

Environmental Health

Safe water to drink. • Safe air to breathe. • Safe food to eat.

Dr. James Bell III
Public Health Administration



Environmental Health



Keep Kids Safe from Wildfire Smoke

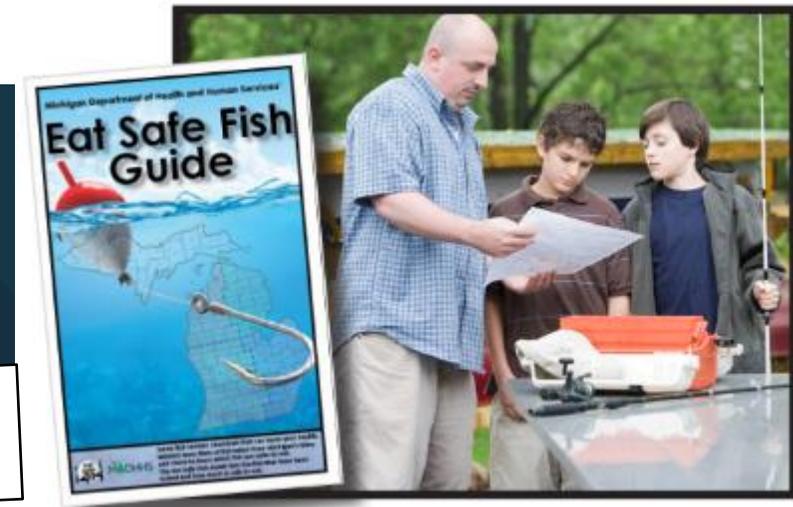
Things you can do:

- Check local Air Quality Index at Airnow.gov.
- Move events indoors.
- Avoid outdoor exercise or other activities that cause you to exert yourself.
- Postpone events.
- Move events to cleaner air.



Call the MI-TOXIC and Health Hotline

The Bureau maintains a toll-free telephone hotline for the general public. A toxicologist is on hand to answer questions about the environment and health. Callers can have questions answered about contaminants in the home and in the environment. Call 1-800-MI-TOXIC (1-800-648-6942) during business hours, 8a.m.-5p.m., Monday through Friday.

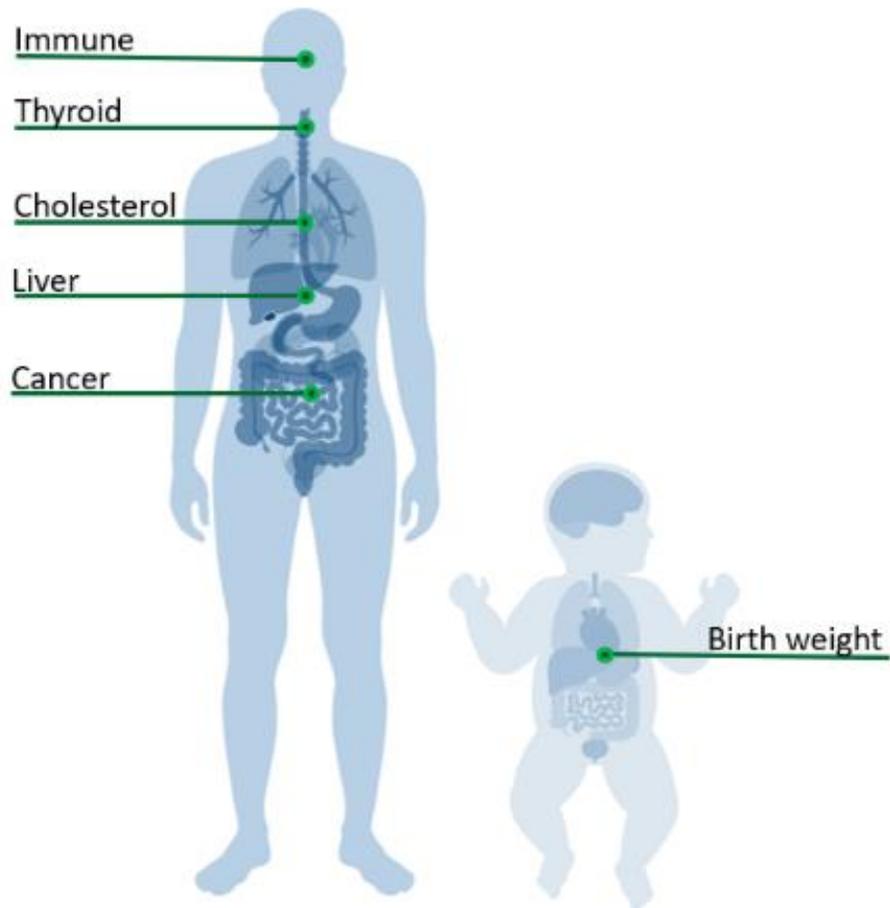


Agenda

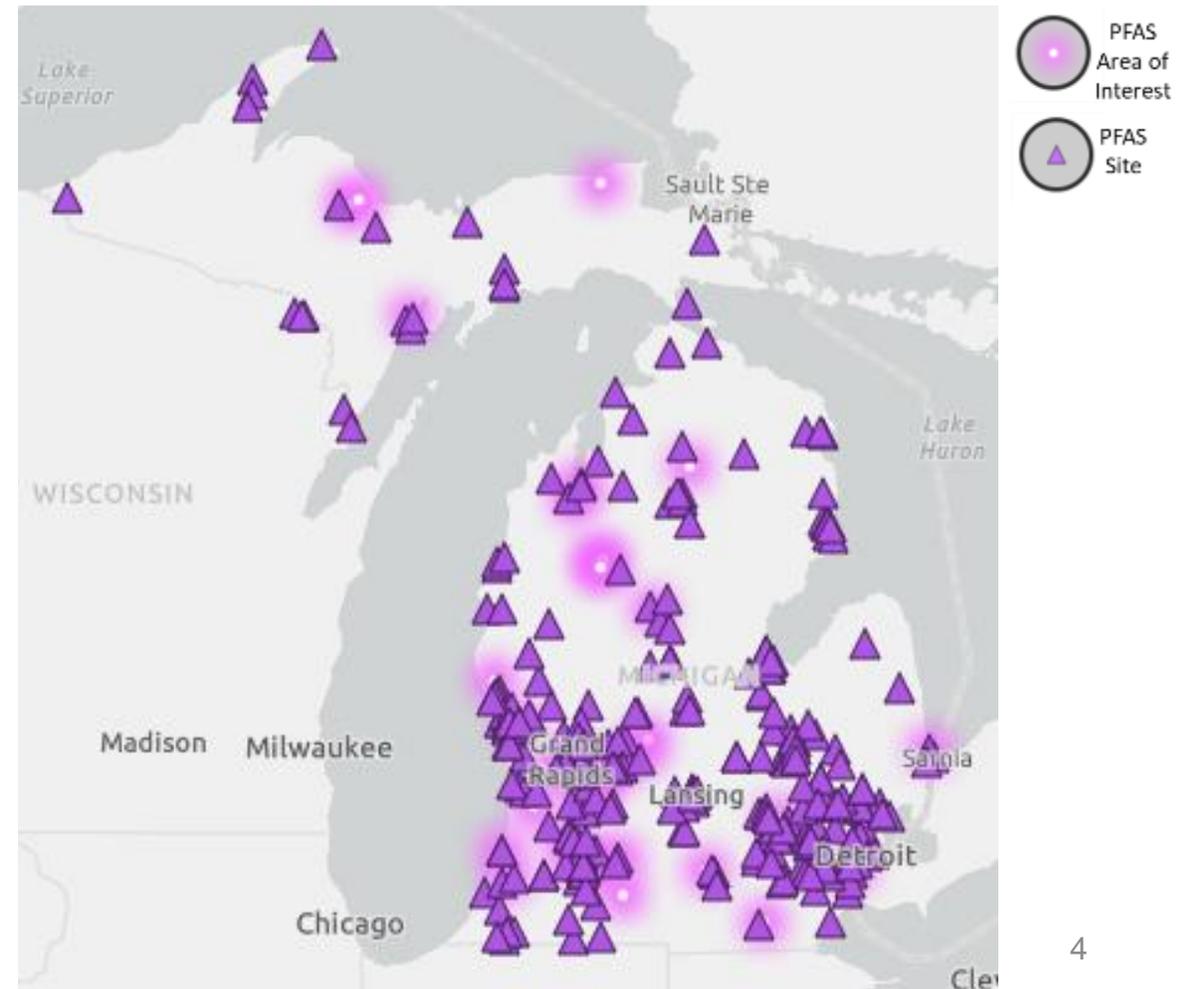
- PFAS: The Public Health Response.
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
- Healthy Homes (Lead Abatement).
- Ending Childhood Lead Exposures.

PFAS in Michigan

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination is a threat to human health.



PFAS contamination is throughout Michigan.



PFAS Health Effects

- Animal studies are used to model what happens in humans:
 - Deliberately fed PFAS.
 - Outcomes occur much more quickly.
 - **Can be** tightly controlled and demonstrate causality.
- Human studies:
 - Longer life span.
 - Unethical to give people PFAS in a study, so observations are based on real-world exposures.
 - Findings are often consistent with the results of animal studies.
 - Exposure to higher levels of PFAS show higher rates of disease.

PFAS Health Effects

- Immune system damage.
- Lower birthweight.
- Pre-term birth.
- Higher cholesterol, increasing risk of heart disease.
- Liver damage.
- Liver cancer.
- Kidney cancer.
- Testicular cancer.
- Pancreatic cancer.
- Thyroid cancer.

Investigating PFAS Exposures

MDHHS collects, analyzes and evaluates thousands of data points each year with the **goal of identifying and preventing ongoing human exposures to PFAS.**



Parchment, Michigan Public Health Investigation



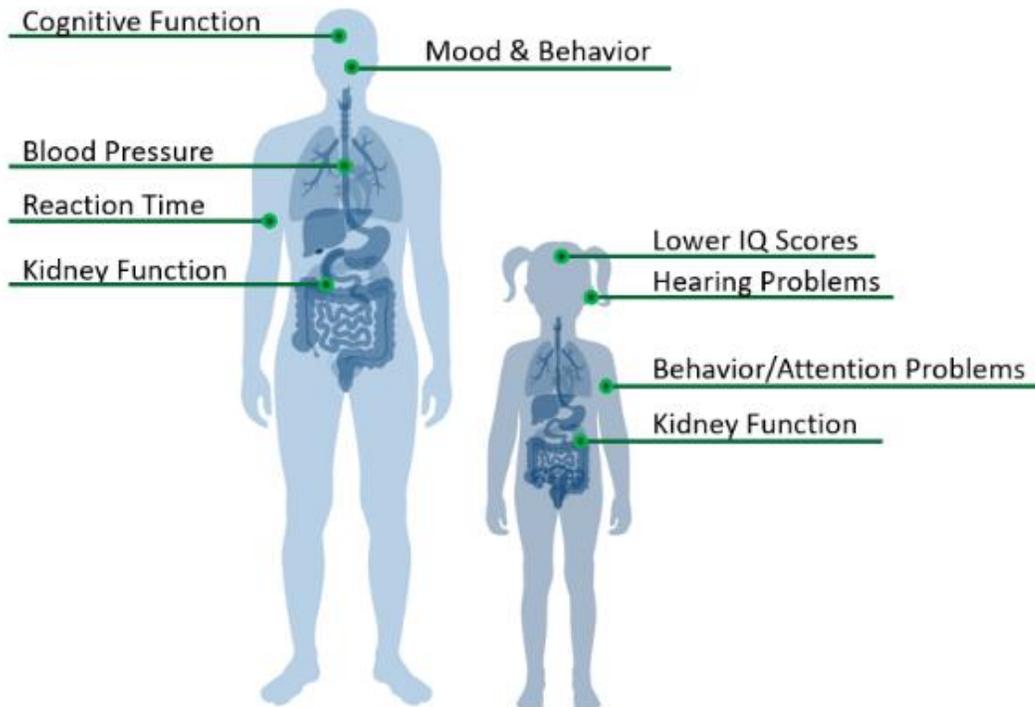
Image: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/07/27/pfas-contamination-water-advisory-parchment/849056002/>



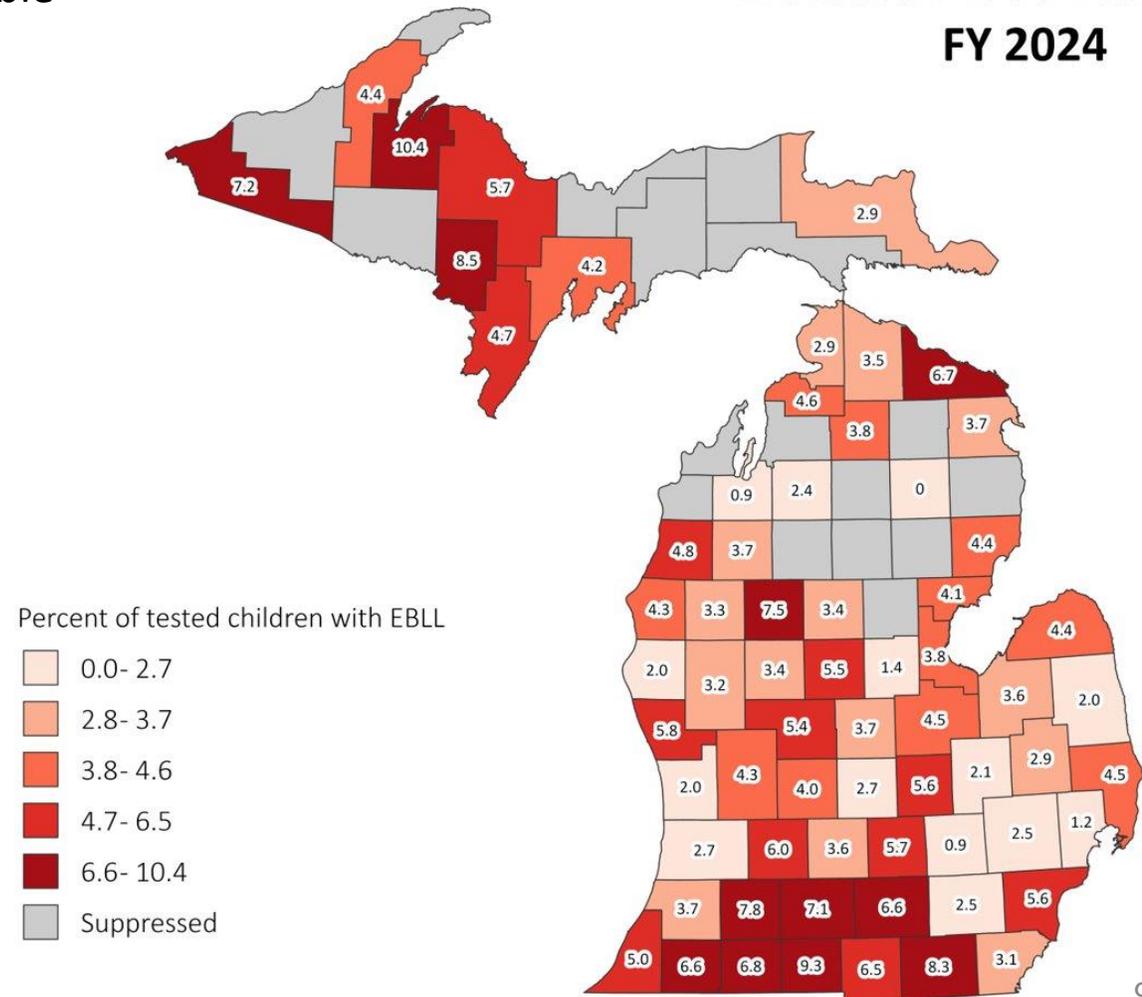
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead is harmful to everyone, but children are most vulnerable as it interferes with nervous system development.

There is no safe level of lead in blood. (CDC)



Elevated Blood Lead Levels FY 2024



Universal Child Blood Lead Testing Law

Michigan Law MCL 333.5474d and amended MCL 333 9206(1):

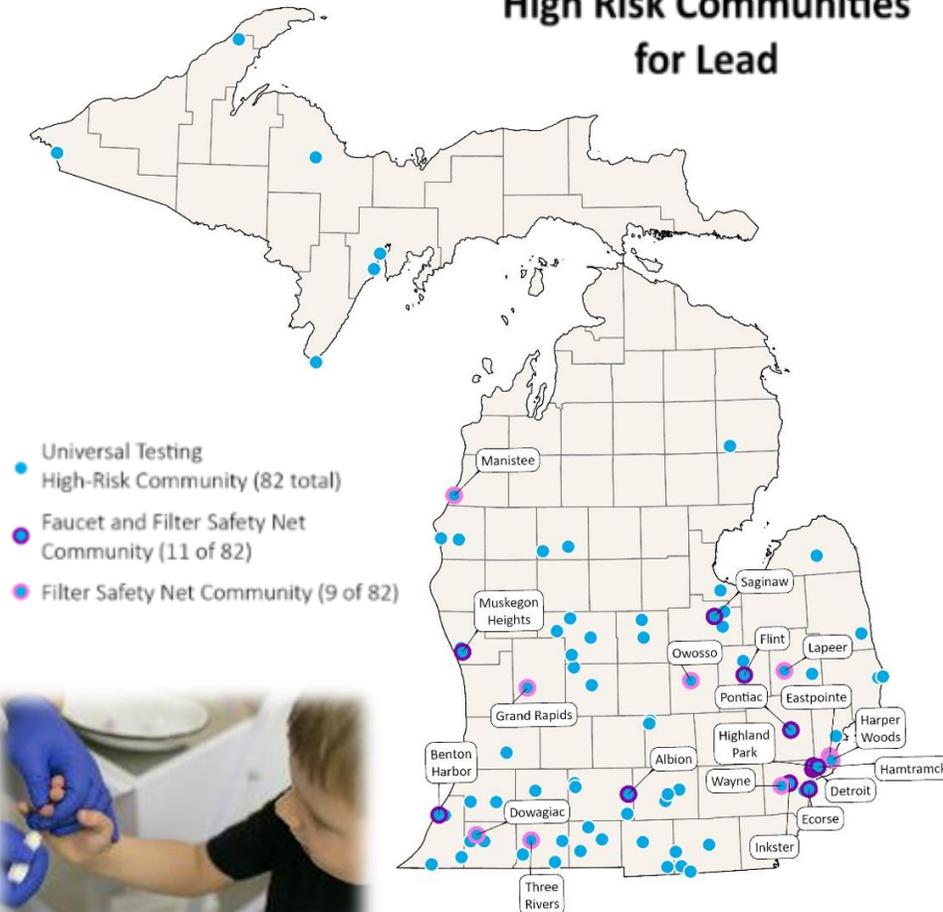
- All children are to be tested at ages **12 months and 24 months**.
- Children are to be tested between **24 months and 72 months**, if their record does not show that they were tested previously.
- Children are to be tested at **age 4** if they live in geographic areas identified as **high-risk** for lead poisoning.

Lead exposure can harm anyone, and is particularly harmful to younger children. Exposure to lead can cause problems with:



There are **82 Michigan communities** identified as **high-risk** for lead exposure to children.

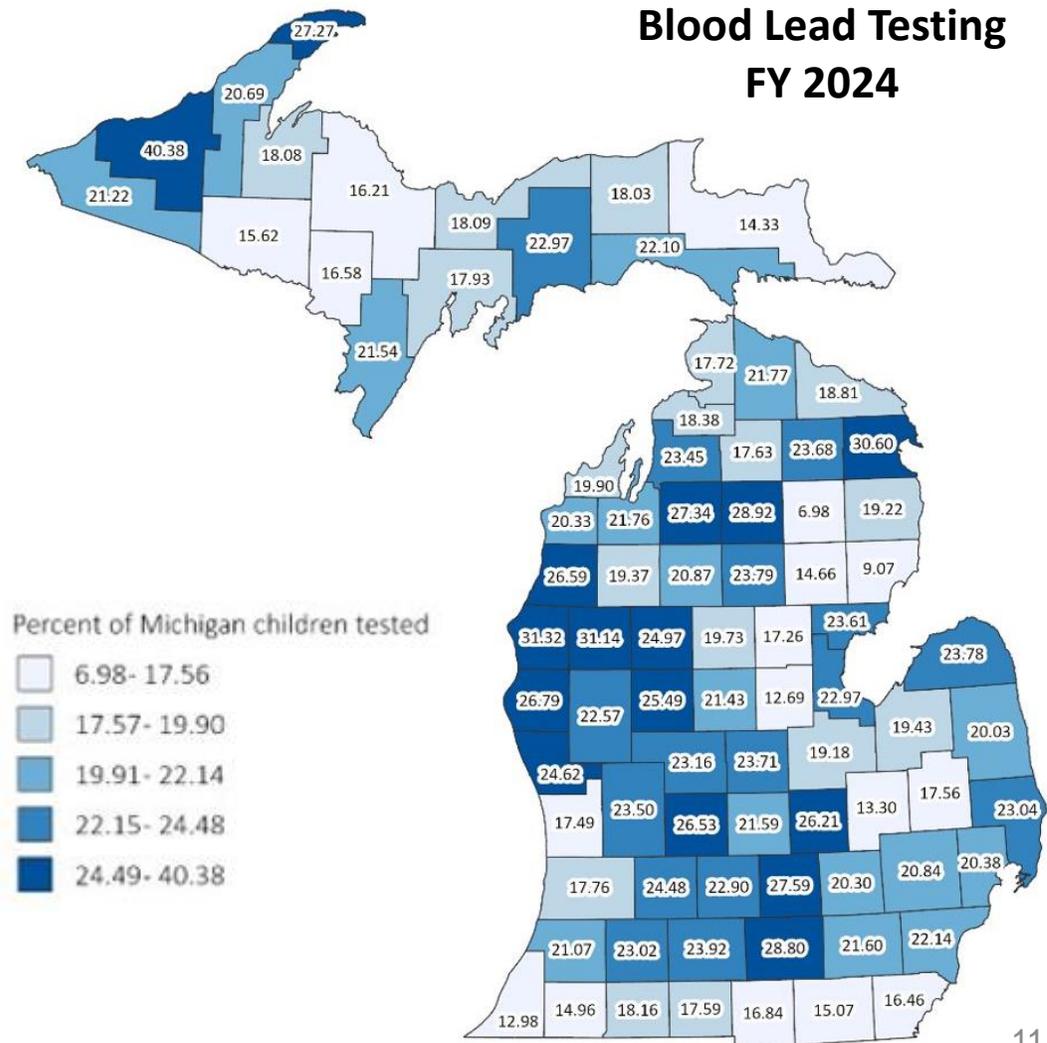
High Risk Communities for Lead



Child Blood Lead Testing

Current Testing Rates

- 141,074 children (21%) under age 6 had a blood lead test in FY24.
- The percentage of children tested differs between counties – ranging from as low as 7% to as high as 40%.
- 5,830 children (4.1%) tested had an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) in FY24.
- Expected outcomes of universal testing:
 - More children tested in every county.
 - More children identified early with lead in their blood.
 - More families provided case management assistance.
 - Healthier children and future generations to come.



Case Management

All children with a venous-confirmed EBLL are eligible for case management.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:

Registered nurse from Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program visits family's home to:

- Educate on exposure prevention and nutrition.
- Assess the child's psychosocial and financial needs.
- Ensure coordination of care with the child's health care team.
- Refer the family for a home lead inspection.
- Support temporary relocation until home can be remediated if child was hospitalized.



Identify and Fix Home Lead Hazards



MDHHS provides assistance to families statewide to find and fix home lead hazards.

- Lead is commonly found in paint, dust, soil and drinking water in pre-1978 homes.
- In FY24:
 - **450** homes inspected for sources of lead exposure.
 - **349** homes were abated of lead hazards.
 - **800** children residing in these homes were protected from lead hazards.

MDHHS certifies professionals in lead abatement.

- **1,936** certified professionals in FY24.

Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning



- Educate statewide.
 - Lead is an invisible threat.
 - Get Ahead of Lead and statewide filter recommendation.
- Filter Safety Net.
 - High-risk lead communities.
 - Medicaid with child or pregnant person.
 - High-risk of lead in drinking water.
- Home lead inspections to identify the lead hazard.
- Home lead abatement to fix the lead hazard.



Michigan child whose home was made lead-safe by MDHHS. Photograph used with written authorization from parent to MDHHS.

Questions & Discussion



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