

# SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF LEAD POISONING

Most commonly, exposure is acutely asymptomatic, but long-term effects are observed at low and acutely asymptomatic levels. This is why we need to test high-risk kids.

## Signs and symptoms:



Irritability



Behavioral problems



Abdominal pain



Lethargy



Loss of appetite



Headaches



Memory loss



Seizures  
(high lead exposure)

## Lifelong consequences:

- Speech and language problems
- Decreased bone and muscle growth
- Hearing loss
- Damage to the nervous system and/or kidneys

## Effects of lead poisoning:

- Developmental delay
- Cognitive problems
- Decreased IQ
- Attention Deficit Disorder

## Healthcare Provider Responsibilities

Blood lead testing requirements for Ohio children less than 6 years, with an emphasis on 1 and 2 year olds:

1. **Medicaid eligible**
2. **Lives in a high risk zip code** (See map on Ohio AAP website)
3. Lives in or regularly visits a home or building built before 1950
4. Lives in or regularly visits a home or building built before 1978 that has deteriorated paint
5. Lives in or regularly visits a home or building built before 1978 that has current or planned renovation/remodeling
6. Has a sibling or playmate that has or did have an elevated blood lead level
7. Frequently encounters an adult who has a lead-related hobby, or occupation
8. Lives near an active lead smelter, battery recycling plant, or other industry known to generate airborne lead dust