

# Lead-Safe Texas

Summer 2024

Volume 6 | Issue 1

## Blood Lead Surveillance Branch

Texas Department of State Health Services

[dshs.texas.gov/lead](https://dshs.texas.gov/lead)

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With the support of communities throughout Texas, regional public health offices, and Texas healthcare workers, BLSB is working diligently toward a safer, healthier Texas.

### About this Newsletter

This newsletter provides information on lead poisoning prevention. You will find all newsletters on our website at [dshs.texas.gov/lead/newsletters](https://dshs.texas.gov/lead/newsletters).

### About the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Blood Lead Surveillance Branch (BLSB) maintains a surveillance system of blood lead test results for children and adults. Our goal is to eliminate lead poisoning as a public health problem in Texas. We do this by working with health, housing, and environmental organizations. With the support of communities, regional public health offices, and Texas healthcare workers, BLSB is working diligently toward a safer, healthier Texas.

### What is Lead?

Lead is a highly toxic metal. In the past, lead caused extensive environmental contamination and health problems in many parts of the world. In 1978, the federal government banned the sale of lead-containing paint for consumer use to reduce the amount of lead in the environment.

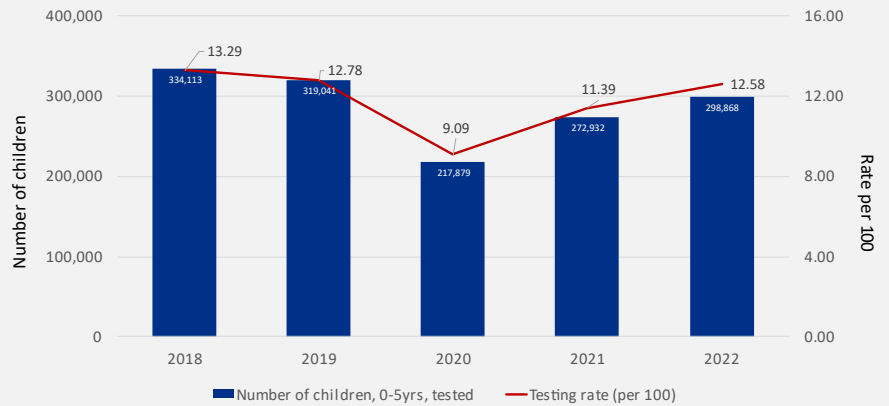
If a home was built before 1978, there may be a chance it contains lead-based paint. Lead can also be in soil, drinking water, amulets, pottery, cosmetics and even toys.

**Report, Report, Report!**

Reporting all blood lead levels helps the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch (BLSB) gather and analyze data that we can share statewide. BLSB recommends providers and staff report electronically through our secure file transfer (SFT). To access the SFT, the contact person responsible for uploading/reporting the results can sign up on our [website](#). Once the contact signs up they will be provided with a set of instructions and a reporting form spreadsheet. BLSB asks that all reporting forms are filled out completely. Incomplete forms can delay case coordination and provide misinformation. A successful submission includes all of the sections filled in, including the patient’s address, gender, race, and ethnicity.

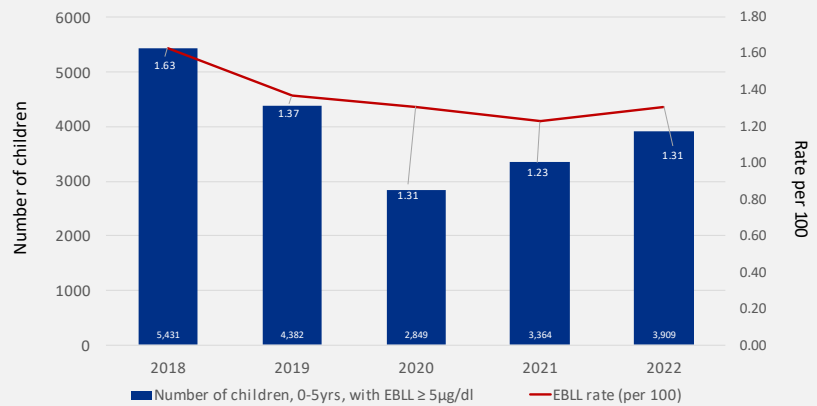
**What the Numbers Say**

**Number and rate of children, 0 -5 years of age, tested for lead in Texas, 2018-2022**



Source: Blood Lead Surveillance Branch, DSHS. Data considered provisional and subject to change.

**Number and rate of children, 0 -5 years of age, with a blood lead level (BLL) ≥ 5µg/dl in Texas, 2018-2022**



Source: Blood Lead Surveillance Branch, DSHS. Data considered provisional and subject to change.

Shared above are new graphs reflecting number and rate of children, 0-5 years of age who were tested for lead and number and rate of children with a blood lead level (BLL) ≥ 5µg/dl from 2018-2022. We have also updated our annual tables for 2020, 2021, and 2022, which contain Blood Lead testing and Elevated Blood Lead Levels by county. The tables can be found on our [website](#).

**Data Requests**

Did you know that you can request data summaries that are not available on our website from the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch? To request data please email [TexasBloodLead@texas.dshs.gov](mailto:TexasBloodLead@texas.dshs.gov) for further instructions.

## Nationwide Applesauce Recall

In October 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was made aware of an investigation that was being developed out of North Carolina. The investigation started when four children were found with elevated blood lead levels indicating that there may be acute lead toxicity. During the investigation it was determined that WanaBana apple cinnamon puree pouches may be a potential source of shared exposure, which was later confirmed by the FDA. This led to WanaBana issuing a voluntary recall of apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches, and the FDA issuing a public health alert. This alert advised consumers to not purchase or give the recalled product to children.

While the investigation was ongoing, WanaBana LLC expanded the recall to their brands Schnucks and Weis, and it was found that their products were commonly found in value stores such as Dollar tree etc. The recall also impacted markets outside of the United States with confirmation that the products were also distributed to Cuba and the United Arab Emirates.

In November 2023, it was hypothesized that the cinnamon in the applesauce pouches was contaminated with lead and was supplied to WanaBana LLC by Negocios Asociados Mayristas S.A. which operates under the name Negasmart and is in Ecuador. This was later confirmed by laboratory analysis which tested several samples of cinnamon from Negasmart. While the cinnamon was found in the applesauce, it is important to note that Negasmart does not directly import cinnamon to the United States.

The investigation continued into 2024 and as of March 2024 there were 519 total cases that were broken down into confirmed (136), probable (345), and suspect cases (39), which spanned over 44 states including Texas. DSHS reported a total of 11 reports (5 confirmed, 6 probable). In April 2024, the FDA officially moved into the post-incident phase meaning the initial investigation is over and now the focus will be on surveillance, prevention, and compliance. The FDA will continue to evaluate future adverse events and conduct follow up as needed.



Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. (n.d.). *Investigation of elevated lead & Chromium levels: Cinnamon Applesauce*. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/investigation-elevated-lead-chromium-levels-cinnamon-applesauce-pouches-november-2023>

## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Lead-Related Product Recalls

### PandaEar Children's Cup

Recall #: 24-716

On November 22, 2023, PandaEar issued a recall notice to consumers notifying them that the bottom exterior of the recalled cups contains a solder bead that is accessible, with levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban. If ingested a young child can face adverse health effects. Additionally, the lid can also pose a hazard to children if broken causing lacerations or potential choking. The recall involves about 1,600 units of 8oz models sold in sets of two, in pink and gray or blue and gray with matching straws. There are no exterior markings on the cups. The recalled product was sold on Amazon.com from May 2023-August 2023. Consumers who purchased this product should immediately remove them from children's use and contact PandaEar for a full refund (around \$12).



### Yaomiao Children's Tiara

Recall #: 24-093

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wuhannuoyunxindianzikejiyouxiangongsi (dba LordRoadS), of China issued a recall notice to consumers. There were levels of lead that exceeded the federal lead content ban in the rhinestones embedded into the tiara. Around 12,440 units were recalled, and it involves the rhinestone silver tiara with red rhinestones, which were sold in a package with other tiara styles that were not recalled. These styles included blue, purple, and clear rhinestones, and the 4 styles were sold and shipped together in cardboard packaging marked "Yaomiao". The product was sold exclusively from amazon from January 2021-November 2023 for \$19. Consumers should take the recalled item away from children and stop using them. For a refund, consumers can contact LordRoadS.



### Sanford Family Croquet Sets

Recall #: 24-141

February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, DOM Sports issued a recall involving the Sanford Family 6-Player Croquet Sets. The paint or surface that coated the set on the red mallet, blue mallet, and the winning post all contain levels of lead that exceed the federal lead paint ban. This can pose a hazard if young children ingest the paint or coating. The recall includes around 113 sets. The sets include one red and blue children's mallet, four adult mallets, six balls, clips, hoops, two winning posts, and a storage bag. The blue storage bag is branded with a Big Game Hunters logo and the green storage bag is branded with a Garden Games logo on the green bag. The sets were sold online through amazon.com from May 2015-June 2021 for \$225. Consumers should stop using the sets immediately and contact [Dom Sports](#) for information about returning the recalled product and receiving a free replacement.



## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Lead-Related Product Recalls Cont.

### [Skechers Watch and Jewelry Gift Sets](#)

Recall #: 24-151

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Fossil Group issued a recall involving around 260 units of Skechers Watch and Jewelry Gift Sets. The set includes a black braided bracelet that has a clasp that contains high levels of lead. The watch in the gift set has a code number "IF2812307" printed on the back along with model number "SR9082" and "Skechers". Consumers should stop using the product immediately and dispose of it in the trash. To receive a full refund consumers can contact the website or store they were purchased from. The recalled sets were sold nationwide from amazon.com, watchstation.com, skechers.com, and the Skechers store from August 2023 through January 2024 for around \$45.



### [Creativity Street Foam Rollers](#)

Recall #: 24-221

On May 2nd, 2024, Dixon Ticonderoga issued a recall notice to consumers notifying them of a recall involving the Creativity Street Foam Rollers with model PAC517 with Lot Codes "02142080423" and "02142230523" and you can find this information on the back of the packaging. The foam pattern rollers are intended for children and contain levels of lead exceeding the federal lead content ban in the handles. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children, which can cause adverse health effects. The foam pattern rollers in assorted colors and patterns including red, blue, green, and yellow handles. Consumers should stop using the rollers and remove them from children immediately. The product was sold online at Amazon.com, StaplesAdvantage.com, MacPhersonsArt.com, ADASales.com, Walmart.com, and at the Teacher's Edition store in Brooklyn, NY from September 2023-January 2024 effecting about 2,880 units in the United States and 24 in Canada. To receive a refund (around \$15) consumers must contact Dixon Ticonderoga where they will receive a pre-paid label to return the product.



If you experience any issues with these recalls or believe the company is being non-responsive to your refund request, use the [recall complaint form](#) found on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission website.

### **Blood Lead Surveillance Branch**

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