Children are at the greatest risk

Indeed, children are the ones in the greatest danger. Since their bodies are growing, they tend to absorb more lead. Small toddlers usually put objects in their mouths that are painted with lead. These young children eat the flavored lead paint that flake from the objects. They also lick painted surfaces such as window sills.

Resources Available

List the available in this order with contact information.

- Texas Health Steps (THSteps). Offers health care for child birth. 1-877-847-8377
- Environmental Lead Program. Protects children from exposure to lead in their environment. 1- 888-778-9440
- https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/. Relevant info on lead exposure.
- http://www.nchh.org/What-We-Do/Health-Hazards--Prevention--and-Solutions/Lead.aspx
- http://www.nchh.org/What-We-Do/Health-Hazards--Prevention--and-Solutions/Lead.aspx

Student Name

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The effect lead exposure on children

Definition or Description:

Lead is a very toxic metal when consumed or inhaled. This metal enters the bloodstream and accumulates in the teeth, tissues, organs, and bones.

Gradual exposure to this metal on children include the following:

- **Destruction of the reproductive system**
- **Coma**
- **Permanent mental damage**
- **Reduced blood cell count leading to Anemia**
- **Difficulty hearing**
- **Seizures**
- **Unexpected behavioral changes in children**
- **Kidney problems**
- **Stunted growth in infants**

Effects of lead exposure on infants

Important studies on lead exposure

Phytoremediation: which means using plant-based technology to remediate water and soil contaminated with lead. The most importance of this process is phytoextraction which means that the plants absorb and distribute the lead to above ground plant parts that are then cut off. The other process is phytostabilization which means the plants safely manage and stabilize lead sources to eliminate the danger to infant health and growth (Laidlaw et al., 2017).

Replacing windows: Since windows have high concentrations of lead and can be major points of energy loss, window replacement is an effective solution has environmental, economic, and health benefits that may people are not aware of. Any strategy that involves the control of lead poisoning should tackle all sources not excluding the lead paint on the house's exterior and the destruction of houses that are covered with lead-based paint. Even though, replacing your windows might not reduce the lead-based paint hazards at a specific building, these findings reveal that complete replacement of windows is likely to have a substantial positive influence on the permanent safety of homes against lead poisoning (Dixon et al., 2012).

Pushing the state to create and enforce laws that are against lead poisoning: Although these studies demonstrated ineffectiveness of the laws in avoiding periodic lead poisoning in infants, they acknowledged their importance in reducing the hazard (Kennedy, Lordo, Sucosky, Boehm, & Brown, 2016).

How lead enters your infant's body

The primary source of lead exposure in homes is lead-based paint which was prohibited in 1978. However, this threat is there at old homes. The substance that leads to this is the paint dust which mixes with air when old paint is removed, sanded, or begins to fragment.

There are various ways in which lead enters the child's body:

- **Eating food from ceramic plates made of lead**
- **Although rarely, consuming foreign spices that have lead traces**
- **Playing with crafts such as stained glass**
- **Giving children home remedies that have traces of lead**
- **Touching products that have lead paint (lead-painted toys)**
- **Consuming water that is contaminated from lead pipes.**
- **Playing in soil that is contaminated with lead**

Recommendations

Ensure that your infant cannot reach flaking paint or chewable surfaces covered with lead-based paint.

Consult your state or local health department regarding testing for Lead dust and paint in your home.

Pregnant women and infants should not be allowed to live in homes built before 1978 that are under the process of renovation. Also, they should not be involved in activities that peel off old paint or in removing the paint debris after the renovation is finished.

It is essential to decide the construction of your home or the areas where your infant spends most of its time. Consider houses built before 1978 as homes that have the potential of having lead paint.

Make sure that there are obstacles between lead sources and playing areas. Until environmental clean-up is finalized, you should separate and mop all lead sources. Make sure that you lock doors to prevent the toddlers from peeling or chipping paint on walls. Again, you can put up temporary obstacles like duct tape or contact paper, to block holes in walls or to prevent infants from reaching other sources of lead.