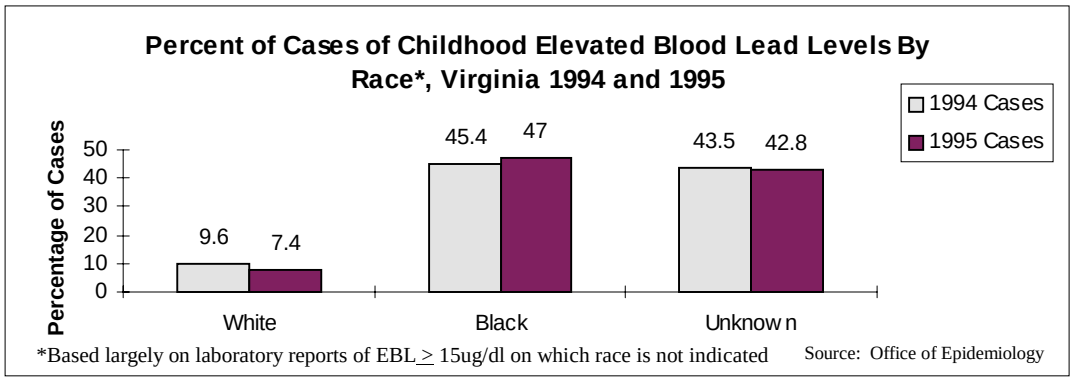
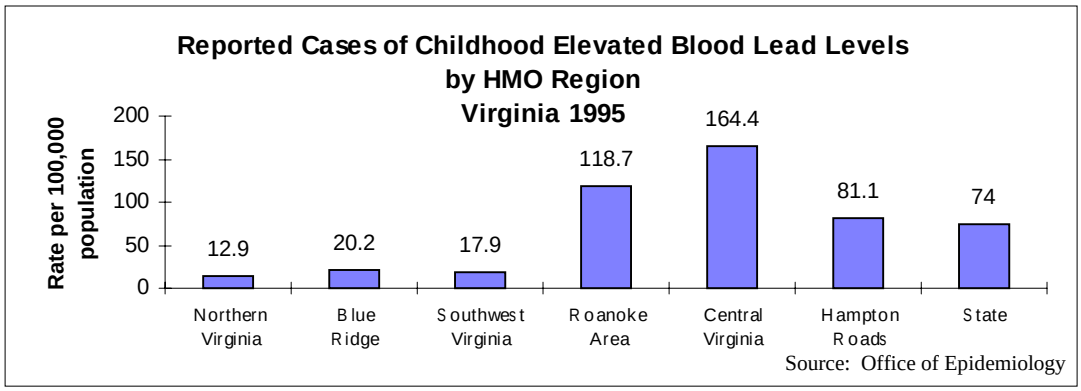
Lead Poisoning

Objective: *Reduce the incidence of children ages nine years and younger with blood lead levels exceeding 15µg/dl to 13 per 100,000.*

Concern about the health effects of environmental contaminants is at an all-time high. Of particular interest is lead poisoning, one of the most preventable childhood health problems because lead sources in a child's environment can be identified and removed. Even so, it is estimated that 25,000 children under six years of age are lead poisoned in Virginia, i.e., they have an elevated blood lead level (EBL) at or above 10 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dl). Virginia's poor inner-city children, most of whom are minorities, are especially vulnerable because of the presence of lead-based paint in many older dwellings. Childhood lead poisoning has been associated with increased risk of attention deficit disorder, developmental delays, reduced educational attainment and lifelong income levels, as well as increased risk for juvenile delinquency. Childhood lead poisoning prevention is a cost-effective public health program, avoiding $4 in special education and medical costs for every dollar spent on an array of educational, clinical and environmental interventions.





Lead Poisoning Rate* for Children Age 0-9 Years by Health District, Virginia 1995

FIRST QUARTILE	Loudoun	0.0
	Fairfax	2.4
	Lord Fairfax	3.8
	Virginia Beach	6.8
	Lenowisco	8.8
	Prince William	13.9
	Mount Rogers	14.4
	Chesterfield	16.6
	Central Shenandoah	17.5
SECOND QUARTILE	New River	18.3
	Southside	19.2
	Rappahannock/Rapidan	21.8
	Chesapeake	23.6
	Cumberland Plateau	25.7
	West Piedmont	30.8
	Rappahannock	35.1
	Three Rivers	36.7
	Thomas Jefferson	38.5
THIRD QUARTILE	Alexandria	44.6
	Arlington	46.5
	Hampton	47.8
	Western Tidewater	50.6
	Peninsula	51.8
	Henrico	55.8
	Alleghany	59.9
	Hanover	77.1
	Piedmont	80.8
FOURTH QUARTILE	Central Virginia**	133.1
	Norfolk**	213.4
	Pittsylvania/Danville	220.9
	Portsmouth**	260.5
	Crater**	401.8
	Roanoke	433.2
	Eastern Shore	546.6
	Richmond**	583.1

Virginia 2000 Objective

13.0 per 100,000

Virginia Rate 1995

74.0 per 100,000

*Rates per 100,000 children age 0-9 reported with blood lead levels $\geq$ 15 ug/dl

**Recipients of federal funds for lead poisoning prevention programs; these districts have increased screening levels.