

# Referrals to Services for Children Under 6 Years of Age

## Background

As part of our cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Montana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is required to collect within the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS) information on referrals to recommended services provided to the parents or caregivers of children under 6 years of age with suspect or confirmed lead poisoning.

## New Reporting Section in MIDIS Lead Poisoning Investigation Template

A new reporting section has been added to the disease tab of the MIDIS lead poisoning investigation template to collect information on referrals to recommended services for children under 6 years of age with suspect or confirmed lead poisoning. Within this section, seven service categories are listed with a drop-down field to report if a referral was made to a service within that category by the health department investigator and if the service was received. While CLPPP is prioritizing collecting information on referrals to the seven listed service categories, health department investigators are encouraged to refer a child for services not listed, if appropriate, and document the referral information in the comments field.

### Referrals to Services for Children Under 6 Years of Age

Primary Care:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
WIC:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Nutritional Assessment:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Early Education or Head Start:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Child Development and Behavior:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Public Housing Agency if in HUD-Assisted Housing:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Environmental Testing or Abatement:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Referral Comments:	<input type="text"/>	

DROP-DOWN CHOICES

- No Referral
- Referral Made
- Service Received

Completion of this new reporting section is **required** for all suspect and confirmed lead poisoning investigations in children who are under 6 years of age on the date of event.

## What is a Referral to Service?

For childhood lead poisoning, a referral to service is when the health department investigator refers a child who has a medical, social, or environmental need related to lead poisoning to a recommended service to meet that need. A referral to service can be made to a specific service provider when appropriate, such as to a government funded program like Head Start, or it can be a general referral that the parent or caregiver seek a type of service for the child, such as recommending that they establish a primary care provider for the child or that they find an EPA-certified lead professional from the [EPA's lead professional locator tool](#) to perform lead inspection, risk assessment, or abatement activities. For the environmental testing or abatement category, a referral to service also includes recommending an eligible consumer product that can detect or filter lead. The child's parents or caregivers are responsible for any costs from obtaining recommended services or products.

## Service Categories

### Primary Care

Referral to establish a primary care provider.

### WIC

Referral to inquire about eligibility for Montana's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

### Nutritional Assessment

Referral to obtain a nutritional assessment or nutritional counseling by a registered dietician or other health care professional.

### Early Education or Head Start

Referral to inquire about eligibility for early education services such as Head Start or Early Head Start.

### Child Development and Behavior

Referral to obtain an assessment, supports, or services related to the child's development, learning, or behavior.

### Public Housing Agency if in HUD-Assisted Housing

If the child is under 6 years of age, has a **venous** blood lead level at or above 3.5 µg/dL, and lives in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-assisted housing, referral to contact the local public housing agency to inquire if the child's housing qualifies for an environmental investigation for lead.

### Environmental Testing or Abatement

Referral to a service or eligible consumer product that identifies or mitigates lead hazards from paint, dust, soil, or water. This category excludes referrals to the local public housing agency. Recommended services might include laboratory testing of tap water for lead, bringing soil to a [soilShop](#) event, requesting environmental testing from a community lead assessment program, or seeking an EPA-certified lead professional to perform lead inspection, risk assessment, or abatement activities. Eligible consumer products are limited to an [EPA-recognized lead test kit](#) and a [point-of-use or pitcher filter certified to reduce lead in drinking water](#).

## Drop-down Field Choices

### No Referral

No referral to service for this service category was made by the investigator. The service might not be applicable to the child or the child might have existing services or supports in place to meet that need. Report as "No Referral" when a case is lost to follow-up.

### Referral Made

A referral to service for this service category was made by the investigator and receipt of the recommended service is currently pending, unknown, was declined by the parent or caregiver, or did not occur for other reasons. If a referral was made to inquire about eligibility for a service such as WIC or Head Start but the patient was later determined ineligible, report as "Referral Made." Document in the referral comments field why recommended services were not received (e.g., ineligible, parent/caregiver declined, cost-prohibitive), when known.

### Service Received

A referral to service for this service category was made by the investigator and the recommended service was received. For services requiring eligibility determination such as WIC or Head Start, report as "Service Received" if the patient was successfully enrolled or waitlisted in the program. If more than one referral was made in the same service category, report as "Service Received" if at least one service in the category was received.

## Questions?

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