CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Center on Poverty and Community Development

neocando
NORTHEAST OHIO COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DATA FOR ORGANIZING

Information regarding health indicators in the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse

Health Indicators

The Neighborhood Data Warehouse contains information on the health of people living in a neighborhood. Currently, health indicators consist of information on children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead levels. Lead exposure in young children can result from interactions with household and environmental toxins (lead dust) and can negatively affect health and well-being, especially in young children. With many homes built before 1978, before lead in paint and gasoline was outlawed, the Cleveland area is at a high risk for exposure to lead.

Children may be tested for lead at any age and any number of times. Children may be tested as part of regular wellness visits with doctors, or at mobile testing events. Children receiving Medicaid are required to be tested.

Definitions:

Children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead level, number, include children who are tested for lead and are found to have a confirmed test of 5µg/dL or above (i.e. the established public health threshold).

Children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead level, percent, include children who are tested for lead and are found to have a confirmed test of 5µg/dL or above, as a percentage of all children tested.

Methodology: The elevated blood lead level indicators reported in the Neighborhood Data Warehouse represent an unduplicated count or percent of children with a confirmed elevated blood lead level test within the given year. Elevated blood lead level is defined as greater than 5 micrograms/deciliter (µg/dL) as detected by a confirmed test. Confirmed tests includes at least one venous test (blood draw) within the given year or two or more capillary tests (finger pricks) within 6 weeks of one another. If there is more than one confirmed test in a given year showing elevated blood lead levels, the last confirmed test with the highest lead level is selected and included in the indicator. The child's address at the time of the selected test determines the geography associated with the test.

The counts include only children under age 6 when the test occurred.

A ** in the data table means data are suppressed. Counts and rates are suppressed when the difference between the number of children tested, and the number of children found to have elevated blood lead levels is less than 10.

The diagram below outlines the protocol for unduplicating (selecting) the test included in the indicator.

	First confirmed test	
Subsequent confirmed tests	< 5 µg/dL	5 µg/dL or more
No subsequent confirmed test	A	B
< 5 µg/dL	C	D
5 µg/dL or more	E	E

A- Counted as tested, uses address of child at time of testing to determine geographic location, not included in elevated blood lead level counts.
B- Counted as tested, uses address of child at time of testing to determine geographic location, also included in elevated blood lead level counts.
C- Supersedes previous test. Counted as tested, uses address of child at time of testing to determine geographic location, not included in elevated blood lead level counts.
D- Test not counted. Unduplication protocol uses highest and last test conducted.
E- Supersedes previous test. Counted as tested, uses address of child at time of testing to determine geographic location, also included in elevated blood lead level counts.

Precautions and information regarding use of data

In geographies where small numbers of children are tested or confirmed with elevated blood lead levels, it may be useful to examine multi-year averages to better understand prevalence and trends.

Data source and suggested citation

Source of elevated blood lead level data: Information on children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead level is provided by the Ohio Department of Health, which should not be considered as an endorsement of the data.

Update schedule: Information expected to be updated yearly.

Geographic coverage: Information is reported for all geographies within Cuyahoga County.

Suggested Citation: The data in the Neighborhood Data Warehouse come from a variety of data sources. All indicators are processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development. We suggest the following citation format:

[Name of indicator], [geography of indicator],[time period of indicator]. [Data source of indicator]. Summary statistics processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Accessed through the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse, [date accessed]. http://neocando.case.edu

An example would be:

Children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead level, 2015, City of Cleveland. Ohio Department of Health. Summary statistics processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Accessed through the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse, May 24, 2018. http://neocando.case.edu