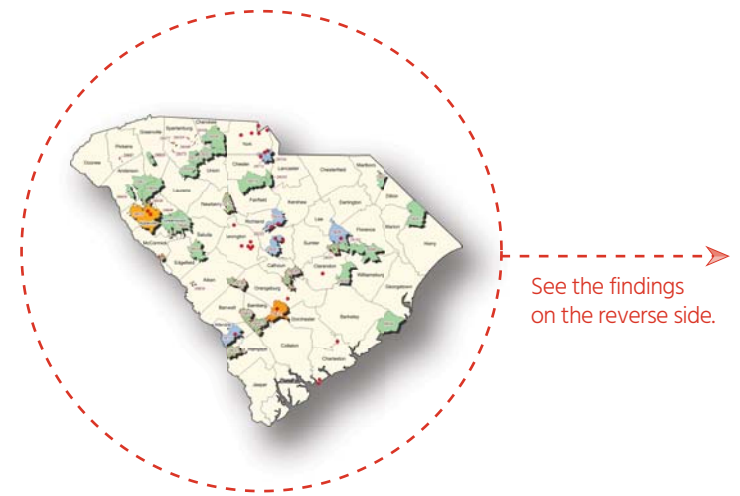


Is Potential Lead Exposure Being Missed in Children Near You?



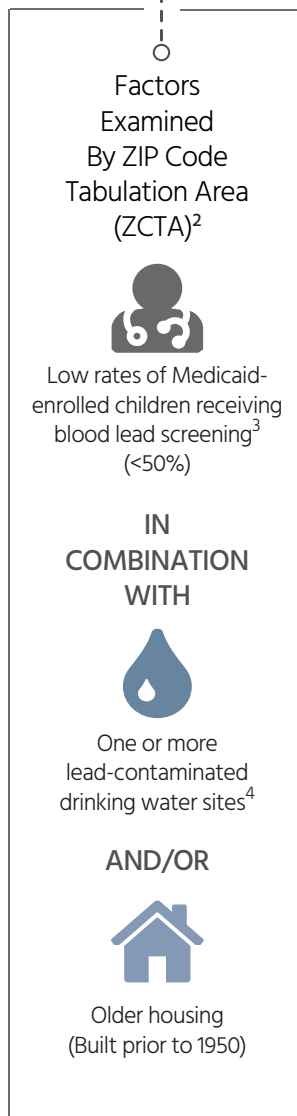
KNOWN RISKS

-  Living with a parent who works with lead
-  Local drinking water contamination
-  Exposure to lead-based paint, common in older housing
-  Proximity to lead mines and smelting sites

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) advises state and local public health authorities to target screening toward groups of children at increased risk for elevated BLLs.

South Carolina Medicaid covers blood lead screening to measure BLLs among child enrollees. It is typically performed at or before the age of 2 years.

In 2014 only 47% of eligible SC Medicaid-enrolled children received a blood lead screening.¹ This rate places South Carolina in the 10th percentile nationally compared to other state Medicaid programs (National 50th percentile for blood lead screening=71%).



Lead is a toxic heavy metal. Even low blood lead levels (BLLs) in children can cause neurological disorders, developmental delays, behavioral problems, and poor school performance.

Focused screening in areas at increased risk for lead exposure can identify those with elevated BLLs,⁵ as well as help find and eliminate specific exposure hazards.

To help inform blood lead screening among at-risk Medicaid-enrolled children in South Carolina, the University of South Carolina's Institute for Families in Society, Division of Medicaid Policy Research, used geographic information system (GIS) technology to identify local communities with:

Low Medicaid blood lead screening rates³ (< 50%), **AND** Increased lead exposure risk, defined as:

- One or more lead-contaminated drinking water sites, **AND/OR**
- Greater than 15% of housing units built prior to 1950.⁶

See the reverse side for a map of the findings.

SOURCES & NOTES

- 1 SC MMIS, CY2014 HEDIS Quality Measures.
- 2 ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are geographic approximations of USPS ZIP Code Service Areas.
- 3 Blood lead screening rates represent Medicaid-enrolled children 2 years of age.
- 4 Mapped sites represent drinking water systems with elevated lead levels in the time period 2011 to 2015 as measured by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Point locations do not indicate the geographic extent of drinking water systems.
- 5 CDC. Recommendations for blood lead screening of Medicaid-eligible children aged 1-5 years: an updated approach to targeting a group at high risk. MMWR 2009;58(No. RR-9).
- 6 Statewide, 8% of housing units were built prior to 1950.

Photo source: <https://flickr/p/w13BvG>; Used and adapted under a Creative Commons License.

Developed by the Division of Medicaid Policy Research at the USC Institute for Families in Society April 2016








Is Potential **Lead Exposure** Being Missed in Children Near You?

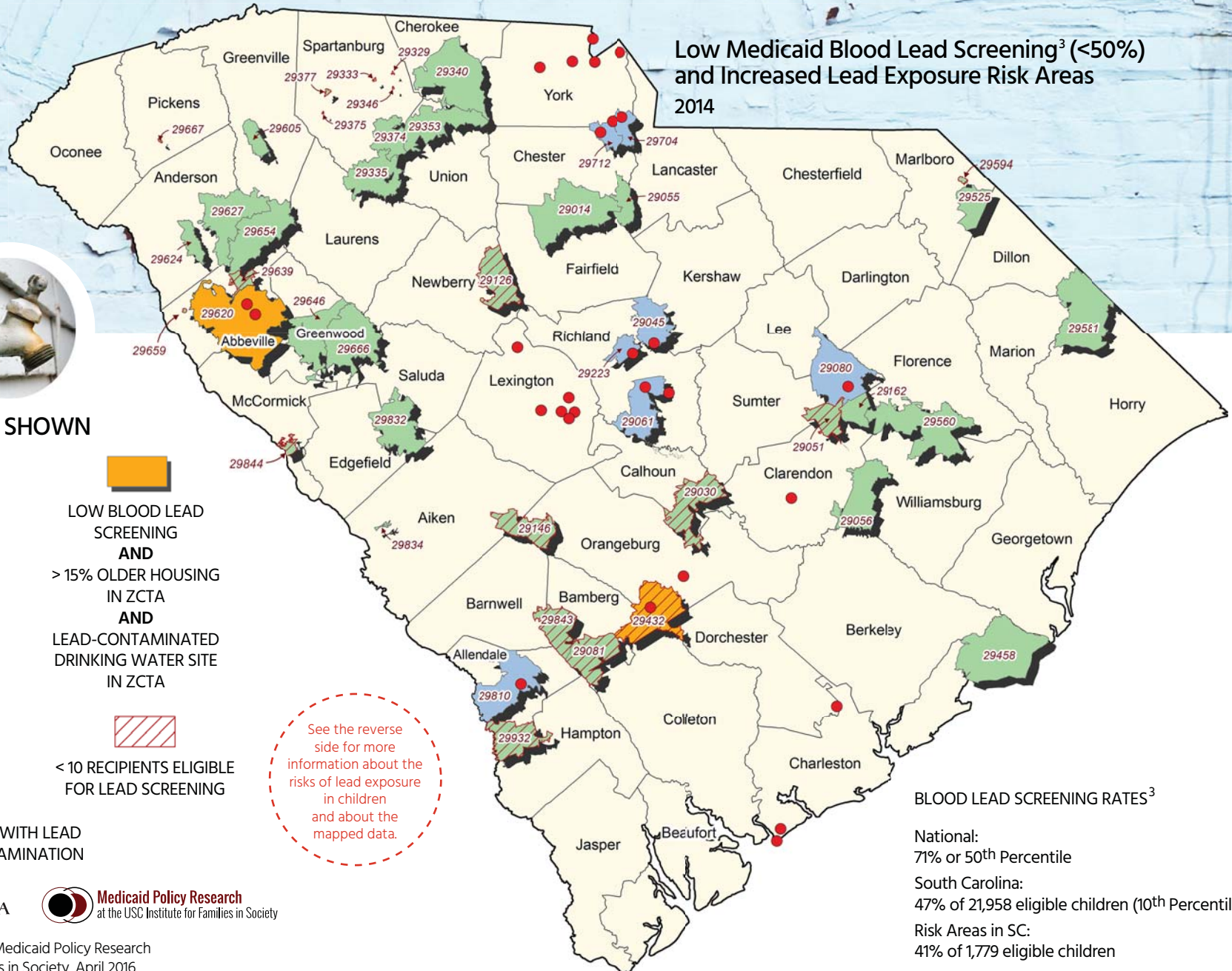
Low Medicaid Blood Lead Screening³ (<50%) and Increased Lead Exposure Risk Areas 2014



AREAS SHOWN

-  LOW BLOOD LEAD SCREENING AND > 15% OLDER HOUSING IN ZCTA
-  LOW BLOOD LEAD SCREENING AND > 15% OLDER HOUSING IN ZCTA AND LEAD-CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER SITE IN ZCTA
-  LOW BLOOD LEAD SCREENING AND LEAD-CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER SITE IN ZCTA
-  < 10 RECIPIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR LEAD SCREENING
-  SITES WITH LEAD CONTAMINATION

See the reverse side for more information about the risks of lead exposure in children and about the mapped data.



BLOOD LEAD SCREENING RATES³

National:
71% or 50th Percentile
South Carolina:
47% of 21,958 eligible children (10th Percentile)
Risk Areas in SC:
41% of 1,779 eligible children

