



Possible Effects of Lead Exposure

Researchers have known for a long time that children are especially sensitive to lead exposures. Scientists have discovered that even very low exposures to lead can cause serious health effects in children. About 8.5% of all Detroit children are estimated to have blood lead levels above 5ug/dl (that is micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood). The major source of lead exposure for children is lead-based paint and lead dust on windows, floors, and porches.

Every child is different in his or her reaction to lead. The following chart is a rough scale of children's reactions to different levels of lead. A lead poisoned child may not look or act sick, but his or her body is being damaged. The health effects of lead sometimes may not be seen

| Blood Lead Level | <u>CHILD REACTIONS TO LEAD</u> Possible Health Effects |
|----------------------------|---|
| <u>5ug/dl</u> | Slight loss in IQ (not as smart as they should be); hearing and growth problems |
| <u>10-20ug/dl</u> | Moderate loss in IQ; hyperactivity; poor attention span; difficulty learning; language and speech problems; slower reflexes |
| <u>40ug/dl</u> | Poor bone and muscle development; clumsiness; lack of coordination; early anemia; fewer red blood cells to carry oxygen and iron; tiredness; drowsiness |
| <u>50ug/dl</u> | Stomach aches and cramps; anemia; destruction of red blood cells; brain damage |
| <u>100 ug/dl and above</u> | Swelling of the brain; seizures; coma; death |

| Blood Lead Level | <u>ADULT REACTIONS TO LEAD</u> Possible Health Effects |
|--------------------------|---|
| <u>15ug/dl</u> | Increase in blood pressure; harmful effects on fetus; joint and muscle aches |
| <u>25ug/dl</u> | Reproductive problems |
| <u>40ug/dl</u> | Kidney damage; damage to blood formation |
| <u>60ug/dl</u> | Anemia; nerve damage; constipation; stomach pains; irritability and fatigue; memory and concentration problems; clumsiness; drowsiness and sleep problems |
| <u>80ug/dl and above</u> | Blue line on gums; uncontrollable shaking of hands; wrist and foot drop; hallucinations; brain damage; coma; death |