



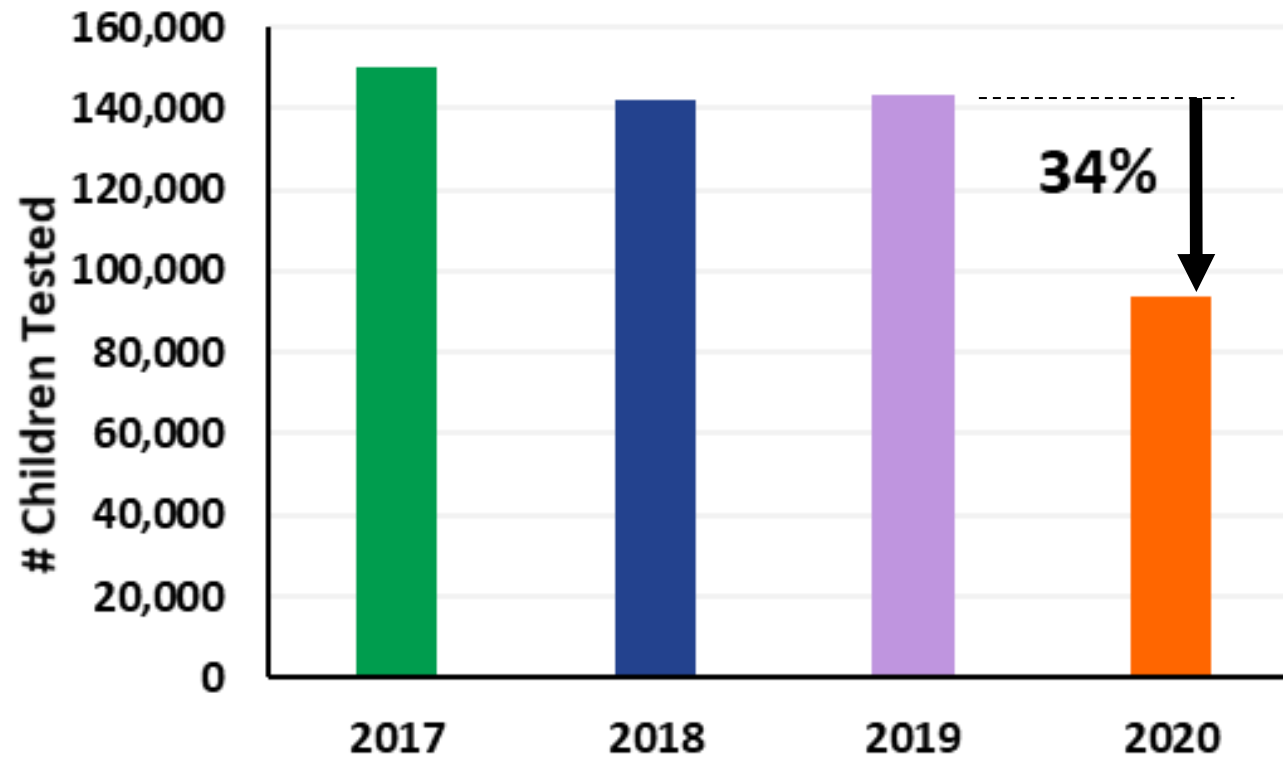
MDHHS Response to the Pandemic-Related Drop in Childhood Blood Lead Testing



Division of Environmental Health

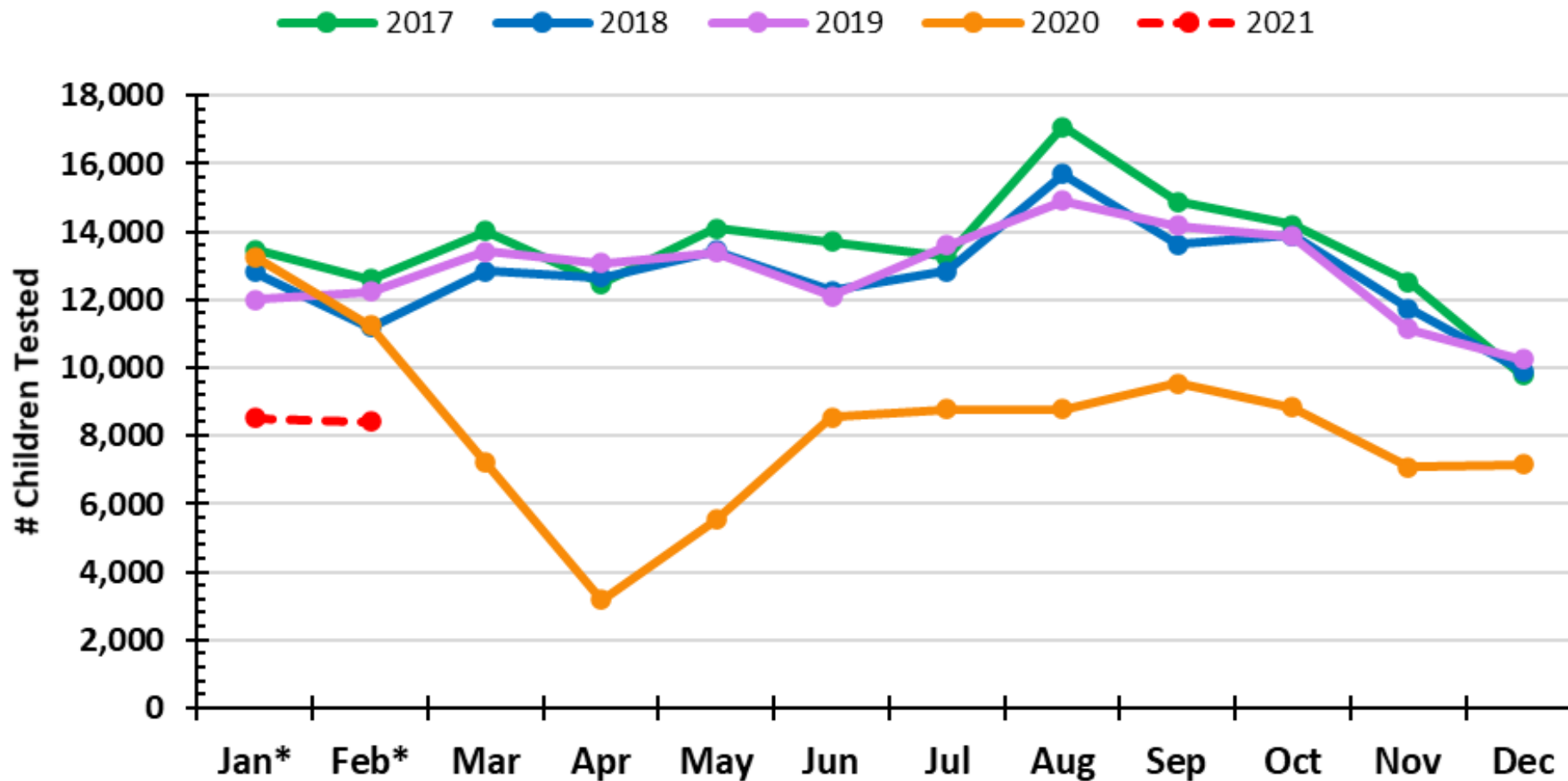
Lead Testing Decreased During the Pandemic

Number of Michigan Children <6 Years Tested for Blood Lead Annually



Testing Remains Below Baseline

Monthly Number of Children < 6 Years Tested for Blood Lead



* Data for January and February 2021 may be incomplete and are considered provisional.

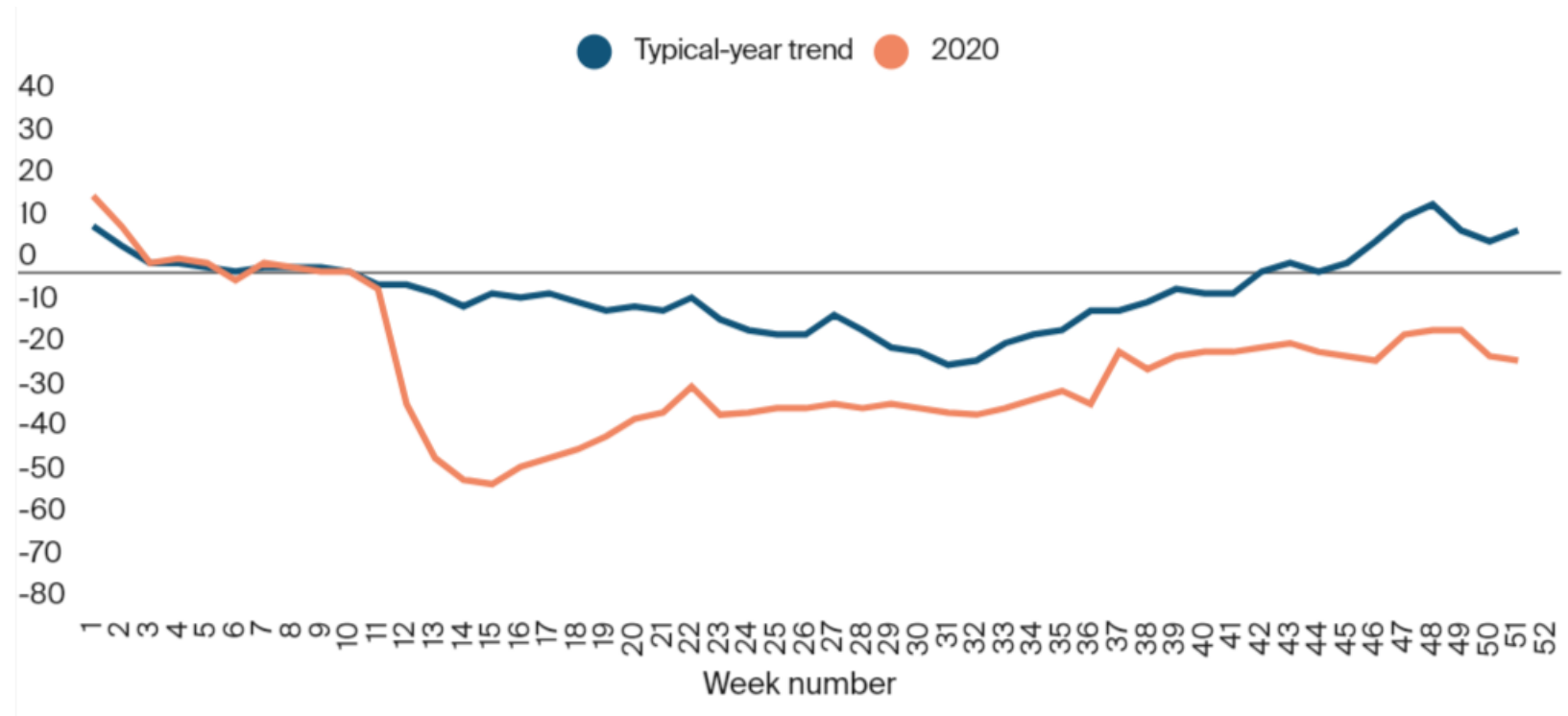
Factors Contributing to the Drop in Testing

Decrease in well child exams

Increase in virtual care

Closure of other contact points for lead testing- e.g. local health department clinics and Women, Infant and Children (WIC) clinics

Percentage Change in Weekly Visit Volume for Children Ages 0-2 Years (National Data)



Data are presented as a percentage change in the number of visits in a given week from the baseline week (week 10: March 1–7). “Typical year” data are from 2016 to 2019.

Source: Ateev Mehrotra et al., *The Impact of COVID-19 on Outpatient Visits in 2020: Visits Remained Stable, Despite a Late Surge in Cases* (Commonwealth Fund, Feb. 2021). <https://doi.org/10.26099/bvfh-e411>

MDHHS Response: Raise Public Awareness

Statewide Media Campaign

- Television, radio, social media, & billboards
- Statewide, with particular focus on areas with largest drops in testing
- Anticipate 18-month campaign
- Major messages: Lead is an invisible threat. Talk to your child's health care provider about blood lead testing.

Postcard Mailing

- Will be sent to households in Michigan identified as having children under 6 years and living in older homes
- Major message: Talk to your child's health care provider about a blood lead test.

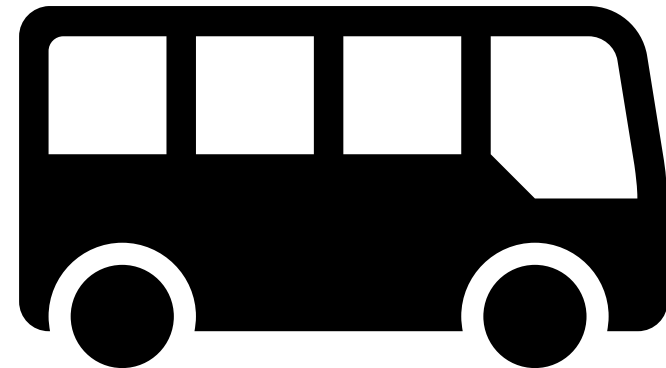


MDHHS Response: Mobile Testing Sites

Partnership with Wayne Mobile Health to provide blood lead testing in communities with action level exceedances for lead in water

- Health fairs
- Head Start programs
- Free-standing mobile blood lead testing events

Events are listed at Michigan.gov/mileadsafe as they are scheduled



Health Care Provider Outreach and Education

Provider Resource Packet (co-branded with MiAAP)

- Mailing to 6,000+ providers who provide primary care to children
- Includes provider quick reference, lead-related posters and handouts, and contacts for public health.



Data Brief


- Distributed electronically to providers through professional organizations

Point-of-Care Equipment Project

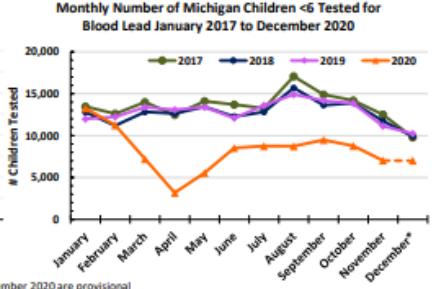
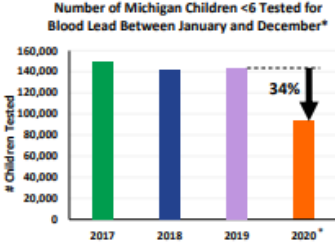
Presentations/Educational Opportunities

- MDHHS will present the “Advocacy Lunch” at the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy annual meeting in September
- Direct practice outreach and presentations to physician trainees
- Lead Training Module available for continuing education credits

Childhood Blood Lead Testing: Impact of COVID-19 MICHIGAN DATA BRIEF




- Childhood blood lead testing has decreased during the pandemic.
- Early intervention for lead exposure is essential.
- There is no safe level of lead in blood.




In 2019, 2.7% of children tested (<6 years old) had an elevated blood lead level (EBLL $\geq 4.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$). Go to mitracking.state.mi.us/ for your area's lead data.


- **Contact your patients who are overdue for blood lead testing.**
- **Test for lead.** Early identification of children with elevated blood lead levels allows intervention to eliminate ongoing exposure.



Scan here for MDHHS Blood Lead Testing Quick Reference for Primary Care Providers



To learn more about lead poisoning prevention and blood lead testing, contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: 517-335-8885 or [Michigan.gov/lead](https://michigan.gov/lead)



MDHHS-Pub-1327 (4-21) Updated 4/2021

MDHHS Response: Data-driven Action

Quarterly COVID impact reports

- Provide data to Local Health Departments
- Identify areas with larger drops in testing and/or slower recovery

Updated data are available through 2020 on the MiTracking portal (Michigan.gov/mitracking)

- Now includes zip code level data

Thank you

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