

## Lead, Capillary, with Demographics, Blood

Test ID: PBDC

**Explanation:** The current reference level at which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health actions be initiated is 3.5 mcg/dL in patients 0 to 5 years old and 5 mcg/dL for patients 6 years and older. The most recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data shows that 97.5 percentile for blood lead levels in US adults age 16 years and older is 3.46 mcg /dL. In concurrence with the reference value concept that there is no safe level of lead in blood, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Occupational Health Subcommittee approved lowering the blood lead threshold from 5 to 3.5 mcg/dL for adults.

Current Reference Value	New Reference Value
0-5 years: <3.5 mcg/dL	<3.5 mcg/dL
> or =6 years: <5.0 mcg/dL	Critical values
Critical values	Pediatrics (< or =15 years): > or =20.0 mcg/dL
Pediatrics (< or =15 years): > or =20.0 mcg/dL	Adults (> or =16 years): > or =70.0 mcg/dL
Adults (> or =16 years): > or =70.0 mcg/dL	

### Questions

Contact Rebekah Walsh, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.