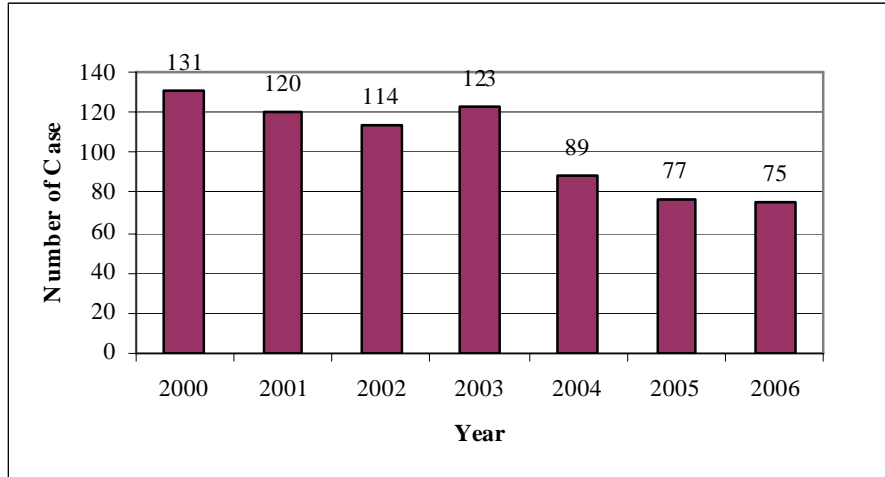


## Childhood Lead Poisoning

*Reported Cases of Lead Poisoning in Children Under 18 Years of Age  
Oregon: 1997-2003*



### What is childhood lead poisoning?

- Lead exposure in children can cause a variety of adverse health outcomes including: learning disabilities, developmental delays, lowered intelligence, behavioral and attention problems, and stunted growth.
- The severity of health effects is related to the level of lead, although even low levels can subtly affect a child's ability to learn.
- Children under the age of six, especially one and two-year olds, are most susceptible to the effects of lead.

### What causes lead poisoning?

- Lead-based paint accounts for 70 percent of Oregon lead poisoning cases.
- Although the use of lead as a paint additive was banned in 1978, many older homes contain lead-based paint.
- Other sources of lead poisoning include lead-containing home remedies, pottery and toys.

### How big is the problem?

- In 2006, 75 Oregon children were reported to have lead poisoning; more children may have undiagnosed lead poisoning because testing is limited.
- Low-income and minority children are more likely to live in older deteriorating homes, and are therefore more likely to be exposed to lead-based paint.

### What can be done?

Childhood lead poisoning can be prevented by eliminating sources of lead exposure, particularly deteriorating lead-based paint, and by enhanced screening of children at high risk so that lead hazards can be identified and eliminated.

**For more information contact:**  
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