



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: Region 10

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Protect your children from lead poisoning

CLPPP is committed to actively reducing the threat of, and exposure to lead poisoning by education and outreach initiatives all over the region. If you would like to hear more information on how we can provide informative presentations to you and your staff/families, please call us at 313-727-7400 and ask for Chad Rhodes or Andrew Borek.

For your local health department:

Wayne County—734-727-7400

Macomb County—586-469-5520

Oakland County—800-848-5533

Detroit City—313-309-9350



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Lead poisoning symptoms imitate Other Childhood Disorders

As more and more studies are performed on lead and how it interacts with the human body the more we realize how detrimental it can be to a child's development. According to the CDC, lead serves no useful purpose in the body. Lead also is a dangerous neurotoxin and there is no safe amount of lead that can be in the blood. This has been known for a long time, with governments from most countries banning its use in household paint and other applications. Eliminating lead from paint and gasoline in the 1970's did not eliminate the problem for good. Lead can still be found in the paint and plumbing of older homes, children's toys and even imported makeup and spices. Lead toxicity

can wreak havoc on every organ system causing problems that may not always be reversible. The intervention level for lead has decreased over the years, from 25µ/dl to 10µ/dl in 1991 and from 10µ/dl to 5µ/dl in 2012. According to a study conducted by Dr. Joel Nigg, it was found that a blood lead level less than the action level of 5µ/dl can have damaging effects. His study also found that children with ADHD had levels of lead in their blood that were 20-30% higher than children who did not have ADHD. A study cited in a press release from the Association for Psychological Science shows that up to 30% of ADHD cases in children could be due to lead exposure. This is why lead testing of

children is extremely important especially when the child resides in an older home, or often visits an older home like that of a relative. With symptoms of lead poisoning mimicking other childhood ailments, testing should become a priority in order to more effectively treat a disorder.

Read the full articles for more information.

<http://www.economist.com/node/15474577>
www.additudemag.com/addnews/69/6849.html



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM: REGION 10

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lead poisoning is 100% preventable!
- Practicing good nutrition can help protect your children from lead poisoning.
- Only hire EPA Lead-Safe Certified contractors for home improvements if lead hazards are suspected.

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Lead Watch

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Porch dust as an overlooked lead hazard

Most of us would equate lead poisoning with lead paint, more specifically interior lead paint. As you may know already, dust formed from the repeated wear and tear of lead paint can pose a serious health hazard to children as well as adults and even animals. Porches are a prime example of this because of multiple reasons: they are exposed to the elements, they are sometimes not painted with appropriate material, and they are a high traffic area. One of the main issues with porch

dust is that it is tracked into the house, making an exterior hazard an interior one, multiple times per day.

Based on a recent study, porch lead dust



Painted porches are exposed to the elements and can peel and chip like this one (above).

loading declines significantly on an annual basis after exterior surfaces are treated for lead hazards. After treatment, "porch floor dust lead levels at or above 40 µg/ft² fell from 64% of porches at baseline to 42% immediately after work to 27% one year later".

Access the article's abstract (or the full article if you have permissions) [here](#)

Boys more at risk of being lead poisoned, study suggests

Based on a recent study out of Creighton University, it is suggested that hormones play a role in how lead can affect a child's cognition. Maya Khanna, a psychology professor at the university, says that the combina-

tion of estrogen and estradiol that is present in girls in higher quantities than boys, may act as a sort of neuro-protectant. The study was done on 40 children, 23 of which were lead poisoned, in a heavily industrialized area of

Omaha. The lead poisoned children were given tests in which girls did superior to boys, even though both were lead poisoned.

A link to the article is [here](#)

Leaded gasoline in airplanes

In West Coast news, the city of Palo Alto, California is increasing their efforts to warn about the dangers of lead poisoning. If you hadn't known already, lead is still commonly found in gasoline used for aviation purposes, especially for piston-engine aircraft.

The Oakland-based Center for Environmental Health (CEH) is the group bringing suit against

providers of aviation gas, or avgas. Well known cognitive impairments are attributed to lead exposure, and CEH wanted to ensure that children living close to airports never fell victim to those impairments. The avgas retailers began a public awareness campaign in which they visited all of the surrounding houses near the airport and dropped off hanging door signs or sent

out letters outlining the dangers of lead poisoning. The San Carlos Airport exceeded the EPA standard of lead particulate in air by almost double (standard 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter; San Carlos 0.33). If you live near an airport, be sure to get your child tested. A link to the full article is [here](#).



"HUD's Healthy Homes Demonstration has increased \$10 million dollars"

HUD's Healthy Homes budget has increased

In a day when budgetary concerns have everyone unsure of what the future may hold for social programs, good news comes from the President's most recent budget. HUD's Healthy Homes Demonstration has increased \$10 million dollars overall after outcries from the National

Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition. This brings the budget for The Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes to around \$120 million dollars in total. The appropriations broke down like this:

- \$90 million for the Lead Hazard Control Program

- \$25 million for the Healthy Homes Program
- \$4 million for the Healthy Lead Technical Studies and Programmatic Support

A link to the FY15 budget is [here](#).

Heavy metals found in chocolate

Seeing as how Valentine's Day is this month, it is only appropriate to discuss the amount of heavy metals, lead included, are found in chocolate. Many of the popular, national chocolate brands tested positive for different

heavy metals (mostly cadmium and lead) in some way or another. Based on analytical lab results reported by As You Sow, 26 out of 42 products tested contained heavy metals. Brands tested included Hershey's, Mars, Ghirad-

elli, Godiva, See's, Lindt, Whole Foods, and Green and Black's. Find the article by clicking [here](#).



Historical Uses of Lead

Lead is a normal part of the earth's crust. Small amounts are commonly and naturally found in the soil, plants, and even the water. Lead is considered a legacy contaminant, which means that it will not break down or degrade. Lead is also rather immobile. The main way in which lead is disturbed throughout the environment is commonly due to actions by humans. Lead mining, and the creation of man-made lead containing products all contribute to lead dispersal. Lead was used by mankind for over 6000 years. Leads dangerous toxicity was recognized even as early as 2000 BC. Rome was the first to mine lead on a massive scale, and lead poisoning

was considered a disease of the wealthy. Those that were wealthy in ancient Rome were able to acquire leaded cooking utensils, pots, urns, and even leaded plumbing. Due to its sweet taste, lead was also used in the production of wine. It is commonly believed that the high exposure to lead was a contributing factor in the decline of the Roman empire. Although its toxicity was known, the first known law regulating the use of lead was in the late 1690s in Germany. This law was created due to the findings of a German physician who discovered that drinking wine sweetened with a lead oxide caused widespread colic. In the Eighteenth,

nineteenth, and twentieth centuries the worst outbreaks were mainly due to occupational hazards. It was known that working in an industry where lead was handled can make you and your family sick. At the time, without any protection for the workers, lead particles were inhaled, contaminated the food eaten at the work place, and also absorbed through the skin. Even though lead was known to have ill effects, it has historically been used in a multitude of products.

[Read more on the history of lead.](#)

Study on environmental chemicals includes lead

A very far reaching and all encompassing study about some of the terrible effects of environmental health hazards was published on the website Ensia, which is an online environmental periodical. In the piece, writer Elizabeth Grossman goes into great detail and length about these common health

hazards that we, and our families for that matter, deal with on a daily basis. In the attention grabbing first paragraph, she writes, "According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1.8 million more children in the U.S. were diagnosed with developmental disabilities between 2006 and 2008 than a decade earlier."

The article goes on to list the developmental disorders, causes, and other very important topics. This is a must read for anyone dealing with developmental age children. The link to the article is [here](#).

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