

Lead Poisoning in San Joaquin County

Not enough children in San Joaquin County are being tested for lead

Medi-Cal Testing Rates in 2022

Screening Age	Goal	San Joaquin County*
12 Months	100%	Quintile 2 35% - 41%
24 Months	100%	Quintile 2 26% - 31%
Two Tests by 24 Months	100%	Quintile 3 16% - 22%

*San Joaquin County data is presented in quintiles, with each screening age having its own unique quintile range. Higher quintiles, such as Quintile 5, indicate higher rates of testing compared to lower quintiles, such as Quintile 1. Both Quintile 5 and Quintile 1 do not have upper and lower bounds, respectively.

In 2022, 157 children under age six in San Joaquin County had enough lead in their bodies (≥ 3.5 micrograms/deciliter) to require extra medical care. That is enough children to fill 2 school buses.



Living in or near these environmental sources may raise the chances of being exposed to lead.



Houses built before 1978



Facilities that release lead into the air



Highway/Speedway



Smelters



Small-Craft Airports



Railroads



Water service line that may have lead

These are the top three environmental sources:

Out of the 174 neighborhoods (called census tracts) in San Joaquin County:



75%
are within 1 kilometer of a railroad.



62%
have at least 25% of their housing built before 1978.



60%
are within 1,000 feet of a state highway.

No amount of lead in the body is safe.

Children with lead may have



Hearing and speech problems



Slowed growth and development



Damage to brain and nervous system



Learning and behavioral problems

Sources of Lead



Houses built before 1978



Facilities that release lead into the air



Highway/Speedway



Smelters



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Railroads



Water service line that has lead



Pottery made before 1970 or outside of the U.S.



Traditional makeup and ceremonial powders



Consumer products like jewelry



Traditional health remedies



Food and spices made outside of the U.S.



Aluminum or brass cookware manufactured outside of the U.S.



Parents with jobs like construction



Parents with hobbies like fishing (lead fishing sinkers)



Parents with hobbies or works with firearms (lead bullets)

If a child is exposed to any of these sources, consider ordering a blood test.

Children enrolled in publicly-supported programs like Medi-Cal or WIC are required to get a blood lead test at ages one and two. Some children will need additional tests.



References

California Lead Poisoning Prevention Report - www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CLPPBReport2024.pdf
2023 Preventative Services Report - www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/Documents/CA2022-23-Preventive-Services-Report.pdf
Geospatial Lead Indicators - www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA_Geospatial_Lead_Indicators.xlsx