



# Birds and Lead: Findings on State Wildlife Agency Websites

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*State wildlife agencies must make an increased effort to provide easily accessible information to sportspeople on the dangers of lead ammunition and fishing tackle, non-lead alternatives, and the role sportspeople can play in this conservation effort.*



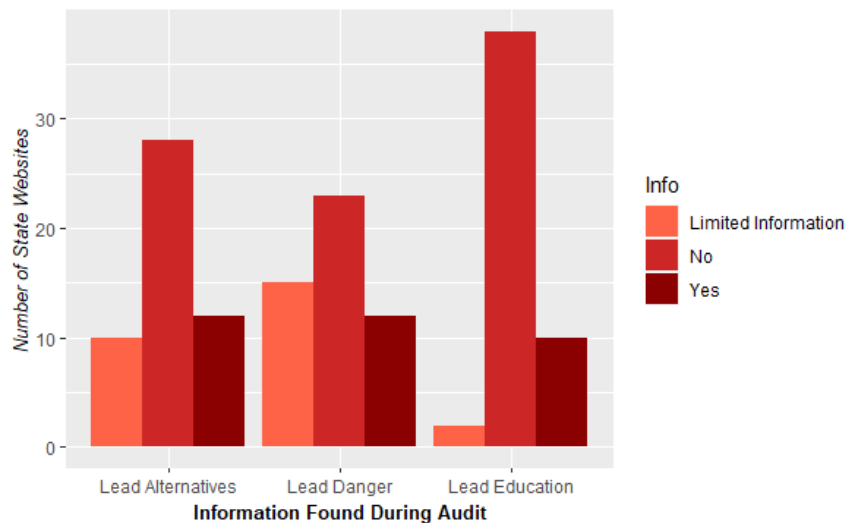
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After conducting a review of the wildlife agency websites for all 50 states in June 2023, American Bird Conservancy has found a notable gap in information regarding toxicity risks to wildlife from lead ammunition and fishing tackle:

- Of the 50 states, only 11 had thorough, easily accessible information on lead ammunition and the role hunters can play in reducing incidences of lead poisoning in non-target species.
- An additional 15 states had minimal information on lead toxicity which was often difficult to access and buried under multiple links.
- While some states had lead toxicity information, it seldom covered risks to wildlife and instead focused only on risks to human health.

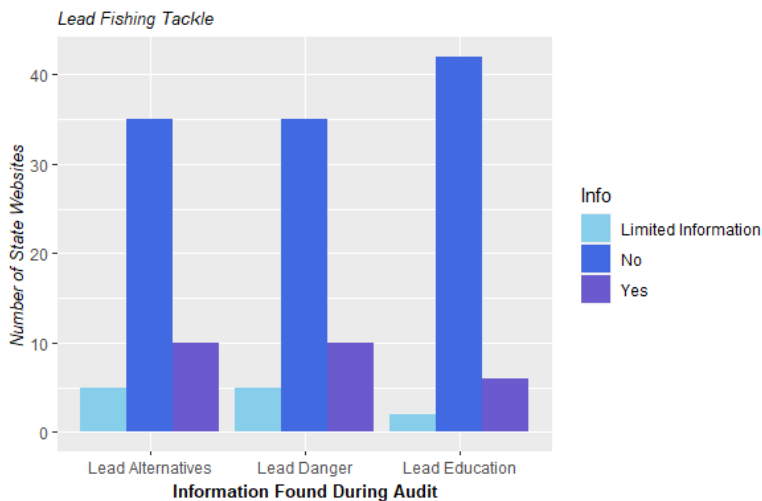
## State Information on Lead

Lead Ammunition



Source: American Bird Conservancy

## State Information on Lead



Source: American Bird Conservancy

Information on lead fishing tackle and associated risks and alternatives was even less prevalent on state wildlife agency websites:

- Of the 50 states, only 10 had information specific to the dangers of lead fishing tackle.
- 5 additional states had minimal information that was difficult to access and buried under multiple links.
- 35 remaining states, or **70%**, had no information on the danger lead fishing tackle poses to birds.

## Alternatives and Education

ABC found few state wildlife agency websites which mentioned non-toxic alternatives to lead ammunition and fishing tackle. Even websites that mentioned the dangers of lead did not always have information on what sportspeople can or should use as a viable replacement. This finding is significant since many hunters and anglers may not be fully aware of what non-lead options are available.

Another identified gap in available resources was clearly labeled educational materials for sportspeople about the role they can play in reducing incidences of lead poisoning in non-target species. While the health hazards of lead are widely known, sportspeople may be unaware of what they can do to lower risks of accidental lead poisoning.

State wildlife agency websites are a crucial source of information for sportspeople who look to these agencies for up-to-date information on rules and regulations. As such, state wildlife agencies must make an increased effort to provide easily accessible information to sportspeople on the dangers of lead ammunition and fishing tackle, non-lead alternatives, and the role sportspeople can play in this conservation effort.

For more information visit  
[www.abcbirds.org/program/pesticides/lead/](http://www.abcbirds.org/program/pesticides/lead/)

