

South Dakota Animal Industry Board, 605-773-3321  
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, 605-773-3485  
South Dakota Department of Health, 605-773-3361

## **Lead Fragments in Venison**

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- South Dakotans have long recognized that there is a potential for consuming lead in pheasants and other game birds. A lead bullet hitting a deer will fragment more than a lead pellet in a pheasant, resulting in a possible increased exposure risk.
- Children under the age of six are at greater risk for lead poisoning because their brains and central nervous systems are still developing. This age group should avoid exposure from any sources of lead.
- Pregnant women should also avoid exposure because lead can easily cross the placenta and transfer to the fetus.
- Customers of food banks in South Dakota should be aware of the possibility of trace lead contamination from bullet fragments in donated wild game venison. Individuals who have concerns about the meat should not eat it.
- Lead-based paint is still the leading cause of lead exposure for children.

### **Information Sources for Lead**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>
- Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/lead/>
- Food and Drug Administration, <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FoodContaminantsAdulteration/Metals/Lead/>