CITY *of* **CLEVELAND**
MAYOR JUSTIN M. BIBB

PUBLIC HEALTH

CHILDHOOD LEAD TESTING IN CLEVELAND, OH
DATA SUMMARY
APRIL 2025

Figure 1.

From 2005 to 2019, the percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels decreased. Since 2019, the percentage has been stable.

Percentage of blood lead tests ≥3.5 µg/dL in children ages 1-5 per year.
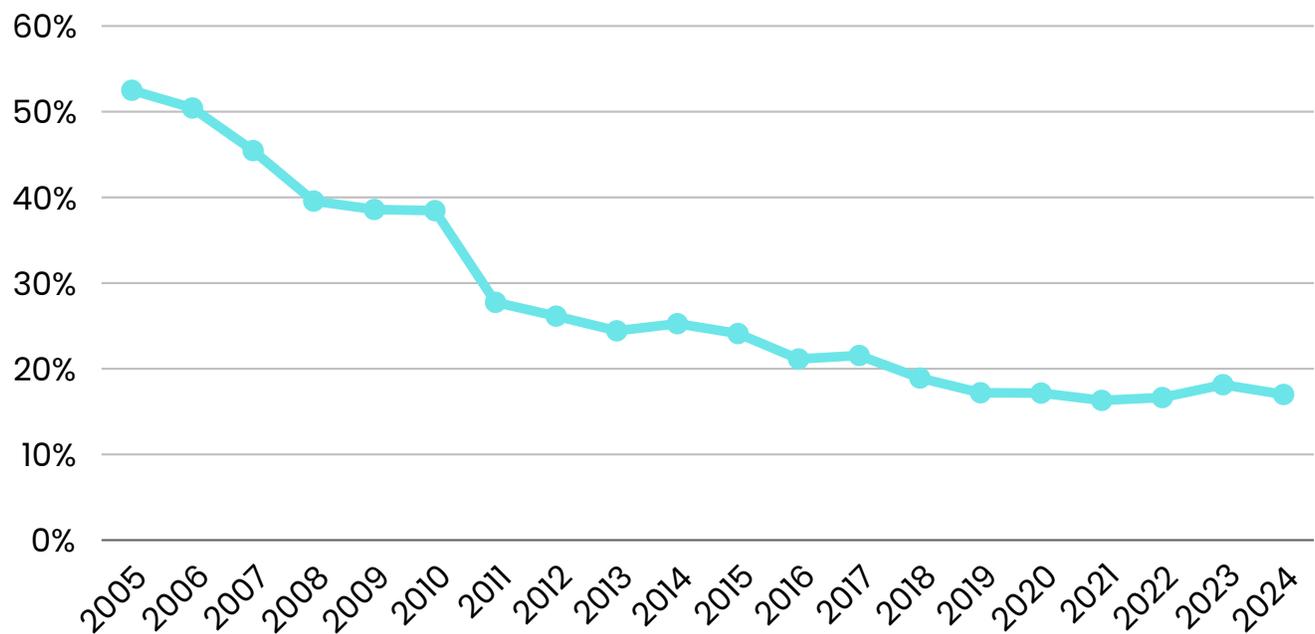
Table 1.

The annual number of children ages 1-5 with elevated blood lead levels (BLL) has steadily decreased since 2015. The frequency of lead testing has also decreased.

Lead tests and blood lead levels in children ages 1-5 in Cleveland, 2015-2023.

Test Year	Blood Lead Levels (BLL)				Total Children Tested	Estimated 1-5 Year Population
	3.5-<5 µg/dL	5.0-<10 µg/dL	10-<40 µg/dL	≥40 µg/dL		
2015	1,071	1,311	457	10	11,819	29,182
2016	911	1,199	450	14	12,174	29,553
2017	872	1,169	524	11	11,951	30,022
2018	876	949	388	8	11,739	28,165
2019	822	836	284	8	11,338	27,863
2020	506	578	211	3	7,563	26,830
2021	539	636	254	7	8,805	23,793
2022	530	564	240	13	8,093	25,004
2023	556	593	261	11	7,834	24,159
2024	506	578	282	3	8,135	24,159*

* 2024 ACS release is not available. Therefore, the estimated 1-5 year-old population for Cleveland is carried over from 2023.

Acknowledgment and Disclaimer

These data were provided by the Ohio Department of Health, through the DataOhio Portal. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions from these data.

Methods

Data Sources

- Cleveland's lead testing data are securely shared to Cleveland Department of Public Health as a delegated authority for performing public health lead investigations through the Ohio Healthy Homes Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OHHLPPP) at Ohio Department of Health (ODH).
- American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates are used for year-to-year Cleveland population estimates.

Estimates

Population estimates used in Table 1 for children ages 1-5 in Cleveland are retrieved from American Community Survey 1-year estimates, which are selected for the currency of the estimate to the respective year. The custom age group of 1-5 is calculated assuming even distributions of single years of age. This assumption is erroneous, but permits rough estimates for the age group of interest.

Analysis

Data are prepared using R 4.4.1 and R Studio 2024.04.02.