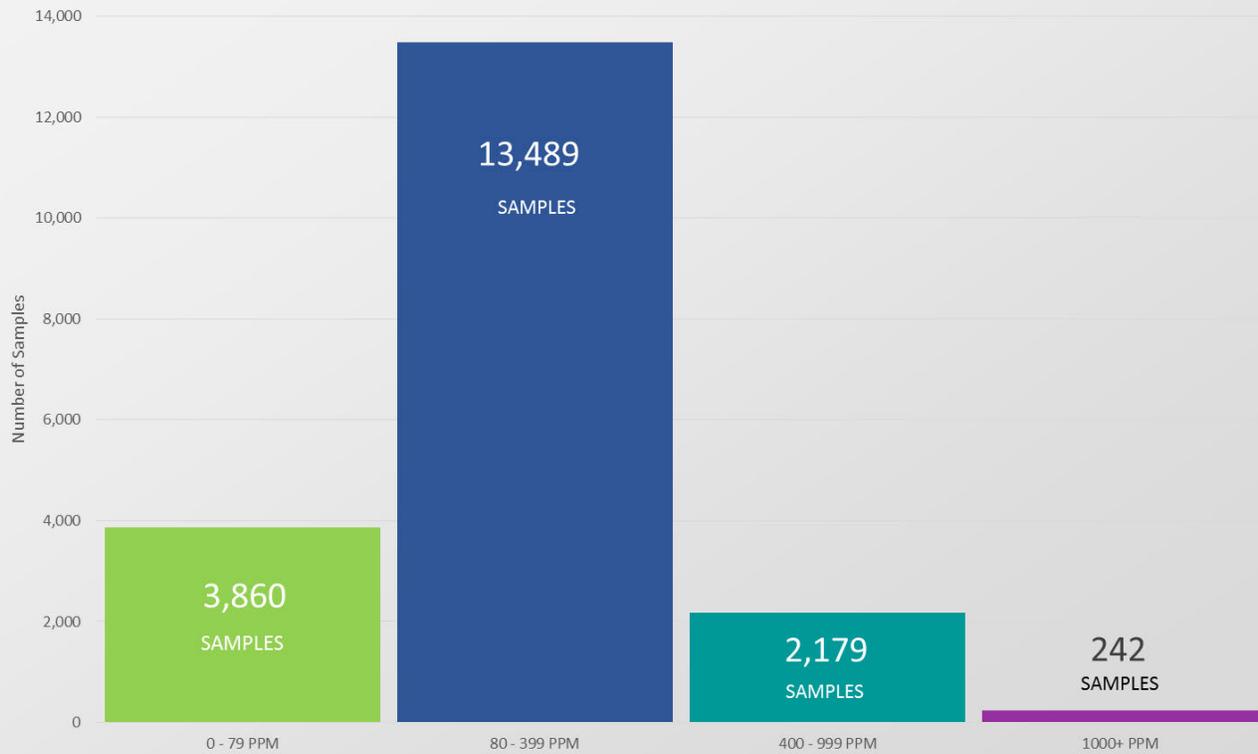
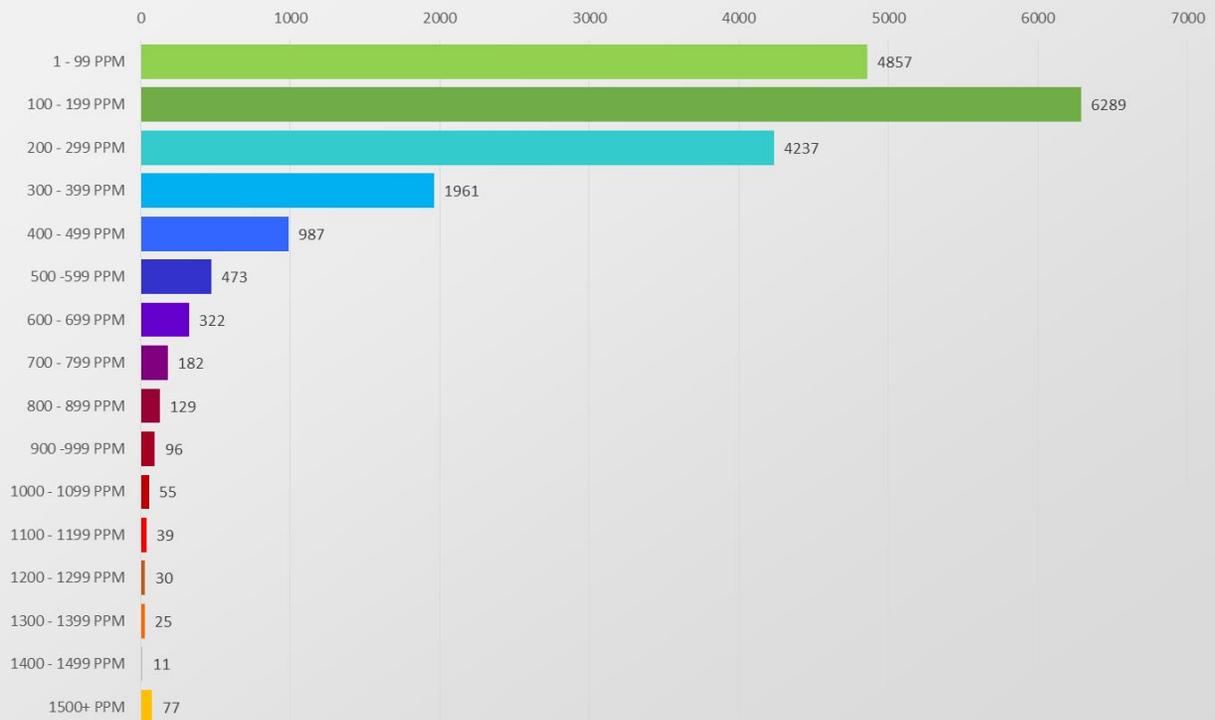


## Exide Preliminary Investigation Area Sampling Results



This chart represents 19,770 samples taken on 1,190 properties between Nov. 23, 2015 and June 13, 2016.

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## **FAQ for July 2016 Soil Sampling Charts**

### **Majority of Samples Contain Lead Levels Below 400 ppm**

#### **Why is DTSC sampling for lead in soil?**

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is sampling for lead in soil, which may have been contaminated by the former Exide Technologies facility operations in Vernon, California. DTSC is sampling the soil at approximately 10,000 properties within a 1.7-mile radius of the former Exide facility, referred to as the Preliminary Investigation Area (PIA). This area includes residential properties, schools, daycare centers, and parks in areas of Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, Commerce, Huntington Park, Bell, Vernon, and Maywood. Properties with the highest levels of lead in soil and greatest risk for exposure will be cleaned up.

#### **How are soil samples collected?**

Soil samples are collected from various locations and depths at the property down to 18 inches, and analyzed using a hand-held X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) device or taken to a laboratory for analysis. On average, 15 soil samples are collected from each property, and any removed soil is backfilled with clean soil. If there are high levels of lead found in areas with bare soil where children play, DTSC advises property owners and residents to cover the bare soil.

#### **What do these charts show?**

The charts show that **88 percent of the soil samples contained lead below 400 ppm (parts per million) and about 1 percent showed levels above 1,000 ppm**. These two charts summarize soil sampling results collected from 1,190 residential properties between November 23, 2015 and June 13, 2016. The charts show nearly 20,000 data points, which reflects that, on average, 15 soil samples are collected from each property.

**These charts do not show the soil lead concentrations by property.** For example, a property may have had 4 soil samples with 300-399 ppm of lead in the soil, and 11 samples with 100-199 ppm of lead in the soil. In the four-category chart, those 15, soil sample results would be counted in the 13,489 samples that make up the blue bar. In the 16-category chart, the 4 soil samples with 300-399 ppm of lead in the soil would be counted in the 1,961 samples that make up a blue bar and the 11 samples with 100-199 ppm of lead in the soil would be counted in the 6,289 samples that make up the dark green bar.

For privacy reasons, DTSC is not publicly providing sampling results for individual properties. DTSC provides sampling results directly to the person who signed an access agreement and to the property owner. Residents are mailed their soil sampling results, along with fact sheets on how to protect their families from lead and information on free blood-lead testing. Over the next months, as DTSC focuses on the sampling phase of this project, we will continue to update the public with aggregated sampling results, such as these. Furthermore, we will continue to engage community partners and the Advisory Group in finding ways to better present this data.

#### **What is the timeline for soil sampling?**

As of July 2016, approximately 2,500 properties within the Preliminary Investigation Area have been sampled. DTSC is continuing to sample the remaining properties (approximately 7,500) to reach the total goal of sampling 10,000 residential properties, schools, parks, and daycares by mid-2017. A chart displaying DTSC's sampling progress is updated weekly at [www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide).

### **What is the timeline for cleanup?**

DTSC has overseen the cleanup of 236 properties. We heard from community members – who told us they did not want a California Environmental Quality Act waiver or modified CEQA review, so we will take every step to ensure we do a comprehensive CEQA review as efficiently as possible. The environmental review process allows for extensive community input and review regarding the proposed clean-up activities. We expect cleanups to begin in the summer of 2017, however that timeline is subject to change.

Before the next phase of cleanups begin, two main documents must be prepared and approved or certified:

- 1) A Draft Cleanup Plan, which will describe in detail how the cleanups will take place, including a prioritization process for identifying and cleaning up properties with the highest levels of lead and greatest risk for exposure; and
- 2) A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR will identify the significant environmental impacts from the activities described in the Draft Cleanup Plan and mitigation measures or alternatives to address those impacts.

DTSC is currently gathering input from community stakeholders and performing studies in order to complete both documents. Once the EIR is certified, in approximately June 2017 (see [CEQA Compliance Projected Timeline](#)) the next phase of cleanups will begin. This date is approximate and may change as the project develops, as it does not take into consideration any delays due to external factors.

### **How can lead affect my health?**

Eating lead or breathing high levels of lead dust can cause lead poisoning, which can damage the brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs.

Children less than 6 years old and pregnant women are at higher risk. Lead poisoning can affect children's growth, learning, and behavior.

A blood test is the only way to know if a person has lead poisoning. Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

### **How can I protect my family from exposure to lead in soil?**

- Cover bare areas of soil in your yard
- When possible, do not let children play on bare soil

- Take off shoes before coming into your home
- Wet mop floors instead of dry sweeping
- Wipe windowsills and other surfaces where dust collects with a wet cloth
- Wash hands and toys often

**Where does lead come from?**

Sources of lead can include industrial operations, lead paint, lead water pipes, home renovation and hobby items. Exposure can occur through eating or breathing in lead.

**How can I get a free blood lead test?**

Free blood lead testing is available to any person who lives, works, or goes to school in the communities near Exide. Call the Blood Lead Screening Hotline at 1-844-888-2290. All results are confidential.