



# Environmental Quality

## MEASURE

The percentage of children less than six years of age with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL).

EBLL  $\geq$  5ug/dL (highest venous or capillary blood lead level). This percentage is calculated by dividing the number of children less than six years of age who have an EBLL  $\geq$  5ug/dL by the number of children less than six years of age who had their blood tested for lead.

## DATA SOURCE

Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention Program, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

**YEARS** 2015-2019

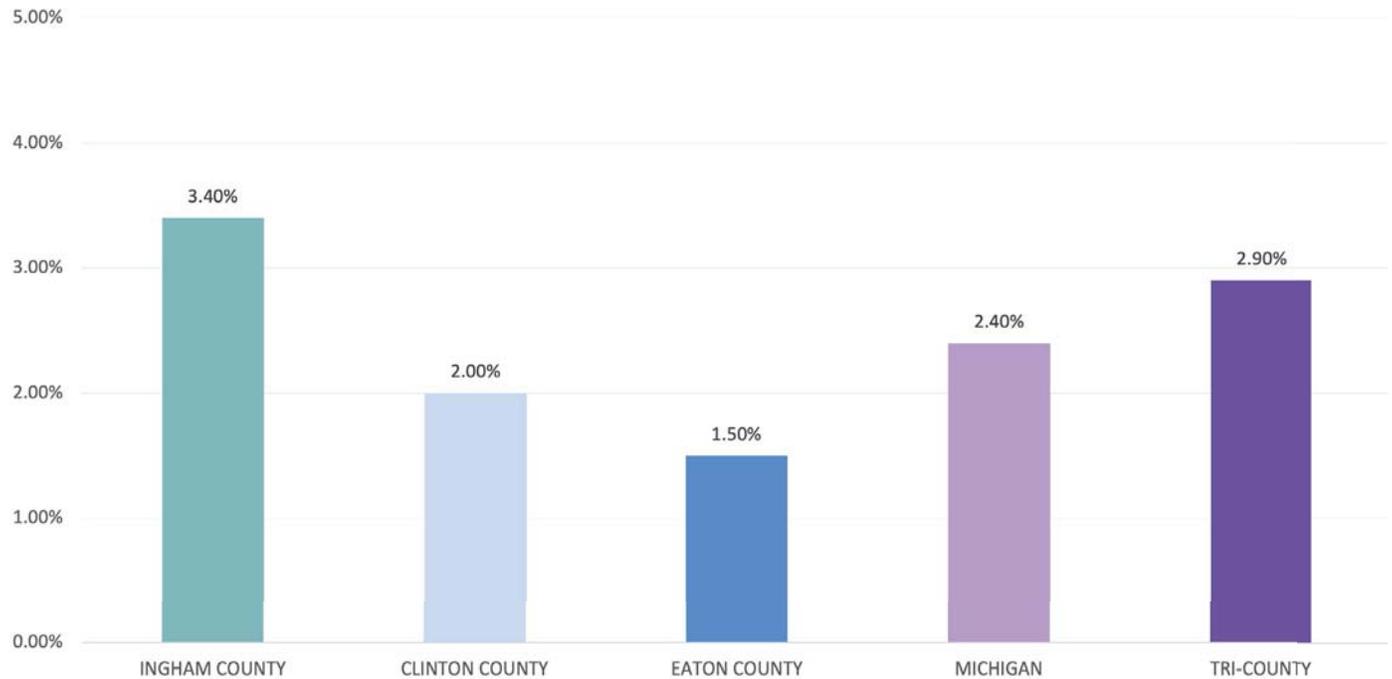
## REASON FOR MEASURE

Lead exposure among children continues to be an important public health problem. At highest risk are children living in older housing that may still contain lead-based paint. The adverse health effects of lead exposure in children are numerous and well documented, including cognitive impairment, low bone density, and poor childhood growth and development.

\*Note: Data for 2020 was suppressed in 2 of 3 counties, and thus not included in this analysis, due to low testing volume and a small number of elevated tests as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### PERCENT OF CHILDREN LESS THAN SIX YEARS OF AGE WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS, 2019

Out of the children tested, approximately three percent of children in the Capital Area under the age of six have an EBLL. Ingham County (3.4%) is the only area with a higher EBLL percentage than the State of Michigan (2.4%). The prevalence of children with an EBLL is 1.5% in Eaton County, 2.0% in Clinton County and 3.4% in Ingham County.



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### TREND IN PERCENT OF CHILDREN LESS THAN SIX YEARS OF AGE WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS, 2015-2018

In Eaton County, the percentage of children with an EBLL has continuously declined since 2015; meanwhile, there is an increasing trend in Ingham County, rising from 2.6% in 2016 to 3.4% in 2019. There is no discernable trend in Clinton County as numbers vary by year. This could partially be explained by low testing numbers leading to greater variability. The State of Michigan is in the midst of a decreasing trend since 2016, falling from 3.6% to 2.4% in 2019.

