



Head Start Health Services Lead Screening Program

Requirements

The Office of Head Start requires programs to provide high-quality health, oral health, mental health, and nutrition services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and that will support each child's growth and school readiness.

In addition, OHS requires programs to collaborate with parents/guardians as partners in the health and well-being of their children in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner and communicate with parents/guardians about their child's health needs and development concerns in a timely and effective manner.

Within 90 days of a child's entry into the program, staff must obtain from the parent/guardian a determination of whether the child is up to date on age appropriate medical and dental care based on the Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup Periodicity Schedule, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Schedule for children. EPSDT requires children receive a blood lead screening at 12 and 24 months. If a blood lead screening has not been conducted at 24 months, then a child between the ages of 36-72 months must have a screening at the first opportunity.

On-Site Screenings

Families living in Edgewood ISD and San Antonio ISD are at high risk for lead exposure. In partnership with the University of the Incarnate Word Miller School of Nursing, the Head Start Program provides on-site lead screenings for children with a missing blood lead screening or a previously elevated blood level result, or for any child that has been identified as high risk. Each child must have a signed parent/guardian consent form before the screening is conducted.

According to federal guidelines, a blood lead level of 5mg or higher is elevated. Blood lead screening results are shared with the parent/guardian and a referral form to the child's primary care physician is provided for any child with an elevated blood lead level. Table 1 provides the number of on-site blood lead screenings completed and the number of blood lead screenings received from a child's medical home for children enrolled in the Early Head Start-Childcare Partnership Program (EHS-CCP) and the Head Start Prekindergarten Program during the 2018-2019 school year. Table 2 provides the number of children enrolled in the EHS-CCP Program and the Head Start Prekindergarten Program identified with elevated blood levels for during the 2018-2019 school year.

Table 1: *Number of blood lead screenings completed on-site and received from the medical home*

Program	Number of On-Site Blood Lead Screenings Completed	Number of Blood Lead Screenings Received from Medical Home
EHS-CCP	100	83
Head Start	1262	88

Table 2: *Number children identified with an elevated blood lead levels*

Program	Children with an Elevated Blood Lead Levels
EHS-CCP	1
Head Start	9

Partnership: San Antonio Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

The City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start Program partners with the City of San Antonio Green and Health Homes Initiative (SAGHHI), Neighborhood and Housing Department. The SAGHHI is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded program that addresses health and safety hazards, such as lead-based paint, mold, asthma triggers, and fire hazards. The SAGHHI provides assistance in creating healthy, safe, energy-efficient and sustainable homes for families with homes built prior to 1978 and where children under 6 years of age live and spend more than 6 hours a week. A healthy, safe, lead free environment can prevent attention deficit disorders, behavior and learning problems, low IQ, and hyperactivity. Eliminating the source of lead and treating the child can improve the health and developmental outcomes.

Any child identified with an elevated blood level or as high risk for lead exposure is referred to the SAGHHI for free parent/guardian education, home assessment, and lead rehabilitation services. In addition to the referral process, Head Start staff distribute a SAGHHI Interest Form to all families enrolled in the EHS-CCP and the Head Start Prekindergarten Programs. All completed interest forms are provided to the SAGHHI staff for follow-up, screening, and home assessment. Table 3 provides the number of referrals to the SAGHHI, the number of SAGHHI Interest Forms received, and the number of families that qualified for home rehabilitation services during the 2018-2019 school year.

Since the partnership began in 2013, our program has assisted 66 families enrolled in Head Start to address health hazards and create a healthy lead safe environment for their children. As of July 2019, \$1.26 million federal HUD grant dollars have been spent on home rehabilitation services for families enrolled in the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start Program.

Table 3: *Number of referrals, interest forms received, and families that qualified for services*

SY 2018-2019	Total Number
Referrals to SAGHHI	13
Interest forms received	65
Families that qualified	8

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In addition, OHS requires programs to collaborate with parents/guardians as partners in the health and well-being of their children in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner and communicate with parents/guardians about their child's health needs and development concerns in a timely and effective manner.

Within 30 days of a child's entry into the program, staff must consult with the parent/guardian to determine if child has a medical and dental home; to include health insurance coverage.

Within 90 days of a child's entry into the program, staff must obtain from the parent/guardian a determination of whether the child is up to date on age appropriate medical and dental care based on the Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup Periodicity Schedule, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Schedule.

Metro Health

Because tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease among children in the United States, and to ensure children are up to date on EPSDT requirements, the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start Program partners with the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) Dental Division to provide onsite dental services. With parental consent, children enrolled in the program receive one dental evaluation and two fluoride varnishes during the program year. In addition, Metro Health provides a toothbrush, toothpaste and timer for all children, referrals for dental care, parent education sessions, information regarding local dental providers, and dental case management for children with identified oral decay.

When a child is evaluated by Metro Health, they are assigned a dental classification. This classification determines the type of follow-up that is needed. The classification and referral information is shared with the parent/guardian. Table 1 provides the classifications and definitions. Table 2 provides classification status for all children that received a dental evaluation from Metro Health during the 2018-2019 school year. Table 3 provides information regarding treatment status for children classified as Class 1 or Class 2 for the 2018-2019 school year. Children classified as Class 2 with no treatment received is an area of concern for our program. To ensure more children receive treatment, Metro Health will conduct all dental case management for the program beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

Table 1: Dental Classifications

Classification	Definition
Class 1	Immediate oral health concerns.
Class 2	Oral concerns require follow-up from a dentist and possible treatment
Class 3	No oral health concerns
Class 3R	No oral health concerns, follow up is required to ensure child has a dental home

Table 2: 2018-2019 Dental Classifications

Classification	EHS-CCP	Head Start
Class 1	0	53
Class 2	28	755
Class 3/3R	258	2,298

Table 3: Class 2 Treatment Status

Program	Class 1 Treatment Complete	Class 2 Treatment Complete
EHS-CCP	N/A	50%
Head Start	68%	46%