ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Head Start

Office of Child Care
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) – Joint Training –

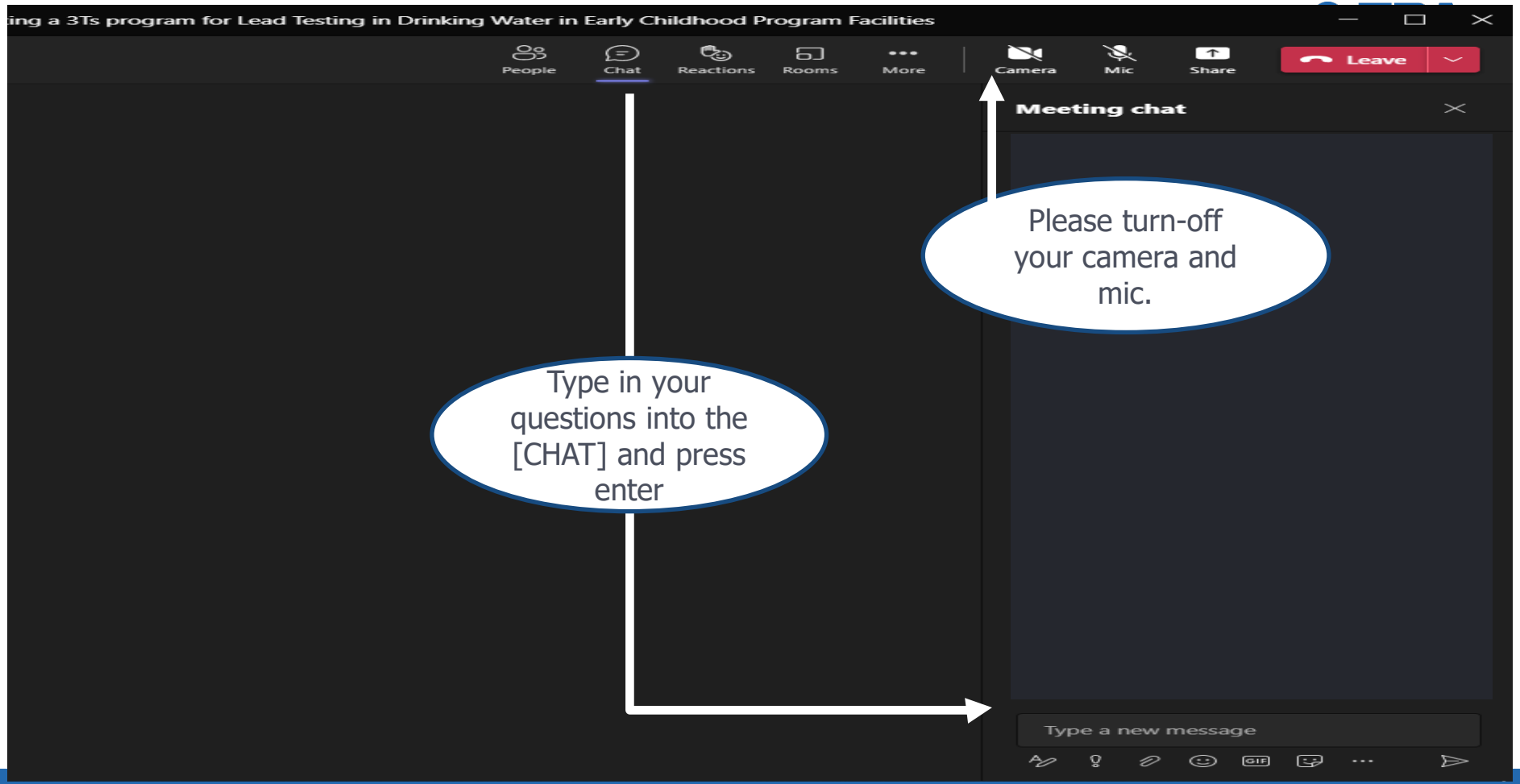
EPA
OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

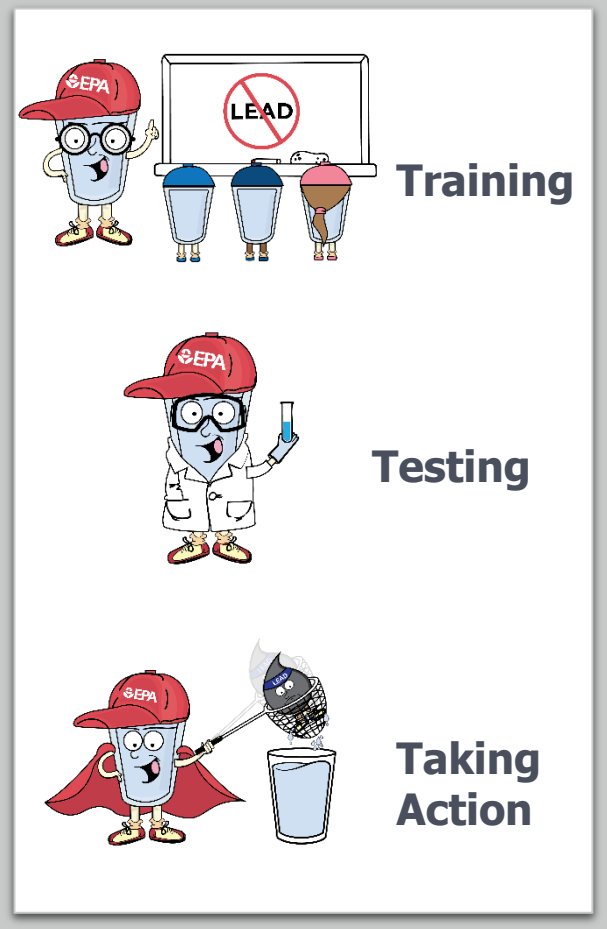
Part 1 of 3 - TRAINING: Implementing a 3Ts program for Lead Testing in Drinking Water in Early Childhood Program Facilities

June 14, 2022 || 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Hosted by the US EPA Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

Microsoft Teams Orientation





3-Part Joint Training Series

EPA OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

June 14, 2022 (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET)

- **Part 1 -- Training**: Implementing a 3Ts program for Lead Testing in Drinking Water in Child Care and Early Childhood Facilities.

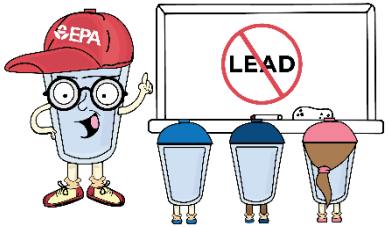
June 23, 2022 (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET)

- **Part 2 -- Testing**: Implementing a 3Ts program for Collecting Lead Samples in Drinking Water in Child Care and Early Childhood Facilities.

July 14, 2022 (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET)

- **Part 3 -- Taking Action**: Implementing a 3Ts program for Reducing Lead Exposure in Drinking Water in Child Care and Early Childhood Facilities.

Agenda – Part 1



Training: Implementing a 3Ts program for Lead Testing in Child Care Facilities

- ❑ Introduction and Background (15 mins.)
- ❑ Case Study – North Carolina Lead Testing Program (15 mins.)
- ❑ U.S. EPA 3Ts - Program and Grant Funding (15 mins.)
- ❑ U.S. HHS/Office of Head Start - Program and Funding (10 mins.)
- ❑ U.S. HHS/Office of Child Care - Program and Funding (10 mins.)
- ❑ Building Your Plan with 3Ts eBuilder (15 mins.)
- ❑ Q&A (10 mins.)

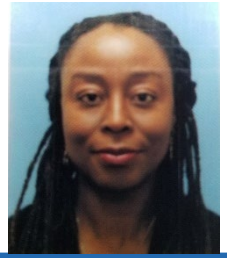
Presenters: EPA and HHS

Cindy Mack

Environmental Health Scientist

Program Manager, 3Ts on Reducing Lead Levels in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/ Office of Water/Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Washington, DC.



Ying Tan

Physical Scientist

Program Lead, EPA Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) Grant program Lead.

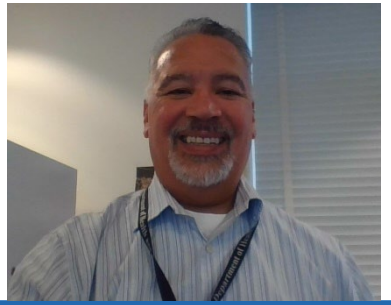
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/ Office of Water/Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Washington, DC

Dr. Marco Beltran

Senior Head Start Program Specialist

U.S. Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/ Office of Head Start,

Washington, DC



Presenters: North Carolina Lead Testing Program

Ed Norman
MPH

Program Manager, Environmental Health Section, North Carolina Division of Public Health

Jennifer Redmon
MSES, MPA, CHMM

Director, Environmental Health and Water Quality Program Director, Clean Water for Carolina Kids RTI International, Durham, North Carolina

Melanie Napier
MSPH PhD

Public Health Epidemiologist,
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Children's Environmental Health
NC Division of Public Health
NC Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh, NC

U.S. EPA
Background
[Presenter: Cindy Mack]

OFFICE OF GROUND WATER
AND DRINKING WATER


THE WHITE HOUSE

BRIEFING ROOM

The Path to Achieving Justice40

JULY 20, 2021 • BLOGS

By Shalanda Young, Brenda Mallory, and Gina McCarthy

President Biden has made historic commitments to use every lever at his disposal to advance environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities. And within his first weeks in office, he established the Justice40 Initiative.

Justice 40 and Water Infrastructure

- The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC) are **collectively leading environmental justice efforts across the Federal government**, which includes Justice 40.
- EPA is actively supporting the Justice40 Initiative from a whole-of-government approach to deliver:
  - At least 40% of the overall benefits from certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities.
    - **The goal of 40% is overarching for the entire federal government, not specific to EPA**
    - It's a government-wide initiative looking at federal investments in the areas of:
      - clean energy and energy efficiency
      - clean transit
      - affordable and sustainable housing
      - training and workforce development
      - the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
      - **the development of critical clean water infrastructure**

JUSTICE 40

"Every person in the United States has the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthier life no matter how much money they have in their pockets, the color of their skin or their zip code."

EPA ADMIN. MICHAEL REGAN

PHOTO: CAROLINE BREHMAN/CQ ROLL CALL/BLOOMBERG

THIS IS AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OVERBURDENED AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK AND WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR STRATEGIC PLAN MAKES SENSE, SHOWS ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ACHIEVES CLEAR IMPROVEMENTS ON THE GROUND.

3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

Memorandum of Understanding - Partners -

EPA OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water

1. U.S. Depart. of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency
2. U.S. Depart. of Education
3. U.S. Depart. of Health and Human Services, Agency for Children and Families' Office of Head Start and Office of Early Childhood Development
4. U.S. Depart. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
5. U.S. Depart. of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service
6. U.S. Depart. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education
7. American Water Works Association
8. American School Health Association
9. Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
10. Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
11. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
12. National Association of Water Companies
13. National Rural Water Association
14. Rural Community Assistance Partnership
15. United South and Eastern Tribes

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

What are the Sources of Lead?


Lead-based paint


In the soil


In the air


In consumer products

Sources of lead exposure include the lead industry, lead-based paint (e.g., paint chips or dust), lead in water, lead in the air, lead in soil, and lead in consumer products and food.

Lead in Drinking Water

- Lead gets into drinking water as it comes into contact with plumbing materials containing lead.
    - Interior lead pipe and lead solder (commonly used until 1988)
    - brass fittings, valves
    - various drinking water outlets (e.g., water fountains and faucets)

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"Even when water entering a facility meets all federal and state public health standards for lead, older plumbing materials in schools and child care facilities may contribute to elevated levels lead in their drinking water."

How is Lead Regulated in Drinking Water?

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- EPA does not have the authority to regulate schools and child care facilities, unless it is a PWS.
- EPA regulates Public Water Systems (PWSs) – Safe Drinking Water Act.
- **EPA provides funding and the 3Ts program to voluntarily test and remediate lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities.**

1986 - The Lead Ban: A requirement that only "lead-free" materials be used in new plumbing and in plumbing repairs.

1988 - The Lead Contamination Control Act: The LCCA aimed at the identification and reduction of lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities, including the recall of drinking water coolers with lead lined tanks.

1991 - The Lead and Copper Rule: A regulation by EPA to control the amount of lead and copper in water supplied by public water systems.

2011 - The Reduction Of Lead In Drinking Water Act: This act further reduces lead and redefines "lead-free" under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

2011 - State Laws: Some states, tribes and local jurisdictions have established regulations for schools and child care facilities.

The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (2021): For the first time, requiring PWSs to test schools and child care facilities facilities in their customer base.

Why Child Care and Early Childhood Facilities May Have Unique Challenges

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- Serving a vulnerable population
- Intermittent water use patterns
- Not federally required
- Older plumbing

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Case-Study North Carolina Lead Testing Program

Presenters

Ed Norman | Jennifer Redmon | Dr. Melanie Napier

Clean Water for Carolina Kids

North Carolina's Lead Testing Program

Melanie Napier, MSPH, PhD, Public Health Epidemiologist, Environmental Health Section, **North Carolina Division of Public Health**

Jennifer Hoponick Redmon, MSES, MPA, CHMM, Senior Environmental Health Scientist, Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program Director, **RTI International**

Ed Norman, MPH, Program Manager, Environmental Health Section, **North Carolina Division of Public Health**

delivering the promise of science for global good

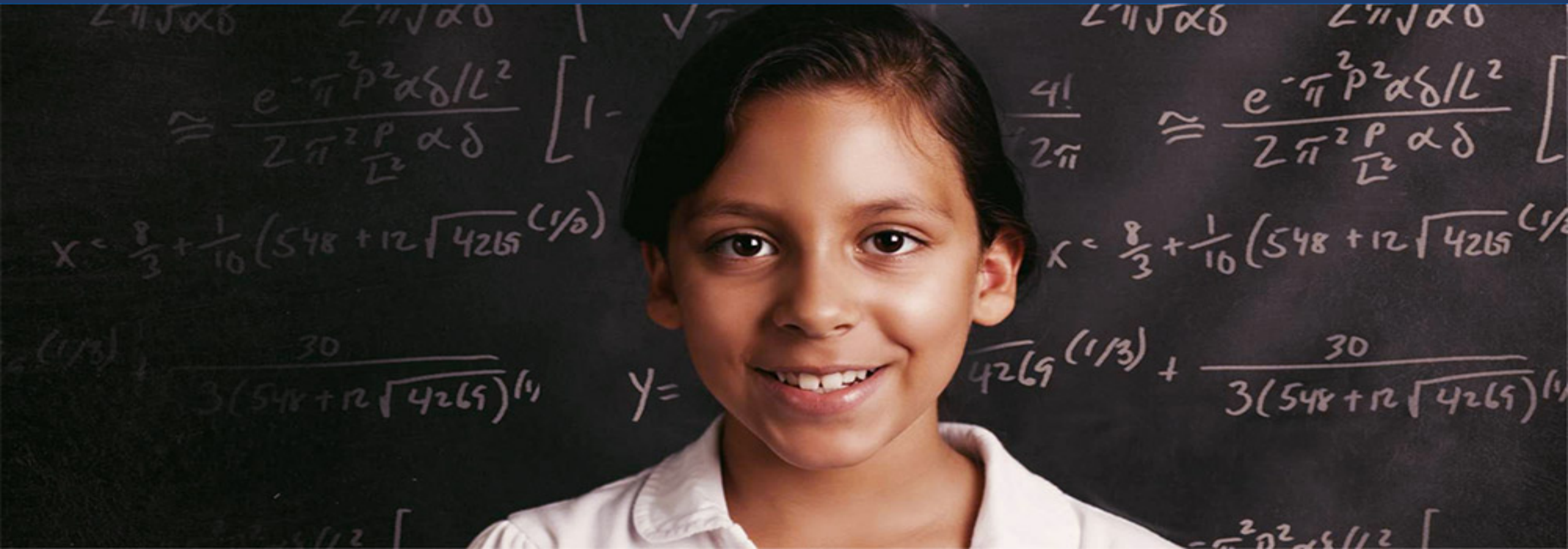
RTI INTERNATIONAL

NCPH North Carolina Public Health

Presentation Overview

Overview

Our mission is to identify and eliminate lead in drinking and cooking water where North Carolina children learn and play.



WIIN-Grant Testing Schedule

June 2020 to September 2021:
Licensed Childcare Centers
(~4,300/4,400 statewide; 98% complete)

October 2021 – September 2022:
Remaining licensed centers (~200)
and new centers

October 2021 – September 2022:
Family child care homes (~1,350)

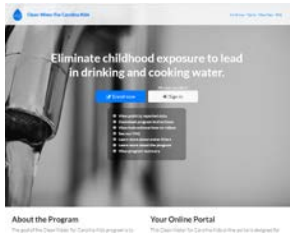
Next FY period:
Retesting licensed centers with one or more elevated taps, Head Starts, or centers on well water

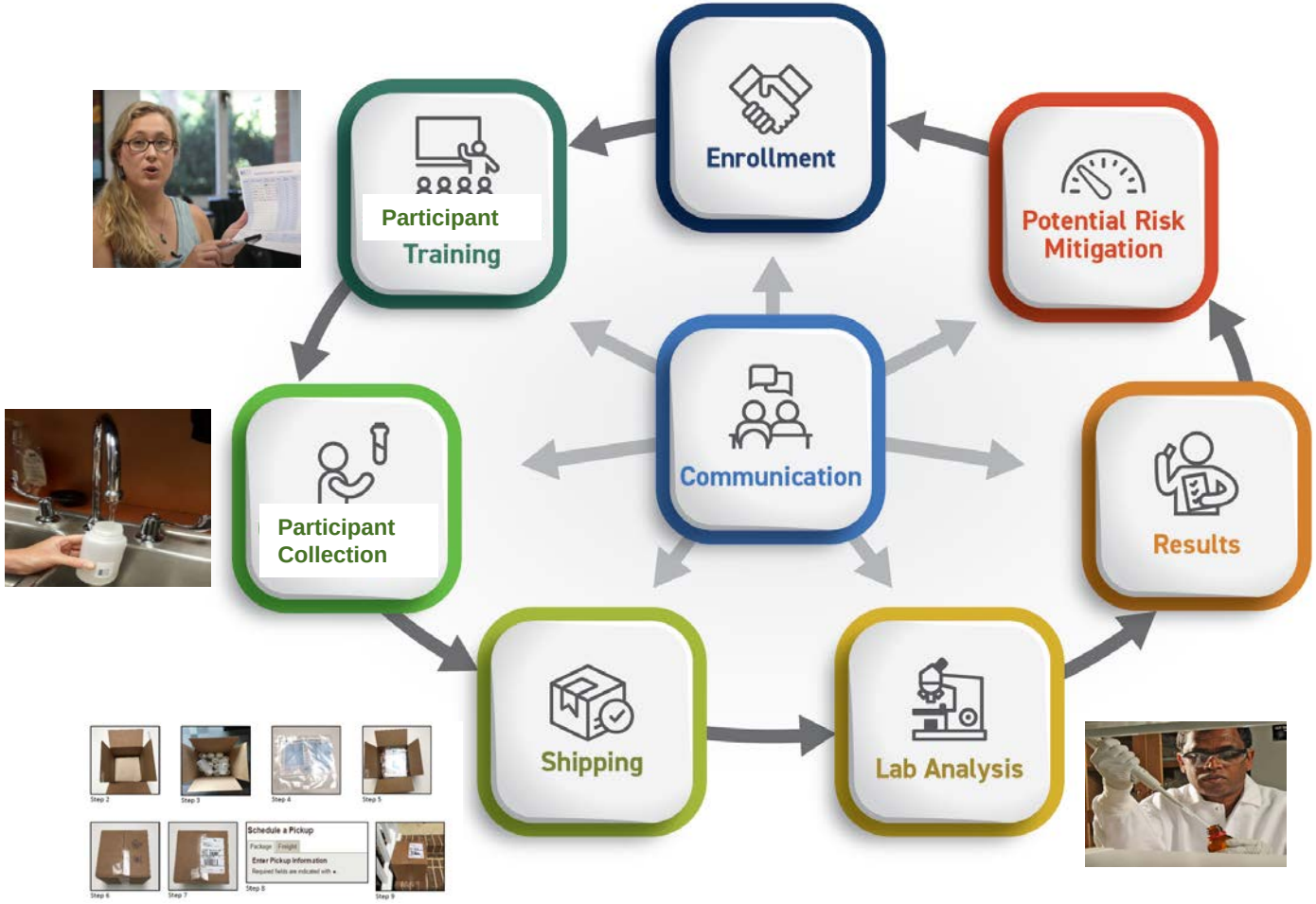
Our Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program

We virtually walk participants through the process with training support, a mail out test kit, laboratory analysis, and our online enrollment, reporting, and communication portal.

Clean Water for Carolina Kids

Our approach





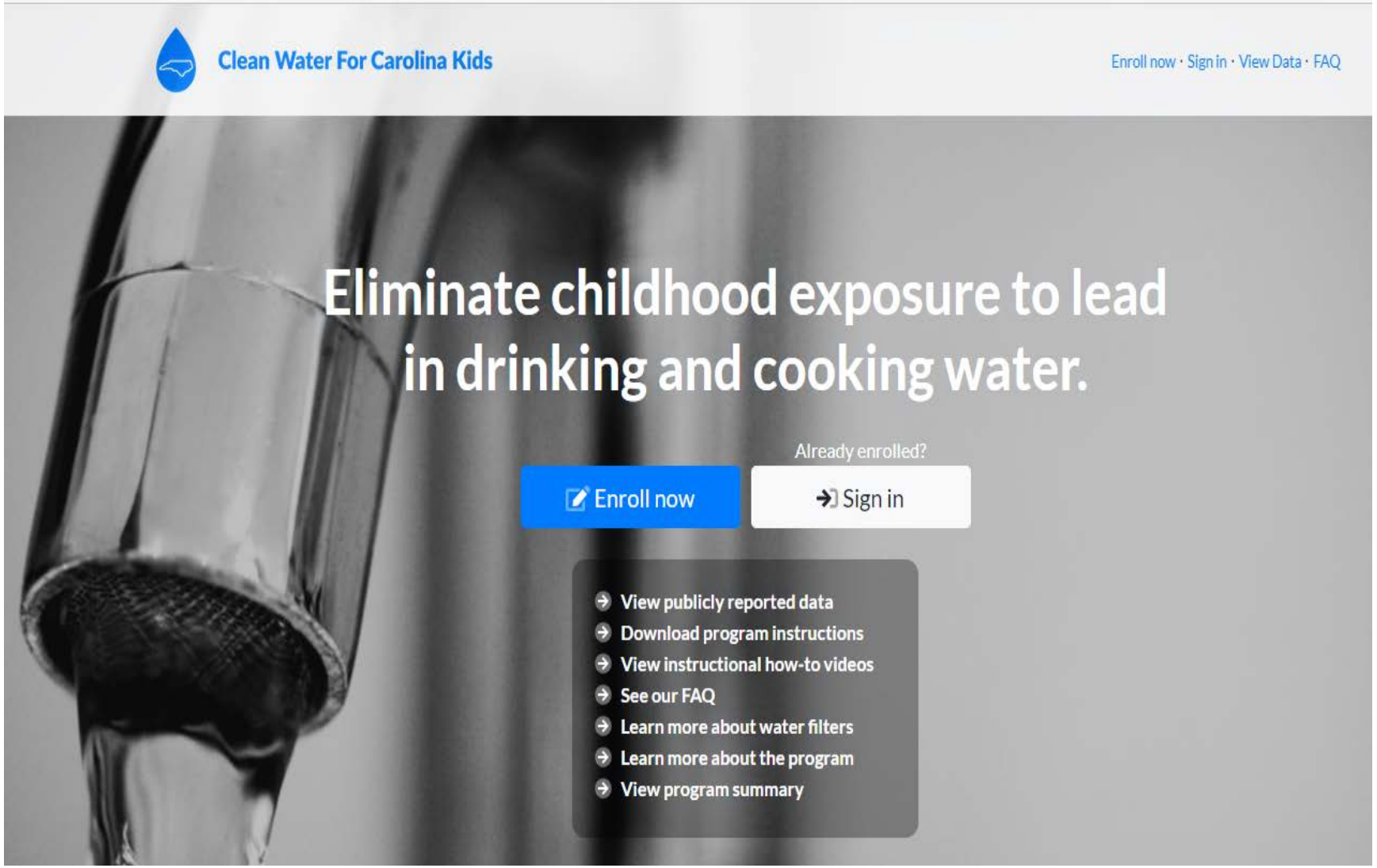
Pre-enrollment webinar:

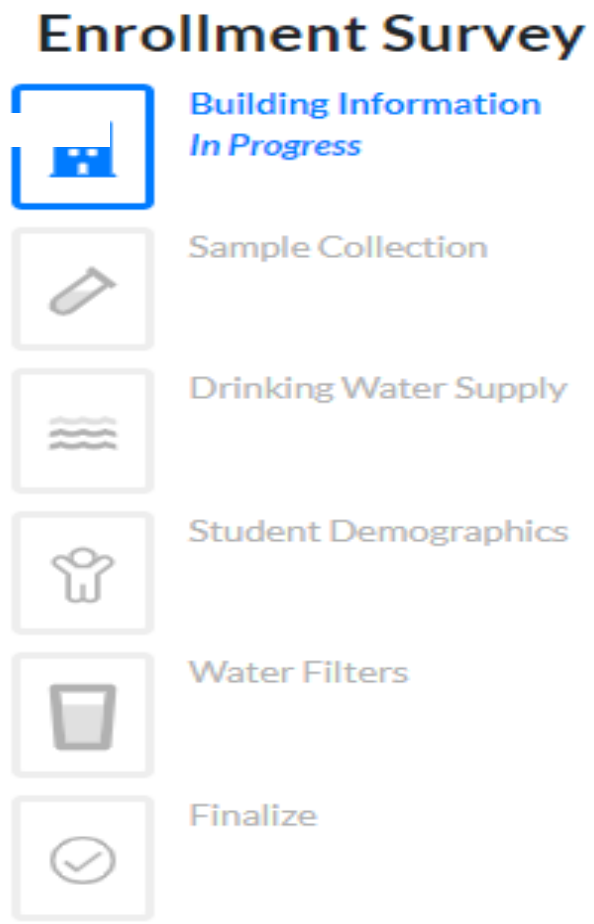
How to enroll

How to sample

How to ship samples

Enrollment





https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org

The mail-out test kit is on the way!


Step 2


Step 3


Step 4


Step 5

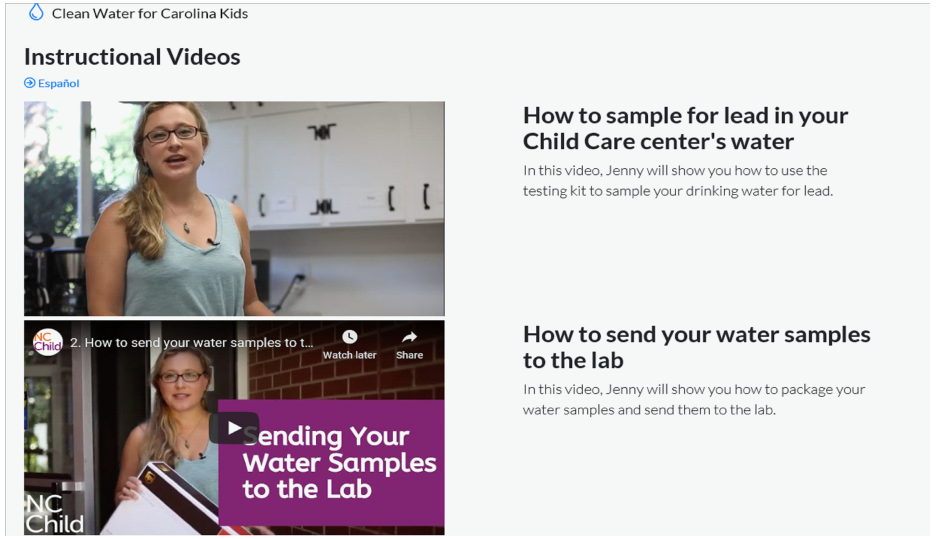

Step 6


Step 7

Step 8

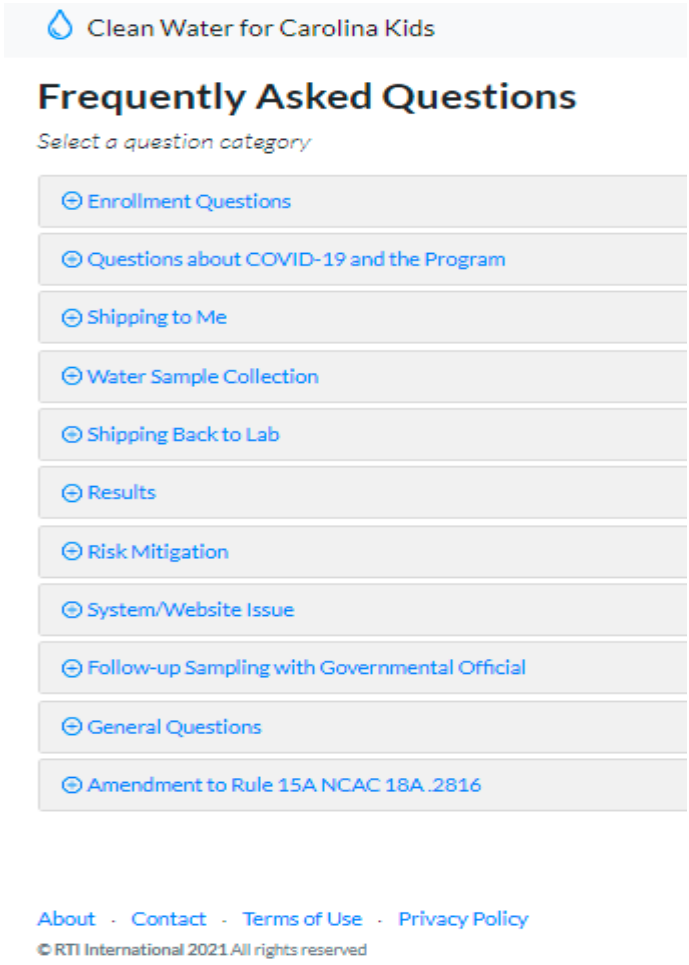

Step 9

On demand how-to videos

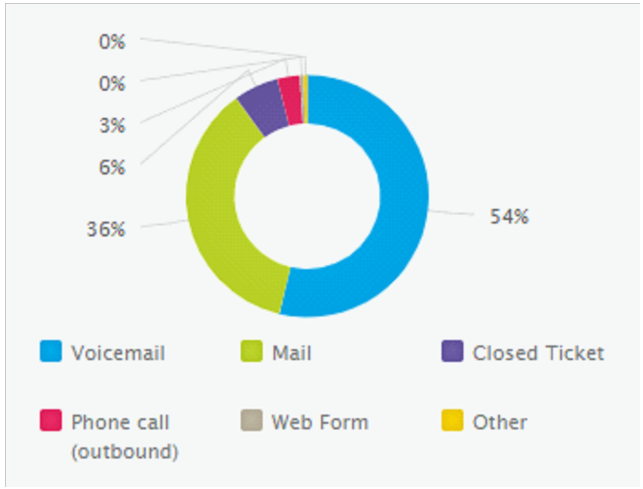


https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/howto

Support – FAQ, Contact Us by Email and Phone, and Webinars

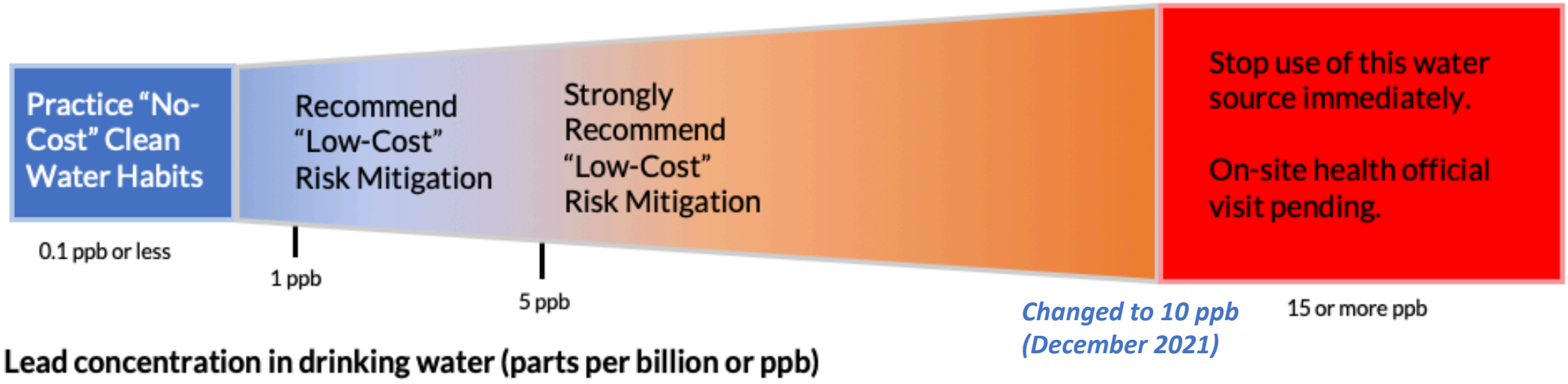


https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/faq



https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/contact

What do my results mean?



Understanding the results of your water tests

In this video, Jenny will help you understand your test results. If the lab finds lead in your water, you have options about what to do. Jenny will walk you through those options.

www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids/howto

No Cost Clean Water Habits Include:

Designate taps for drinking and cooking with proper signage.

Use only cold water for drinking or cooking. Don't start using hot water, even if you're going to boil it.

www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/howto

https://www.rti.org/brochures/water-filters-certified-remove-lead-drinking-water-and-cooking-water-clean-water-carolina

Low Cost Risk Mitigation Includes:

Fixing a clog

Flushing water regularly

Faucet fixture replacement

Install and maintain a water filter that is *certified to remove lead*

Install a bottle filling water fountain with built-in filter

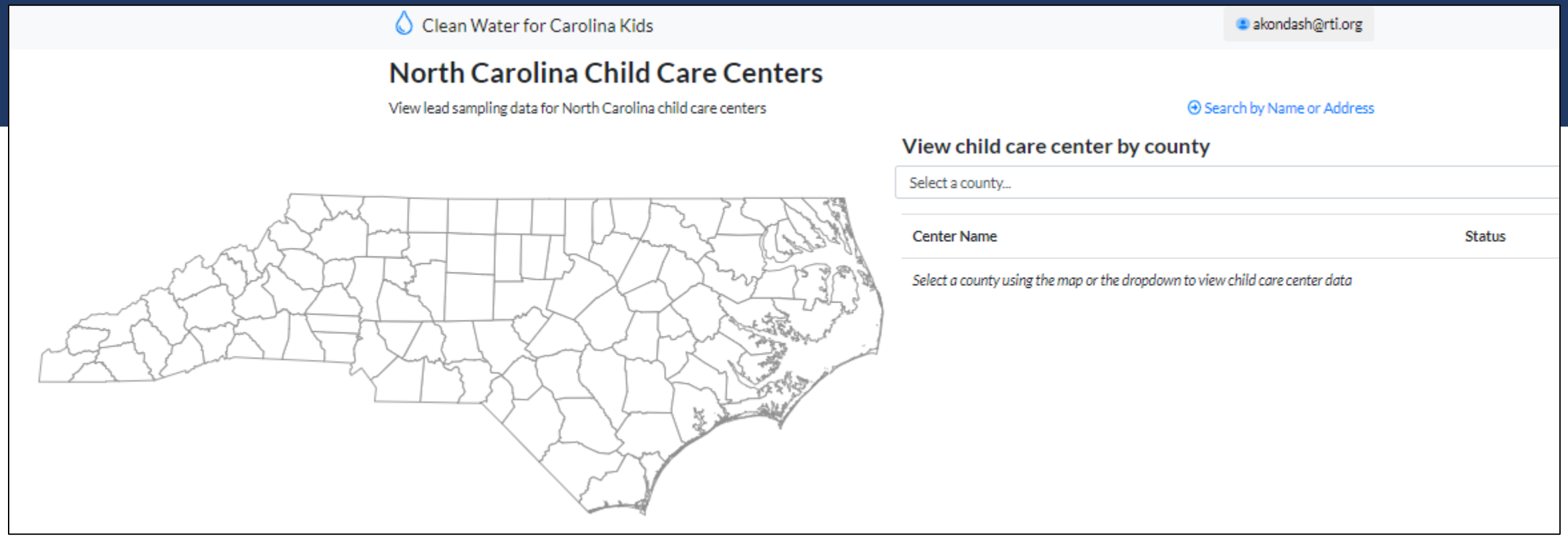
In limited cases, more costly lead service line replacement may be needed

https://www.rti.org/brochures/clean-water-carolina-kids-information-lead-drinking-water

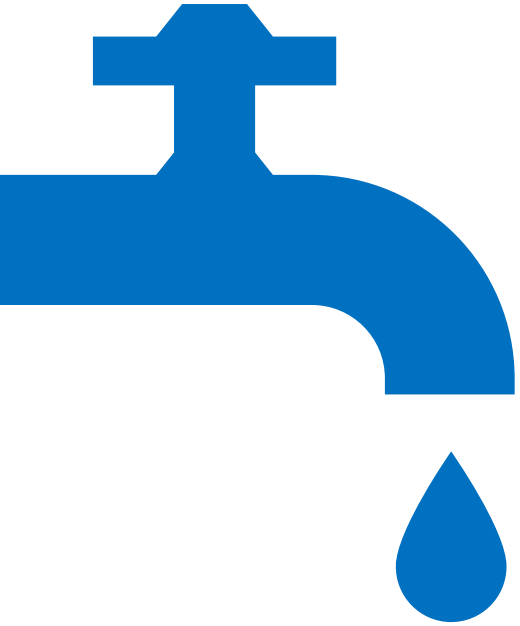
https://www.rti.org/brochures/water-filters-certified-remove-lead-drinking-water-and-cooking-water-clean-water-carolina

Results Reporting

- You can check here: https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/data
- Type in your address or name, or look by county
- See results by tap along with risk mitigation actions to get the lead out
- Supports transparency throughout the process



Our Findings



Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program Trends

July 2020 through April 2022

ENROLLMENT

- Enrolled 4,364 licensed NC centers
- 4,193 centers completed testing
- Tested 23,737 validated samples

https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/programsummary

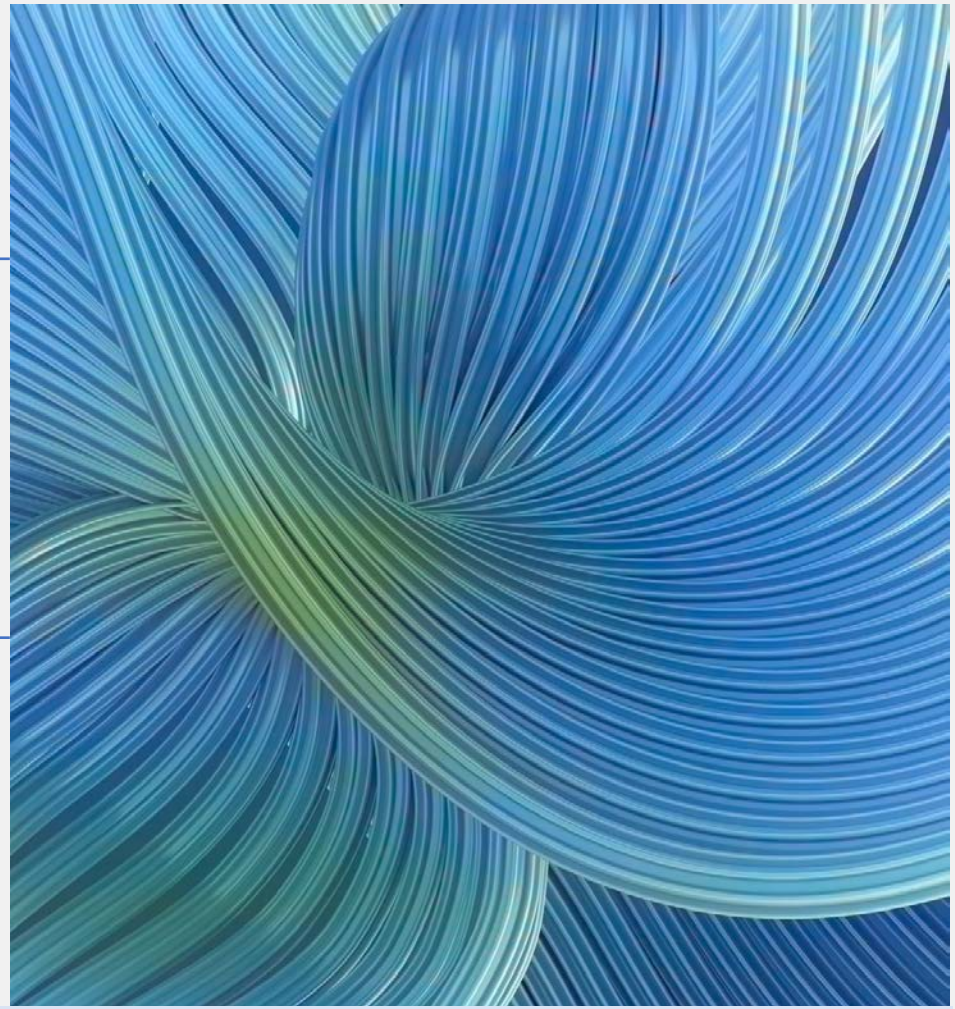
Lead in Water by Outlet Type

Water fountains

1 in 5	3 in 100	2 in 100
above 1 ppb	above 10 ppb	above 15 ppb

Kitchen, cafeteria, food, prep sinks

1 in 3	4 in 100	2 in 100
above 1 ppb	above 10 ppb	above 15 ppb



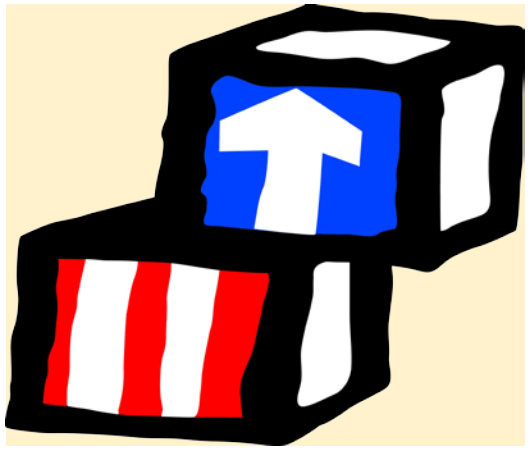
Highest value to-date: 3,930 ppb in child care center kitchen

Redmon et al., 2022, American Journal of Public Health, pending.

Several factors significantly associated with higher lead risk

Reliance on well water

Building age



Head Start programs

Compared to non-Head Start programs:

- Head Start programs were more than twice as likely to have at least one sample above 10 ppb
- Head Start programs were found to serve a higher percentage of children of color and a higher percentage of children with free and reduced lunch

Redmon et al., 2022, American Journal of Public Health, pending.

Keys to a Successful Lead Testing Program

Keys to success

- ✓**Piloting** the program
- ✓Award-winning multi-sectoral **partnerships**
- ✓**Rule** development
- ✓ **On-site support** when needed
- ✓**Funding** for testing
- ✓A **scalable** approach - scientifically rigorous, supportive, standardized
- ✓No-cost and low-cost **solutions**
- ✓Wrap-around **communication** support

2020 Harvard Roy Award for Environmental Partnership
2020 Environmental Business Journal Award for project merit
2021 Mutual of America Community Partnership Award

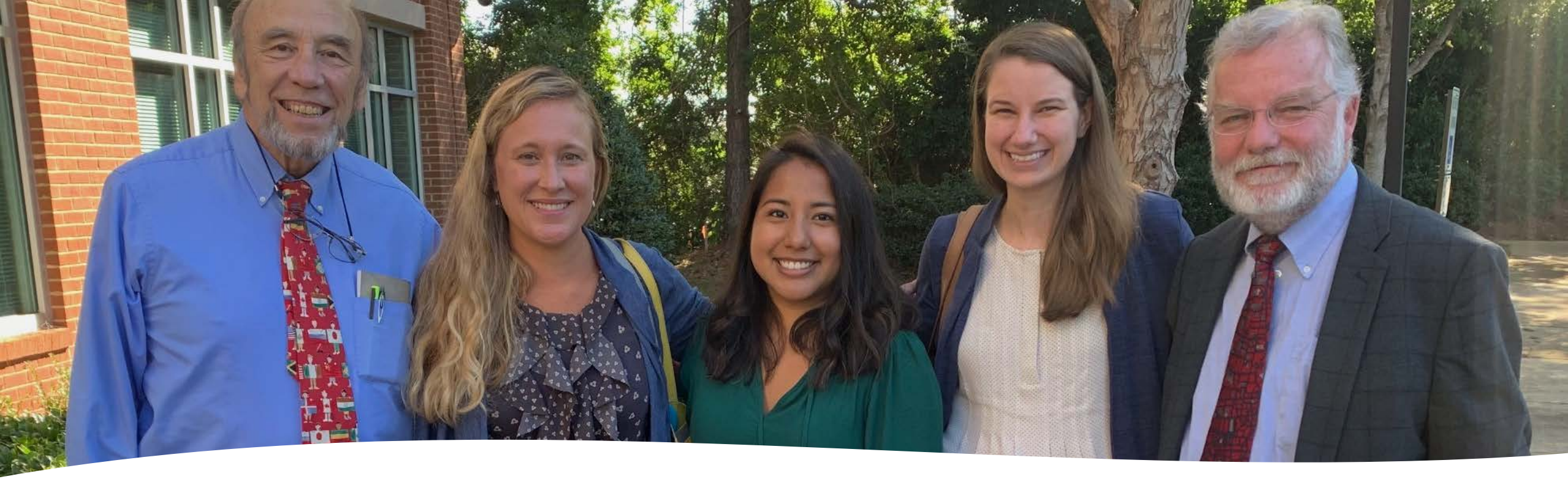
The making of a multi-sectoral partnership

RTI's pilot study showed the need for the testing and proof of a feasible testing approach

Duke University Environmental Law and Policy Clinic conducted legal research that contributed to the proposed rule change and related efforts to eliminate childhood exposure to lead.

NC Child spearheaded statewide community engagement and advocacy to ensure that the testing rule is inclusive of the voices of various child care centers and children

The North Carolina Division of Public Health formally proposed a change to the child care sanitation rule.



State Rule Development to Protect Children's Health

- Initial Statewide Lead Testing Rule Approved in 2019: Test all drinking and cooking taps at licensed NC child care centers (includes Pre-K & Head Starts). Retest every 3 years.
- Recommend mitigation and required at hazard level (lowered from 15 to 10 parts per billion in 2021)

On-site support

When we identify a tap at or above lead hazard level

- Tap use is discontinued with “Do not use” sign and tape over the tap
- On-site visit (s) and follow-up sampling by the State or local Public Health Department
- Support to identify how to get the lead out

THE SUPPORT OF SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE STAFF AND ASSOCIATIONS

Jennifer Hoponick Redmon surveying a child care center with administrator Jolene Thorpe.

Let's get the lead out of children's drinking water today for a brighter tomorrow

Thank you for your interest in our Clean Water for Carolina Kids program!

Ed Norman at ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov

Melanie Napier at melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov

Jennifer Hoponick Redmon at jredmon@rti.org

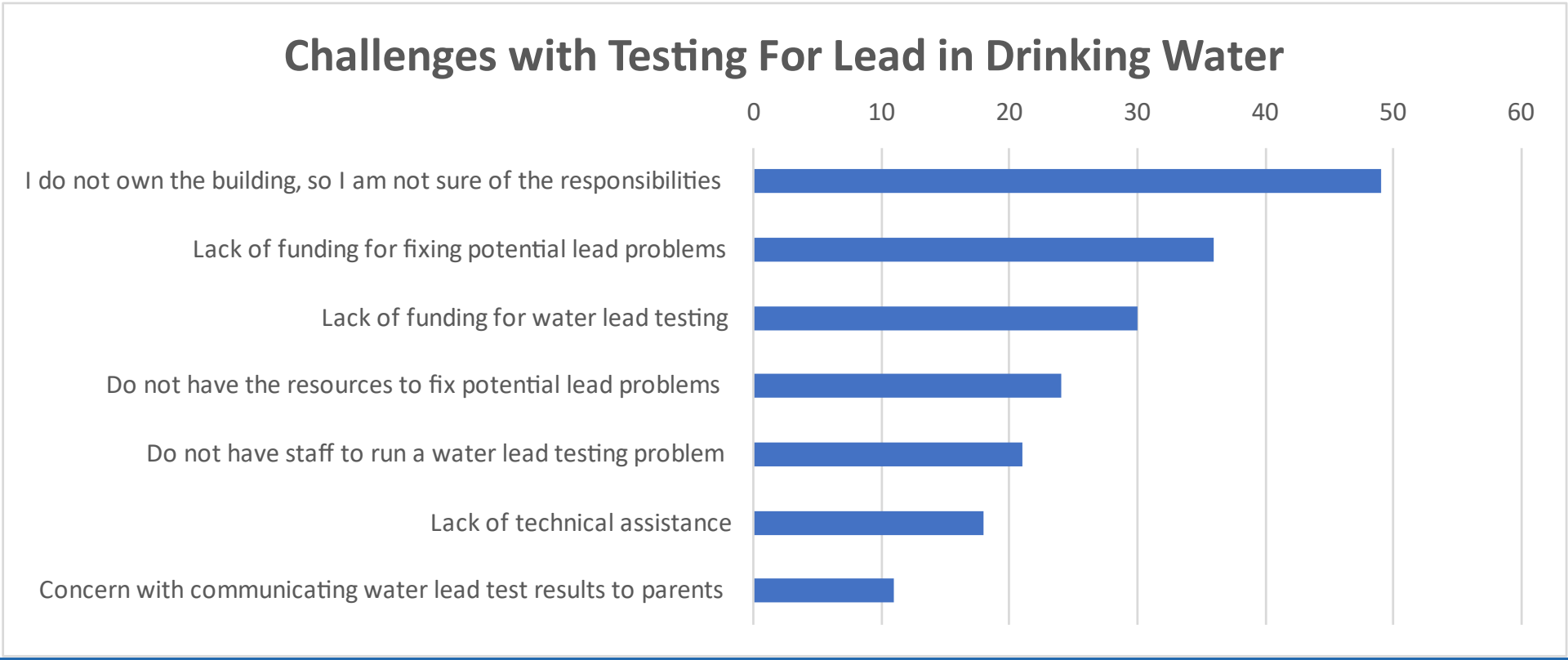
For more information, go to www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org or www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water

Presenter: Cindy Mack

EPA
OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

Your Responses: Challenges of Child Care and Early Childhood Facilities



3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

TRAINING – TESTING – TAKING ACTION

3Ts Manual (English and Spanish)

Training *school and child care officials to raise awareness of lead in drinking water.*

Testing *drinking water in schools and child care facilities to identify potential lead problems.*

Taking action *to reduce lead in drinking water.*

3Ts 7-Module Toolkit

View School-specific Resources

View Child Care-specific Resources

View Additional Resources

EPA 3Ts Webpage: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts

3Ts - TRAINING – TESTING – TAKING ACTION
Tools and Outreach Materials

3Ts Tools

1) Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures
2) Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools During and After Extended Closures
3) Parent Communication Template Letter
4) Webinar: EPA & USDA Grants and Loans
5) Data eTrackers – Inventory to Actions
6) Toolkit (Manual) in Spanish

NEW!

Coming this summer!

1) Sampling Field Guide & video (7 mins.)
2) Sampling Poster for Child Care Facilities
3) Plan eBuilders
4) Factsheet: Interpreting Sample Results
5) Factsheet: Common Drinking Water Plumbing Materials (Lead vs. non-lead)
6) Factsheet: Federal Agency Funding

EPA 3Ts Webpage: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts

3

ampling eTracker for Child Care

3Ts: Training, Testing, Ta

WHO should use this Sampling e

This sampling eTracker is a recordkeeping a
facilities and small schools with ten (10) or
samples for lead testing. If more than 10 o
Schools located at www.epa.gov/safewater
If your facility is receiving funding from the
Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act gr
contains an auto-populating form (**Table 4**) that can be used t
you have questions, you can find your EPA Region and state pr
https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school
grant-program.

WHY should I use this Sampling eTracker?

- **For Recordkeeping:** This tool s
results with any level of lead dete
districts, or others that may requ
- **For Reporting:** This tool contain
facility or small school is receiving

HOW do I use this Sampling

This is a PDF file with fields to be fille
auto-populated and does not need to
copy, you can print out the form. Wh
orientation in the Print dialog box. N
fill this Sampling eTracker out electro
WIIN Grant Recipients to auto-po

Instructions o

Note: For WIIN grant recipients, an asteri

Forms	Inten
Table 1. Testing Table	All Fac
Table 2. Taking Action Table	Non-W
Table 3. Taking Action Table	WIIN
Table 4. State Report	WIIN
Glossary	All Fac

2

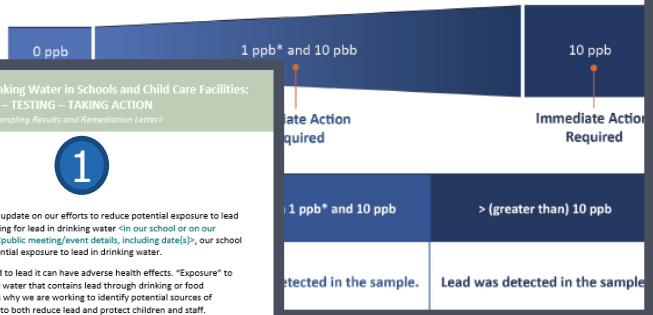
U.S. EPA 3Ts Program
Interpreting Lead Sample Results
For Schools and Child Care Facilities

EPA United States Environmental Agency

U.S. EPA 3Ts (Training, Testing, and Taking Action) Program developed this factsheet to provide guidance to schools and child care facilities on how to interpret drinking water lead sample results and offer recommendations for next steps after receiving sample results.

Interpreting Lead Results

There is no safe blood lead level in children. Use the flow chart below to guide you while interpreting your laborator
results. You can take next steps based on those results. Make sure all your lead results are in units of parts per billio
(ppb). You might need to first convert the results if they are reported to you in other units. Refer to the conversion
on how to convert your results. For each result (in ppb), there is a brief description of what the value could mean,
possible reasons for that result, and next steps to consider.



State or School Logo

3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities:
TRAINING – TESTING – TAKING ACTION
<Template: Lead Sampling Results and Remediation Letter>

1

<Date>
<Point of Contact>
<School Address>

Dear <Parents, Caregivers, Teachers>:

<Enter school name/organization> would like to provide an update on our efforts to reduce potential exposure to lead from school drinking water by taking steps that include testing for lead in drinking water <in our school or on our campus> and sharing the sampling results. As discussed at <public meeting/event details, including date(s)>, our school has a <state required or voluntary> program to reduce potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

Lead is a toxic metal. When children and others are exposed to lead it can have adverse health effects. "Exposure" to lead in drinking water means that children or staff consume water that contains lead through drinking or food preparation. There is no safe level of lead exposure which is why we are working to identify potential sources of exposure and are communicating actions that can be taken to both reduce lead and protect children and staff.

As part of our program, <school/child care facility name> developed a plan to test for lead in <number or adjective (e.g., some, all)> drinking water fountains and other outlets where students and staff get water for drinking and cooking. The <state required or determined> program lead remediation level in drinking water samples is <# ppb>. When a lead sample is detected at or above this level, we take immediate steps to address the source of lead to protect children and staff.

The sampling results of our program and our next steps are as follow:

- On <date>, we tested <#> fixtures throughout our <school/child care facility>. This included <the hallway and classroom drinking water fountains, bathroom sinks, drinking water fountains in the gym and recreational fields, and all kitchen faucets>.
- Sample results show lead was detected at/above the remediation level in <#> fixtures. No lead was detected in <#> fixtures. For the remaining <#> fixtures, lead was detected below <# ppb>.
- In response to the sampling results, we are taking immediate action on the <#> fixtures that showed lead levels at/above the program remediation level of <# ppb>. **These fixtures have been removed from service, while more permanent measures are underway.**
- For the <#> fixtures that lead was detected below the remediation level, we are <installing filters, implementing routine flushing, removing the fixtures from service, replacing drinking water fountains> to further minimize potential exposure.

You can view the detailed sample results and remediation plans at the following link: <school/child care facility's website>. Protecting the health and wellbeing of your child(ren) is our top priority and we are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way as we implement our program at <school/child care facility>.

Sincerely,

<Principal or Administrator Signature>

<Title>

Considerations for Parents: The only way to determine an individual child's lead level is to have the child's blood tested. Please contact your health provider to learn more about blood lead testing. The degree of risk depends on the child's total exposure to lead from all sources in the environment – air, soil, dust, food, paint, consumer products, and water. If you

For <name of state> requirements or lead testing guidelines: <state website>. For U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) general information on lead: www.epa.gov/lead. For

Common Drinking Water Plumbing Materials *Lead & Non-Lead* in Child Care Facilities

EPA

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WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This factsheet is intended for child care facilities specializing in early care and education programs, including center-based and family child care homes, pre-kindergarten programs as well as Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

Lead is toxic. There is no safe blood lead level in children. When children are exposed to lead it can have negative health effects that are physical and behavioral, including impaired growth and learning disabilities. This document presents common drinking water plumbing that are lead sources and non-lead materials.

DOES YOUR FACILITY HAVE A LEAD SOURCE?

Potential Lead Source Piping

Lead Pipe, Lead Connectors

A dull, gray, soft metal. Lead pipes are easily scratchable with a coin or butter knife and would show a silver color as a result of the scratch. Lead service lines can be connected to household plumbing using solder and have a bulb-like shape on the end. The bulb is a marker

Potential Lead Source

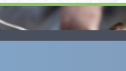
Galva
While
silver
dark b

Other Potential Sources of Lead

Lead in water can come from many other sources besides piping, such as:

Lead Solder

Silver in color, lead solder was commonly used to connect copper piping and plumbing together. Before 1987, lead solder may have had lead content up to 50% or more by mass.



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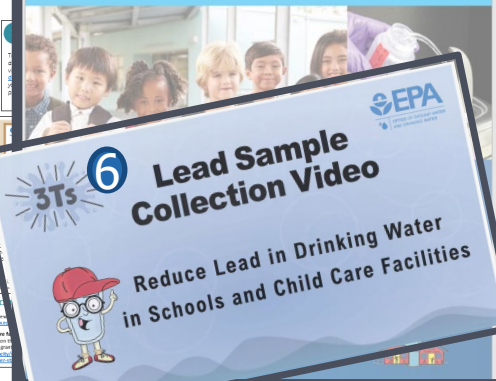
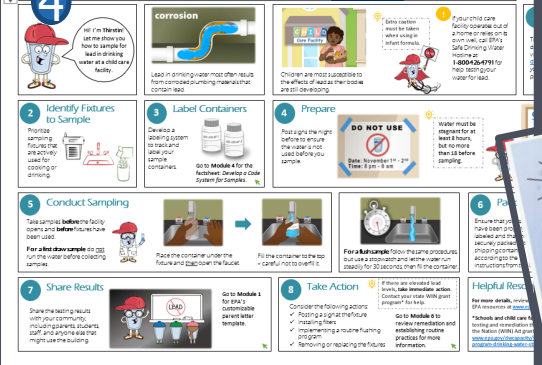
U.S. EPA 3Ts Program
Training, Testing & Taking Action

Lead Sample Collection Field Guide
For Schools and Child Care Facilities



U.S. EPA 3Ts: Sample Collection Guide for Child Care Facilities

4



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3Ts

Lead Sample Collection Video

Reduce Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water

Presenter: Ying Tan

EPA

OFFICE OF GROUND WATER
AND DRINKING WATER

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) Grants - SDWA 1464(d)

Overview:
The 2016 WIIN Act addresses, supports, and improves America's drinking water infrastructure and promote public health and the protection of the environment. **Each grant program has a tribal and state component.**

SDWA 1464(d) | Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water: Voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs.

Grant Program Priority Areas

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- Disadvantaged, low-income, and underserved communities (lack household water or wastewater services)
- Small communities (population of less than 10,000 individuals and lacks the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project)
- Schools with at least 50% of the children receiving free and reduced lunch and Head Start facilities
- Older facilities that are more likely to contain lead plumbing
- Tribal elementary and child care facilities that primarily care for children six years and under
- Tribal communities and Indian Nations

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- Also known as the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act,
- Signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021
- Historic investment in key programs and initiatives implemented by the U.S. EPA to build safer, healthier, cleaner communities.
- Includes $50 billion to EPA to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems – the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made.
- Approximately $30 billion of this funding through the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program

Expanded the program to allow funding for:

- ***Lead remediation*** (in addition to testing)
- Increases authorization of funding appropriations to approximately ~$200 million for the coming five years of the program

What type of efforts for lead remediation does the grant support?

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Use grant to replace, remove, install:

- internal plumbing
- faucets
- water fountains
- water filler stations
- Point-of-Use (POU) devices (e.g., NSF/ANSI certified filters)
- lead service lines
- other lead apparatus related to drinking water

Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program

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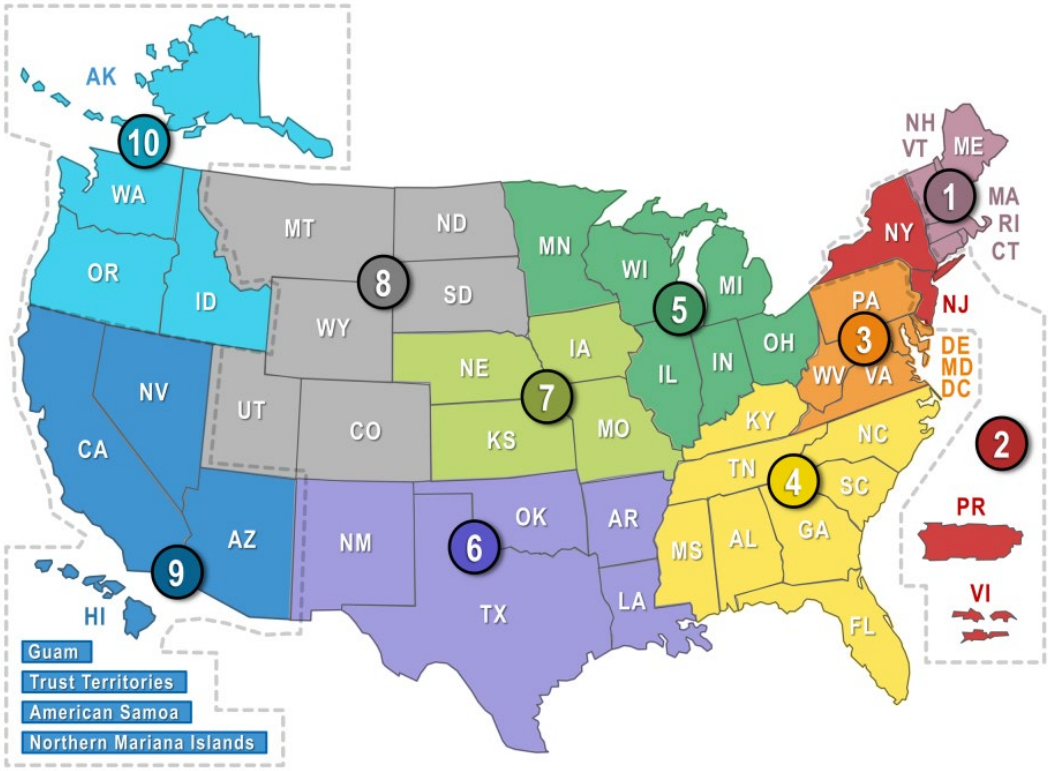
- **Purpose of Grant**
  - Reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water
- **Who Receives Funding**
  - States & Territories that have identified participation through a call for a *Notice of Intent to Participate*

- **Total Funds Allocated**
  - ~$43 million in FY 2019
  - ~$26 million in FY 2020
  - ~$26.5 million in FY 2021
  - ~$36 million in FY 2022 (estimated)

Who is Eligible to Receive Grant Funding?

- All 50 states and DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and American Samoa
- Public/charter schools and **child care facilities**
  - Defined by the state
- Disadvantaged communities prioritization



How to Access the U.S. EPA Grant Funding?

- **EPA → State → Child Care and Early Childhood facilities**

- Program participation varies with state administrations
  - Voluntary online sign-ups (e.g., MN – sign up form) https://120water.formstack.com/forms/minnesota_lead_in_schools_testing_program_application

- Contact your state agencies administrating the program on participation and information. State agency contacts are available at the following link:
  - https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water-state-grant-program

Potential Funding Sources for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

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- Assist schools and child care facilities identify potential funding sources for lead testing and remediation plus water quality-related projects
- Information on national foundations, corporations, state, and federal agencies that have a strong commitment to support school and child care improvement initiatives
- This guide includes:
  - 4 federal programs
  - 79 state programs
  - 115 foundations/companies providing funding opportunities

US EPA Resources

- 3Ts Webpage: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts
- 3Ts Email: 3Ts@epa.gov
- WIIN Grant Webpage: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/grants
- WIIN Email: WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov
- EPA Lead Info: https://www.epa.gov/lead
- Funding Sources for Schools and Child Care Facilities: https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/funding-sources-schools-and-child-care-facilities
- EPA Healthy School Environments: https://www.epa.gov/schools
- Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure and Association Health Impacts: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/fedactionplan_lead_final.pdf

U.S. Health and Human Services
Office of Head Start

Presenter: Dr. Marco Beltran

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EPA

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Office of Head Start

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Head Start

OHS "BIG 4" Priorities:

- **Advancing Equity.** Promote belonging by identifying and addressing barriers and promoting new pathways for family stability.
- **Supporting Programs Pandemic Response and Recovery**. Work to safely restore in-person programming in healthy environments.
- **Investing in the Workforce.** Sustain a highly effective and representative workforce to support all children, families and staff.
- **Reaching more children and families.** Focus Head Start services in places with greatest need.

#HeadStartisHeartWork

- **Head Start**, created in 1965
  - Serves families with children ages 3-5.
- **Migrant and Seasonal Head Start** (MSHS), created in 1969
  - Serves migrant and seasonal farmworker families with children ages birth-5.
- **Early Head Start** (EHS), created in 1995
  - Serves families with children ages birth-3 and pregnant women.
- **EHS – Child Care Partnerships**, created in 2014
  - Funds EHS programs partnering with regulated child care and FCC providers

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Purpose -

… to promote school readiness by:

- ❑ Providing family-centered services
- ❑ Promoting the development of children
- ❑ Enabling parents to -
  - fulfill their roles as parents
  - move toward self-sufficiency

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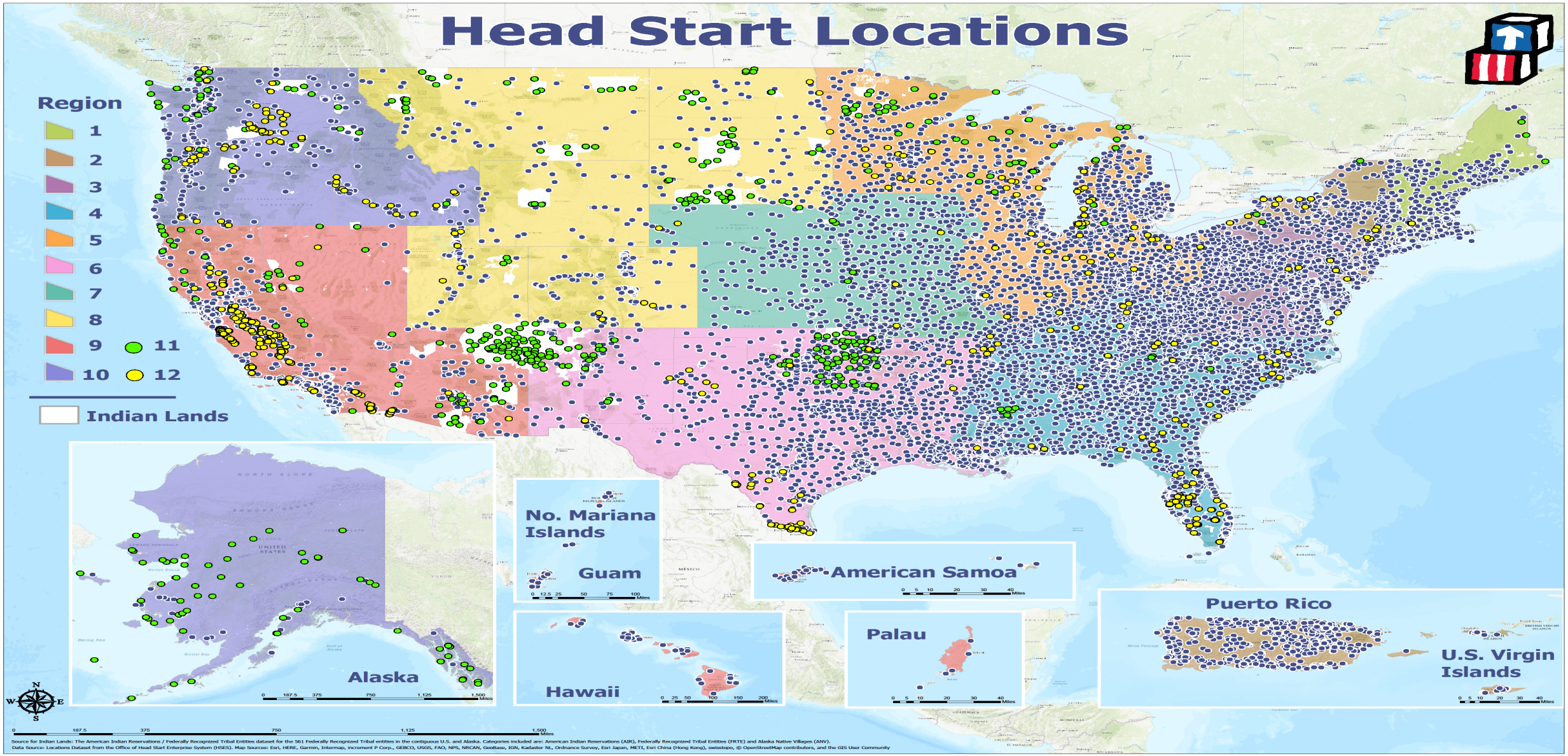
Head Start Locations



Head Start and Early Head Start Snapshot: 2018-2019

- 755,755 **children** from **birth to age 5** including **pregnant women** received Head Start services.
- In addition to education services, Head Start programs provide children and their families with **health, nutrition, social-emotional, and family services.**
- **Over 3,552** recipients nationwide including the territories.
- Head Start offers center-based, family child care, and home visiting programs.

Source: 2021 Program Information Report (PIR)

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Head Start

Comprehensive early childhood health services and a coordinated approach:

- ❑ Early identification and intervention
- ❑ Treatment and follow-up
- ❑ Safe and secure environments

GAO Report:
Child Care Facilities

Recommendation 1

- The OHS director should require Head Start programs to document that water provided to children has been tested for lead.

Recommendation 2

- The Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families should direct OCC and OHS to develop an agreement with the EPA on their roles and responsibilities in implementing a memorandum of understanding on reducing lead levels in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities.

Lead Testing

Standards Used for Lead Testing Findings

1302.47(b)(1)(ix)

(b) A program must develop and implement a system of management…that includes policies and practices to ensure all facilities, equipment and materials, background checks, safety training, safety and hygiene practices and administrative safety procedures are adequate to ensure child safety. This system must ensure:

(1) *Facilities*. All facilities where children are served…are, at a minimum:

(ix) Kept safe through an ongoing system of preventative maintenance.

1302.47(b)(1)(iii)

(b) A program must develop and implement a system of management…that includes policies and practices to ensure all facilities, equipment and materials, background checks, safety training, safety and hygiene practices and administrative safety procedures are adequate to ensure child safety. This system must ensure:

(1) *Facilities*. All facilities where children are served…are, at a minimum:

(iii) Free from pollutants, hazards and toxins that are accessible to children and could endanger children's safety.

FY 22 FA2 Protocol Questions on Lead

Health and Safety Practices

PM2:

The recipient has strategies for maintaining healthy and safe environments and for ensuring all staff have complete background checks.

Targeted Question:

- ❑ The recipient will describe their process for lead inspections

FY 22 FA2 Questions in IT-AMS on Lead

Safety Practices – Center Exploration

1. Does the grantee keep all facilities safe?

a. Does the grantee keep all facilities safe through an ongoing system of preventive maintenance, including all classrooms that were explored? (Note: If you observe any safety issues including any of the following, select "no," upload evidence and write a finding: Evidence of mold; Building or equipment is in disrepair; Lead toxins are located in the environment (building, soil and/or water); Licenses are not up to date; Evidence of toxins, pests and/or pollutants; Evidence of possible child injury hazards)*

1302.47(b)(1)(ix)

○ Yes ○ No

b. Does the grantee have written documentation (certificate) that the children are not exposed to lead in this facility (including exposure to lead paint or water)?*

1302.47(b)(1)(iii)

○ Yes ○ No

Reviews and Recipients Cited for Lead in FY 22 YTD as of 4/27/22

- Did not test water for lead and were unaware of this requirement.
- Did not test water for lead and were unaware of this requirement because state childcare licensing did not require it.
- Did not have a plan to address the presence of lead in water, which was identified in 2010 at two centers. The water was used only for outdoor play and the janitor's closet.
- Lead was identified at two centers in kitchen/cafeteria sinks and a water fountain. The recipient removed the water fountain.

Funding Guidance

- **Head Start funds**

- **Program Improvement (One-Time) Requests**

  - Grant recipients encountering program improvement needs that cannot be supported by the agency budget are invited to apply for one-time funding. This funding must be applied for separately through the appropriate amendment in HSES. Program Improvement requests are prioritized and subject to funding availability. For questions regarding program improvement needs and requests, please contact the regional office.

INTRODUCTION

GETTING STARTED

COMMUNICATE

TRAINING

TESTING

TAKING ACTION

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Hi! My name is Thirstin.

Let's use the 3Ts eBuilder to create your Communication and Training Plans!

Lead Testing Considerations

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Before collecting samples, establish a plan:

1) **Communication** – identify team, methods and frequency to communicate results and actions to parents and staff;

2) **Training** - identify who and how personnel will be trained;

3) **Testing** - prioritize outlets for sampling and identify the type of lead samples to collect; and

4) **Taking Action** - identify the type of short-term and/or long-term actions you will take if lead is detected.

There is no safe blood lead level in children. Children are most susceptible to the effects of lead because their bodies are still developing; therefore, they tend to absorb more lead from any source, including drinking water, than adults.

The only way to determine an individual child's lead level is to have the child's blood tested. The degree of risk depends on the child's total exposure to lead from all sources in the environment – air, soil, dust, food, paint, consumer products, and water.

The best way to know if there is lead in drinking water is to test for it. Regularly scheduled testing and routine maintenance are essential to reducing lead in drinking water.

A sample test is a snapshot of the lead level taken at the time it was collected. Prior low or non-detected lead levels should not be used to assume that a fixture or facility is lead-free. Lead levels at a fixture or within a building have been shown to vary over time.

Communication and Transparency are Keys to Success!

Questions and Exit Poll

U.S. EPA/Office of Water

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

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OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

Get the Lead Out!

June 23, 2022: Lead Testing
July 14, 2022: Lead Remediation