead hazards.
- Blood lead testing data are an effective surveillance tool to identify progress in eliminating lead hazards throughout the state and in identifying areas of need.

For further information, visit the ODJFS web site at:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bhpp/lpplpt/providerlead.stm>.

This site provides local and state contact information as well as information regarding lead testing requirements. In addition, the site contains a new Medical Management Chart that can be printed and used by medical providers to help guide their clinical practice related to lead testing.

For further information or questions, please call Donna Bush at the ODJFS Office of Ohio Health Plans, 614-466-6420.

Chart 1: Medicaid Lead Testing Rate of Growth

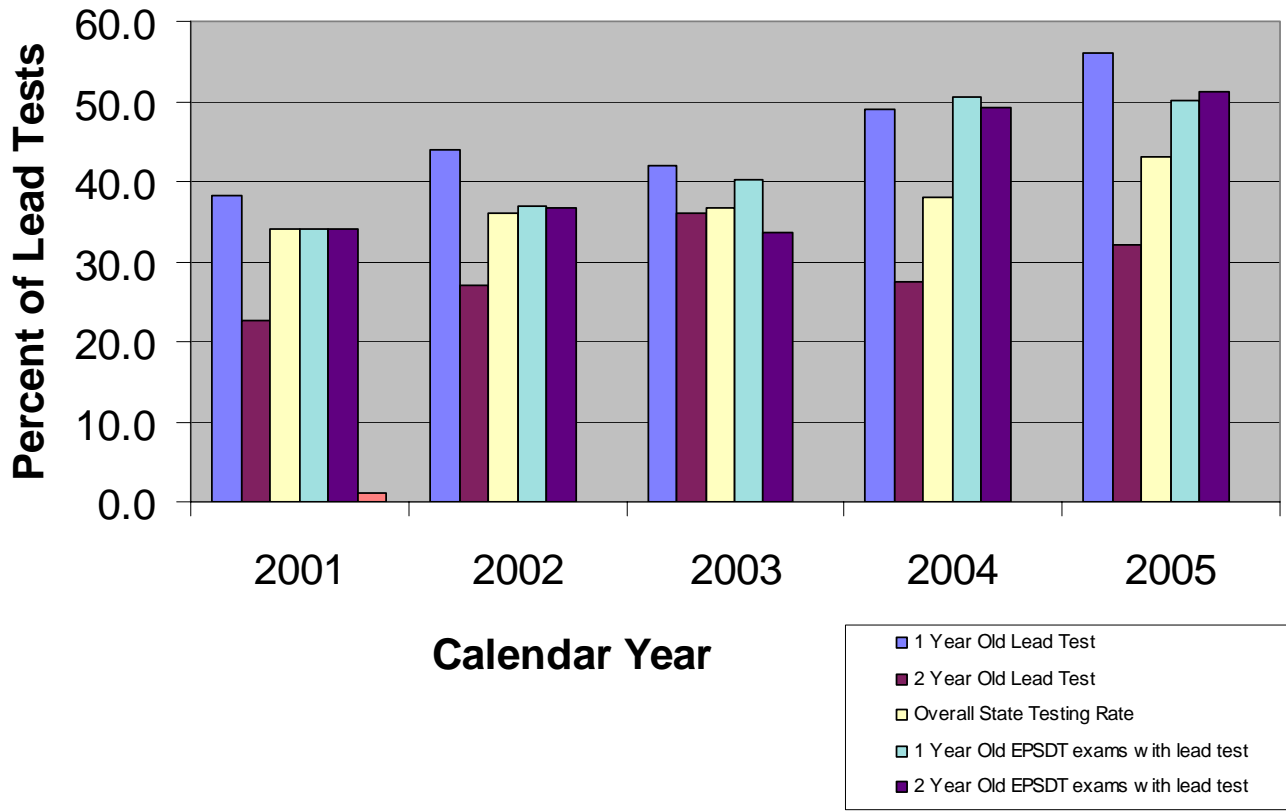


Chart 2: County Medicaid Eligible Testing Rate Comparison CY 2004-2005

County	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 One year old rates	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 Two year old rates
Adams	69%	76%	-7%	26%	19%	7%
Allen	37%	26%	12%	16%	17%	0%
Ashland	60%	29%	31%	24%	13%	11%
Ashtabula	38%	34%	4%	15%	11%	4%
Athens	58%	42%	16%	32%	19%	12%
Auglaize	32%	20%	12%	9%	5%	4%
Belmont	52%	39%	13%	29%	27%	2%
Brown	63%	59%	4%	22%	14%	8%
Butler	31%	31%	1%	18%	13%	4%
Carroll	45%	30%	15%	18%	11%	6%
Champaign	59%	58%	1%	26%	22%	4%
Clark	80%	77%	3%	53%	45%	8%
Clermont	55%	48%	7%	32%	20%	13%
Clinton	40%	36%	4%	16%	9%	7%
Columbiana	47%	33%	14%	23%	18%	5%
Coshocton	53%	46%	7%	30%	23%	6%
Crawford	39%	32%	6%	20%	10%	10%
Cuyahoga	72%	63%	9%	47%	42%	5%
Darke	48%	48%	0%	15%	9%	6%
Defiance	44%	40%	4%	23%	19%	4%
Delaware	47%	38%	9%	25%	11%	14%
Erie	31%	31%	0%	13%	15%	-1%
Fairfield	58%	49%	8%	24%	16%	8%
Fayette	34%	34%	0%	17%	13%	4%
Franklin	71%	63%	8%	46%	41%	5%
Fulton	32%	22%	10%	22%	12%	9%
Gallia	43%	43%	0%	21%	17%	4%

County	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 One year old rates	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 Two year old rates
Geauga	30%	20%	11%	8%	9%	-1%
Greene	34%	34%	1%	17%	9%	8%
Guernsey	82%	76%	5%	42%	24%	18%
Hamilton	59%	58%	2%	31%	31%	0%
Hancock	29%	14%	15%	13%	8%	5%
Hardin	23%	27%	-4%	11%	10%	1%
Harrison	43%	32%	11%	22%	15%	7%
Henry	42%	32%	10%	21%	11%	10%
Highland	60%	45%	15%	45%	20%	25%
Hocking	55%	45%	10%	18%	12%	6%
Holmes	54%	26%	28%	30%	11%	19%
Huron	49%	39%	10%	28%	25%	3%
Jackson	47%	42%	5%	20%	18%	2%
Jefferson	39%	24%	15%	19%	14%	6%
Knox	38%	28%	10%	15%	16%	-1%
Lake	42%	40%	2%	18%	14%	5%
Lawrence	42%	30%	13%	27%	16%	12%
Licking	72%	61%	11%	42%	39%	3%
Logan	42%	35%	7%	13%	8%	5%
Lorain	55%	54%	1%	28%	21%	7%
Lucas	50%	42%	8%	34%	26%	8%
Madison	54%	60%	-6%	35%	28%	6%
Mahoning	53%	49%	3%	38%	32%	7%
Marion	49%	40%	10%	32%	17%	15%
Medina	62%	44%	18%	22%	18%	4%
Meigs	54%	44%	10%	21%	16%	5%
Mercer	24%	19%	5%	13%	5%	9%
Miami	61%	48%	13%	19%	13%	6%
Monroe	45%	37%	9%	11%	10%	1%
Montgomery	48%	48%	0%	26%	20%	6%

County	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 One year old rates	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 Two year old rates
Morgan	58%	46%	12%	29%	30%	0%
Morrow	50%	28%	23%	24%	11%	13%
Muskingum	80%	65%	15%	38%	38%	1%
Noble	70%	58%	12%	35%	33%	2%
Ottawa	29%	26%	3%	25%	12%	13%
Paulding	26%	33%	-7%	15%	16%	-1%
Perry	48%	38%	10%	26%	19%	7%
Pickaway	53%	35%	18%	21%	18%	4%
Pike	57%	33%	23%	26%	19%	6%
Portage	51%	44%	6%	26%	16%	10%
Preble	42%	28%	14%	15%	10%	5%
Putnam	22%	14%	8%	9%	6%	3%
Richland	62%	51%	10%	42%	33%	9%
Ross	69%	57%	12%	27%	16%	11%
Sandusky	38%	35%	3%	22%	17%	5%
Scioto	17%	12%	5%	10%	7%	3%
Seneca	65%	38%	27%	36%	26%	10%
Shelby	61%	45%	16%	23%	15%	9%
Stark	62%	45%	17%	31%	22%	9%
Summit	63%	57%	6%	40%	32%	8%
Trumbull	35%	28%	7%	16%	13%	3%
Tuscarawas	49%	45%	4%	22%	17%	5%
Union	22%	18%	4%	14%	5%	9%
Van Wert	45%	25%	19%	27%	12%	15%
Vinton	60%	49%	10%	20%	14%	6%
Warren	43%	27%	15%	18%	14%	4%
Washington	41%	44%	-3%	16%	17%	-2%
Wayne	55%	53%	3%	28%	18%	10%
Williams	70%	63%	7%	32%	38%	-6%
Wood	48%	37%	10%	27%	16%	10%

County	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of One Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 One year old rates	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2005	Percent of Two Year Old Medicaid Eligibles receiving lead test in CY 2004	Percent of Change CY 2004 to 2005 Two year old rates
Wyandot	38%	29%	9%	31%	18%	13%
State	56%	49%	7%	32%	27%	5%