

TOXIC TREATS

U.S. health officials have detected dangerous levels of lead in various brands of candy—most of them made in Mexico.



AVOIDING LEAD

Tainted candy is a potential source of lead poisoning. Children can be exposed by eating the candy itself, or from its packaging.

Lead can be found in

- **Candy wrappers**—the printing on the labels may contain lead
- **Chili**—Chili is often not cleaned before milling, so the contaminated soil the chili grew in becomes part of the treat.
- **Pottery Glaze**—The small clay pots candy comes in can be covered in a lead glaze. The glaze leaches into the candy.
- **Tamarind**—Tamarind is sticky, and lead from soil or pesticides can get into it.

For more information on lead exposure, or for services for lead-exposed children in suburban Cook County, please call the Cook County Department of Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Unit at 708-633-8054.

www.cookcountypublichealth.org