

Victoria B.

Victoria B. is an Oakland area resident who responded to a social media information request sent out by the community-based organization SmartOakland. Victoria is the mother of a two-year old daughter who was born with some orthopedic and possible developmental disabilities. The child qualifies for federal disability benefits and had her 24-month well-baby visit a few weeks ago. Victoria reported that no discussion was had with her about blood lead screening for her daughter. She recalled that there was no specific information given to her about blood lead screening issues at her daughter's 12-month well-baby check. Victoria, when asked, explained that she uses a clinic that accepts Medi-Cal that is located near Childrens' Hospital as it is near some of the other medical providers that she uses for her daughter.

Victoria B was aware of blood lead poisoning as an issue as one of her nieces was diagnosed with high blood lead at age 2. This child is now 13 and her family now lives in the Fresno area where Victoria B. and her daughter lived for several months. Concerning Fresno, Victoria B expressed concern that while living with her mother in a Section 8 rental, she noted that the unit had peeling paint that was a potential source of lead exposure to her daughter.

Victoria B, when asked, stated that she felt information about the importance of blood lead screening should be provided by medical providers as early as during prenatal care so that mothers and parents are able to have good quality information about the risks posed by lead exposures to infants and young children.