



## SCREEN CHILDREN AT 12 AND 24 MONTHS FOR LEAD POISONING — IT'S THE LAW!

Although California and the federal government have taken steps to reduce lead poisoning, lead can be found in the air, soil and drinking water of housing and other structures that contain lead pipes. Children under six years old are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning's harmful effects, including lower IQ, because their brains are in a critical stage of development. **A recent analysis of data by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) showed that, of the nearly three million one-to-two-year-old children enrolled in Medi-Cal:**

**1/4** missed one of the two tests

**1/2** did not receive any testing

***That means more than two million children in California were not properly tested for lead poisoning – and therefore never got the treatment they need. Many of these children live in areas where high numbers of children are suffering from elevated lead levels.***

**The primary way to determine whether a child has been exposed to lead is to perform a blood test.** State law requires that all children enrolled in Medi-Cal receive lead screening tests at 12 months of age and again at 24 months of age. It is recommended that providers monitor and provide follow-up for children with levels at or above the current CDC reference value.

- ▶ Follow the California Department of Public Health's "Management Guidelines on Childhood Lead Poisoning for Health Care Providers" at [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Lead\\_HAGs\\_Table.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Lead_HAGs_Table.pdf)