

kNOw the facts about Lead



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What is it?

Lead poisoning is a condition caused by swallowing or inhaling lead or lead dust



Common Sources

•Household Items:

- Toys
- Makeup
- Jewelry
- Clothing
- Vinyl products (lunch boxes, mini blinds, etc.)



•Cultural Sources

- Religious items (amulets and powders)
- Mexican candies
- Folk medicines
- Spices
- Canned foods
- Pottery

•Jobs/Hobbies:

- Construction
- Automotive repair
- Engineering
- Factory work
- Stain glass making
- Candle making
- Fishing
- Hunting/Firing range



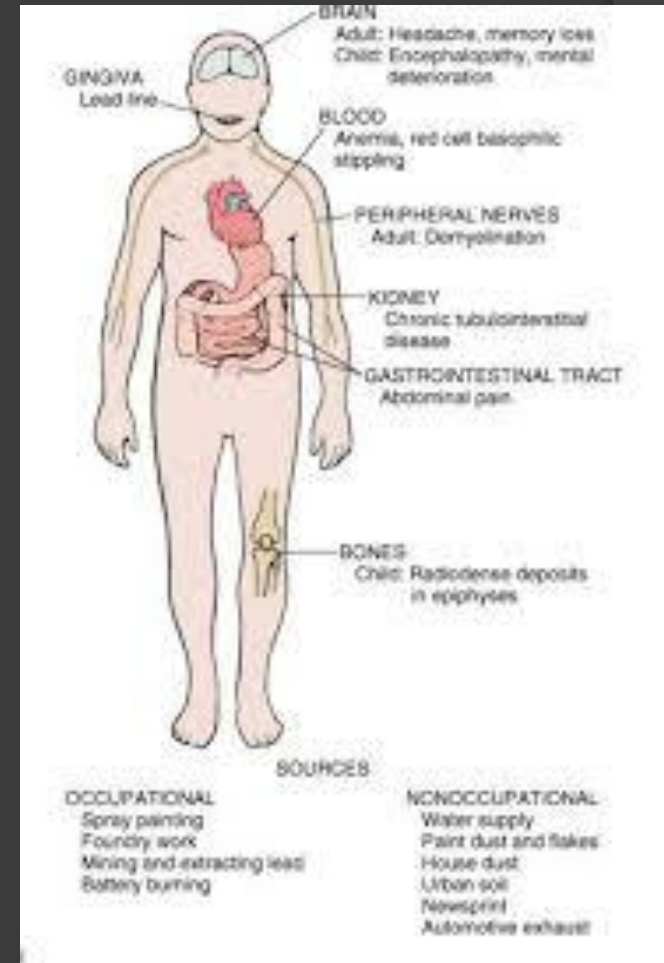
Common Sources Continued...

- Paint in homes built before 1978
 - Water from old plumbing
- Contaminated soil from lead dust



Lead Poisoning may result in:

- Anemia
- Feeling tired a lot
- Hyperactivity
- Clumsiness
- Aggressive behavior
- Stomachaches
- Malnutrition
- Flu like symptoms



Health Effects

* Lead affects the brain and nervous system *

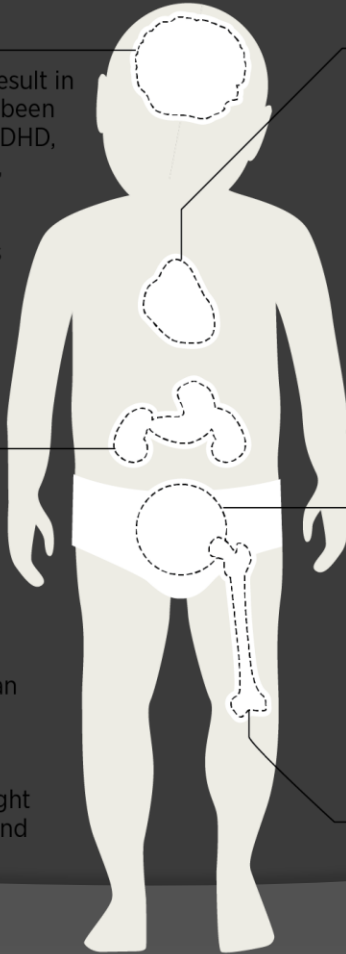
How Lead Affects a Child's Body

Brain

Exposure to lead can result in brain damage and has been linked to lowered IQ, ADHD, hearing loss, blindness, and damaged nerves. Acute exposure can cause convulsions, loss of body movement, coma, stupor, hyperirritability, and even death.

Stomach and Kidneys

Sever lead exposure can create intense abdominal pain and cramping. Chronic exposure can cause chronic inflammation, which can lead to kidney failure, bloody urine, fever, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, coma, weight gain, confusion, rash, and urinary changes.



Heart and Blood

Studies suggest that adults who endured lead poisoning as children had significantly higher risks of high blood pressure 50 years later. Lead inhibits the body's ability to make hemoglobin, which can lead to anemia. This reduces oxygen flow to organs, causing fatigue, lightheadedness, rapid heartbeat, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

Reproductive System

A moderate exposure can not only lower sperm count, but can also damage them. Chronic exposure can diminish the concentration, total count, and motility of sperm, though it's unclear how long these effects last after the exposure ends.

Bones

Lead may impair development and the health of bones, which can slow growth in children.

- Learning disabilities
- Lower IQ
- Behavior problems
- ADHD
- Anemia
- Kidney damage
- Hearing loss
- Pregnancy complications
- Permanent brain damage
- Coma convulsions
- Death

Facts about Lead Screening

- ⦿ A blood test is the only way to know if a child has been exposed
 - Finger stick or blood draw through vein in the arm
- ⦿ There is no safe amount of lead in child's blood
- ⦿ A high blood lead level (BLL) is 5 micrograms/deciliter or higher



Importance of Lead Testing

- Lead poisoning in a child is silent
- Lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage that can effect learning and development



Testing Ages

New Jersey Law requires that ALL children be screened at 1 and 2 years of age and again any time they have been exposed to a known or suspected source of lead. If your child has not been screened by age 6, contact your physician.

Locations to get tested

- Your child's pediatrician

If you do not have a family physician, you can take your child to one of the following locations:

Gloucester County Department of Health

[Call ahead for schedule and/or appointment](#)

Offices at East Holly
204 East Holly Avenue
Sewell, NJ 08080
(856) 218-4102

Paulsboro County Health Building
1000 Delaware Street
Paulsboro, NJ 08066
(856) 218-4102

CAMcare

1315 N Delaware Street
Paulsboro, NJ 08066
(856) 541-3270

Complete Care

715 Delsea Drive
Glassboro, NJ 08028
(856) 863-5720

What if my child's lead level comes back at 5µg/dL or greater?

- Nurse case management services are provided through the Gloucester County Health Department for any child who lives in Gloucester County with an elevated blood lead level and will assist with the following:
 - Arrange a home visit by a nurse case manager and lead inspector/risk assessor
 - Educate you about the effects and prevention of elevated blood lead levels
 - Assist in testing of siblings, other children and pregnant women living in the same household
 - Educate about nutrition, handwashing, housekeeping, and other ways to reduce your exposures
 - Assess your family's needs for community resources
 - Collect information about your home
 - Test painted surfaces
 - Determine sources of lead exposure in your neighborhood
 - Test other possible sources of lead such as water, soil, play structures and consumer products such as toys