



University of California  
San Francisco



# Children's Environmental Health Symposium

## *Metals (acute and low level exposures)*

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San Francisco Division

Most important route(s) of exposure to lead for  
is/are:

Ingestion  
Inhalation  
Dermal contact  
Endogenous sources

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# The toxicity of arsenic is related to:

Organic or inorganic form

Valence state

Solubility

Rate of absorption

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# accurate test for measuring levels of organic exposure is:

Urine  
Whole  
blood  
Serum  
Hair

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# Outline

- A case
- Characteristics of metals
- Specific examples: Arsenic, Lead, Mercury
- Common pitfalls

# A Case...

- 3 year old male found to have a Blood lead level of 53 ug/dl
- His parents have been remodeling their home.

# What is your next step in the management of this patient?

Request a repeat blood lead level

Obtain a Zinc Protoporphyrin Level (ZPP)

Begin immediate oral and IV chelation

Order a KUB

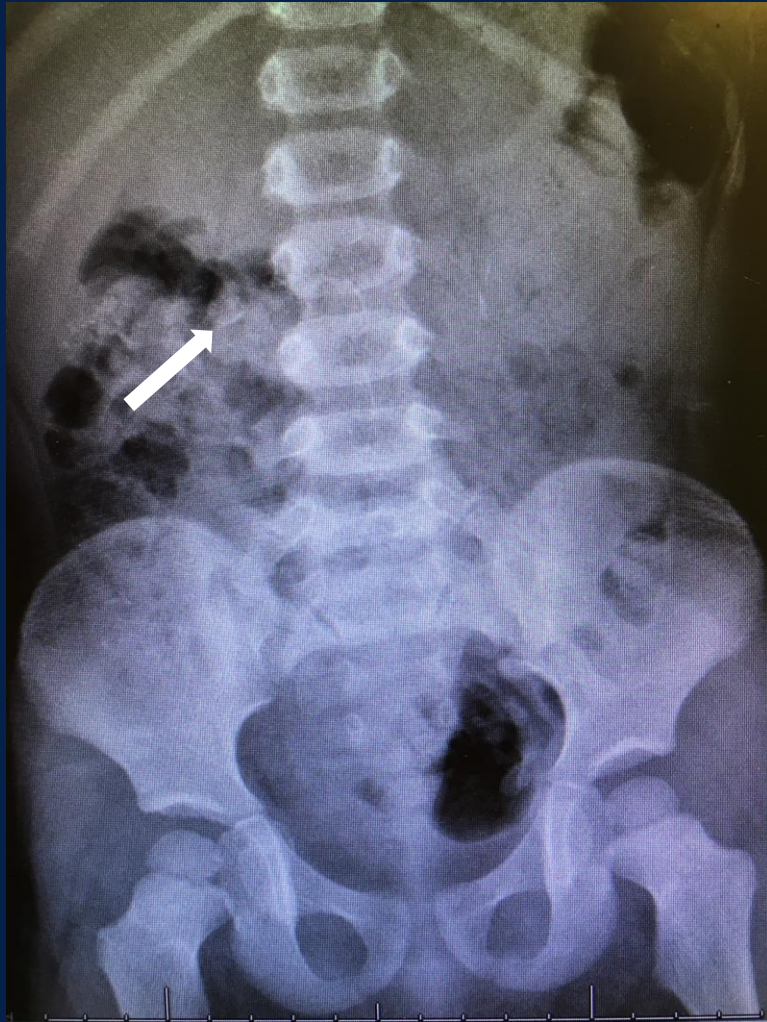
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# KUB

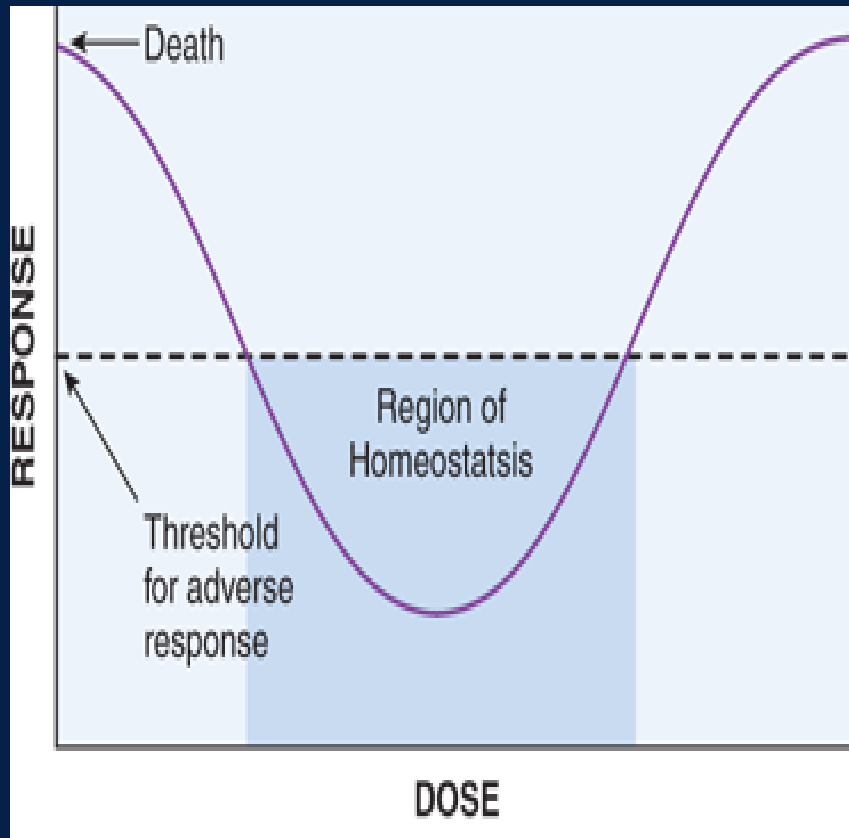


# Classification of Metals Based on Characteristics of Health Effects

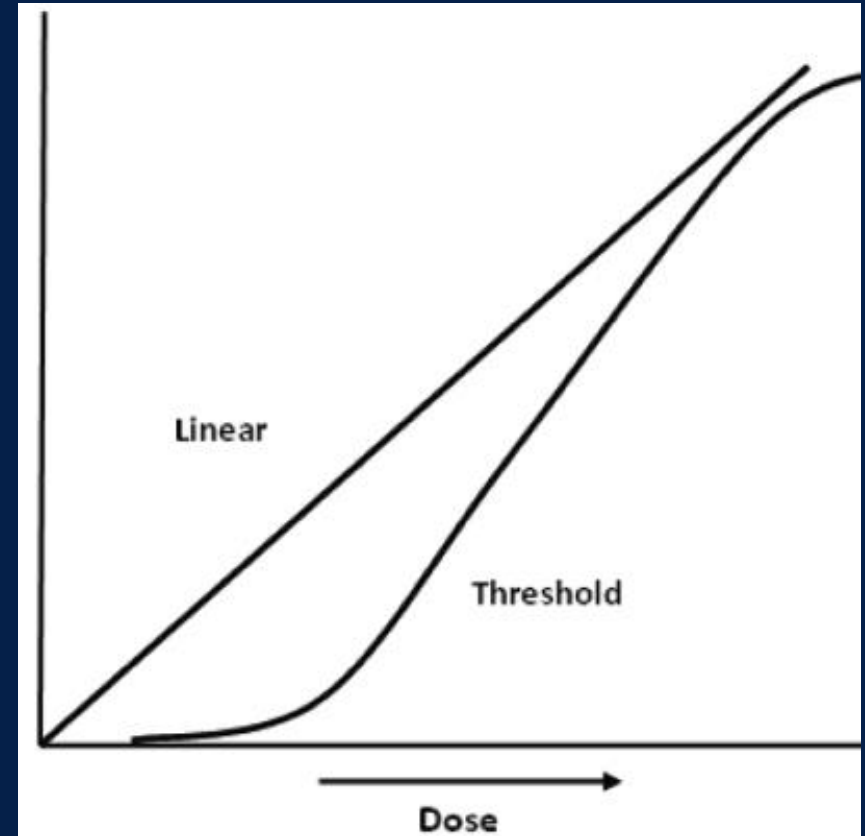
Nutritionally Essential Metals	Metals with No Known Beneficial Effects
Cobalt	Aluminum
Chromium III	Antimony
Copper	<b>Arsenic</b>
Iron	Barium
Manganese	Beryllium
Molybdenum	Cadmium
Selenium	<b>Lead</b>
Zinc	<b>Mercury</b>
	Silver
	Strontium
	Thallium

# Dose Response Curve for Metals

- Essential metals



- Non-essential metals



Source: L.L. Brunton, B.A. Chabner, B.C. Knollman: Goodman & Gillman's: The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 12ed. [www.accesspharmacy.com](http://www.accesspharmacy.com) © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

# Arsenic, lead and mercury

- Ubiquitous in the environment
- Present in air, water, and soil

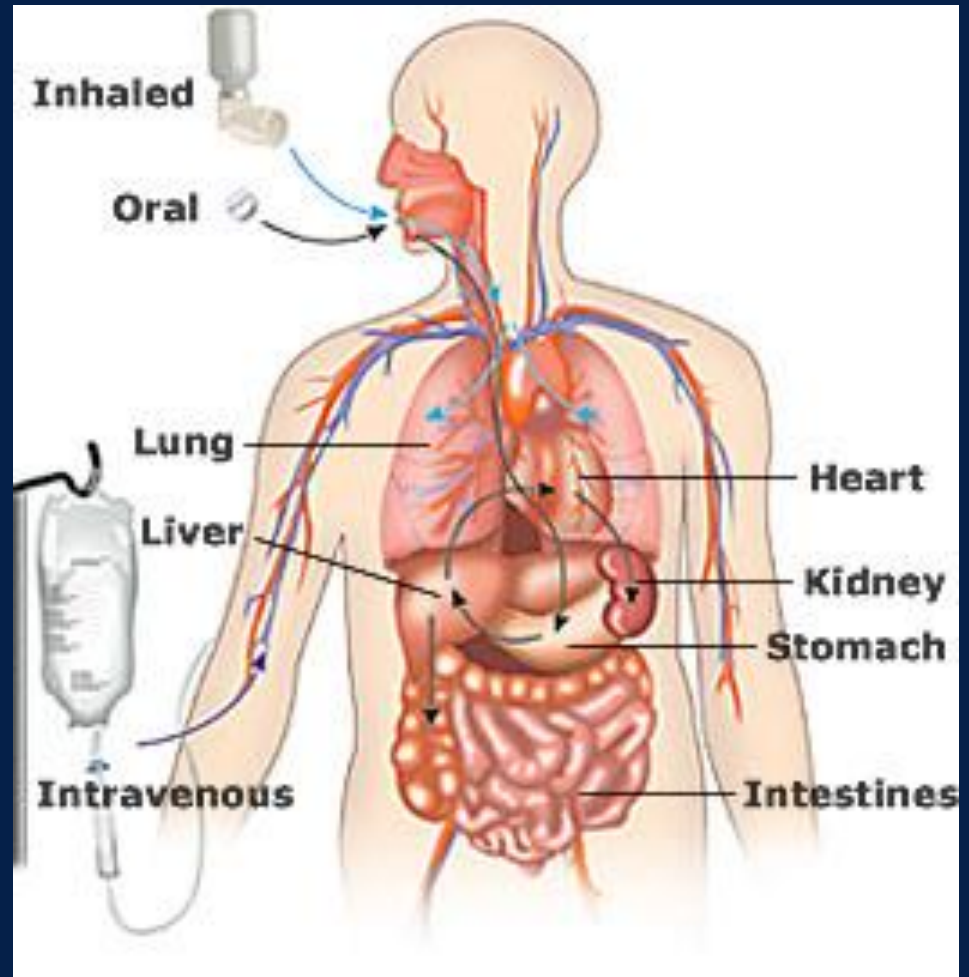
Goyer R, Golub M, Choudhury H, Hughes M, Kenyon E, Stifelman M, Issue Paper On The Human Health Effects Of Metals.  
Submitted to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2004

# Speciation and of metals affects their toxicity

- Elemental eg. Mercury, Hg
- Organic – bound to a carbon eg Dimethyl Mercury,  $\text{Hg}(\text{CH}_3)_2$
- Inorganic – bound to non-carbon, eg Mercuric Chloride  $\text{HgCl}_2$

# Toxicokinetics

- Absorption
- Distribution
- Metabolism
- Elimination



metal would you prefer to have applied to you

Elemental  
Mercury

Dimethyl

mercury

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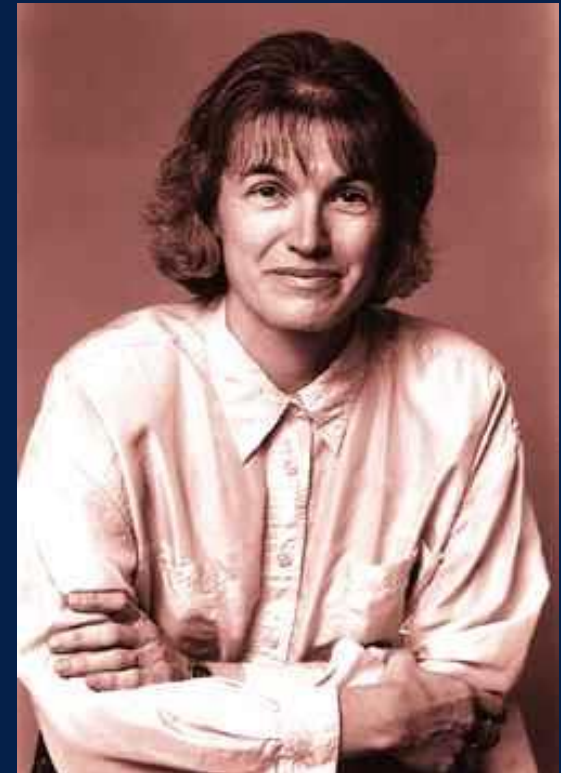
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ORIGINAL ARTICLE  
BRIEF REPORT

## Delayed Cerebellar Disease and Death after Accidental Exposure to Dimethylmercury

David W. Nierenberg, M.D., Richard E. Nordgren, M.D., Morris B. Chang, M.D., Richard W. Siegler, M.D., Michael B. Blayney, Ph.D., Fred Hochberg, M.D., Taft Y. Toribara, Ph.D., Elsa Cernichiarì, M.S., and Thomas Clarkson, Ph.D.  
N Engl J Med 1998; 338:1672-1676 | June 4, 1998 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJM199806043382305



Karen Wetterhahn

Cerebellar Hemispheric Sections from the Patient (Left) and from a Woman of Approximately the Same Age without Neurologic Disease (Right). Widespread shrinkage of the folia and diminution of the cerebellar cortical thickness are evident in the section from the patient.



# Arsenic

# Is there a health concern?

The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying a Consumer Reports article. At the top, the ConsumerReports.org logo is on the left, and a search bar with the text 'Find Ratings' and a magnifying glass icon is in the center. To the right of the search bar is a link for 'A-Z Index'. Below the search bar is a dark navigation bar with white text and dropdown arrows for categories: 'Cars', 'Appliances', 'Electronics', 'Home & Garden', 'Babies & Kids', 'Money', 'Shopping', and 'Health'. Underneath this bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Consumer Reports magazine > 2012 > November > Arsenic In Your Food'. To the right of the breadcrumb trail are social media sharing icons for Facebook (Like), Twitter (Tweet), and Google+ (g+1), along with icons for email, print, and font size adjustment. The main article title is 'Arsenic In Your Food' in a large, bold, black font. Below the title is a subtitle: 'Our findings show a real need for federal standards for this toxin'. Underneath the subtitle is the text 'Consumer Reports magazine: November 2012'. The main content area features a large, vibrant image of various food products, including boxes of Uncle Ben's rice, Gerber rice, Kellogg's Rice Krispies, and bowls of rice, cereal, and pasta. To the right of the article content is a large white box with a red border. At the top of this box, the words 'SUBSCRIBE ONLINE' are written in large, bold, red capital letters. Below this, the text reads 'Join today & get 24/7 online access to:' followed by three bullet points: '▶ Expert Ratings', '▶ Buying Advice', and '▶ Mobile (now included in your subscription)'. At the bottom of this box is a red button with white text that says 'CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE'. Below the subscribe box is a section titled 'Cars' in bold black font. To the left of the text is a small image of a blue car. The text to the right of the car image reads: 'Build & Buy Car Buying Service Save thousands off MSRP with upfront dealer pricing information and a transparent car buying experience.' Below this text is a blue link that says 'See Your Savings'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'E-mail Newsletters' in bold black font.

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Home > Consumer Reports magazine > 2012 > November > Arsenic In Your Food

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## Arsenic In Your Food

Our findings show a real need for federal standards for this toxin

Consumer Reports magazine: November 2012

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# What is arsenic?

## ■ Inorganic arsenic (iAs)

- Free
- Known to be highly toxic
- Human carcinogen
- Examples:  $\text{As}^{\text{III}}$ ,  $\text{As}^{\text{V}}$
- Metabolized to:
  - Dimethylarsenic acid, methylarsonic acid

## ■ Organic arsenic (oAs)

- Bound to carbon
- Toxicity varies
- Not always known
- Examples: Arsenobetaine, Arsenolipids



# Health Effects

## ▪ Acute

- Typically starts in the GI tract
- Multi-organ failure:
  - Heart Failure
  - Brain: Altered Mental Status
  - Blood: Anemia
  - Skin: Sougning

## ▪ Chronic

- Lung, bladder and skin cancer; possibly other cancers
- Emerging evidence links high exposure early in life to children's health, with potential lifelong consequences
  - Pulmonary diseases
  - Immunological effects
  - Growth
  - Neurodevelopmental effects
- Chronic effects of low dose exposure are less studied

# Arsenic exposure via water

Is an arsenic level of 10 ppb in our drinking water safe?

3ppb -> 1 excess cancer\* in 1,000

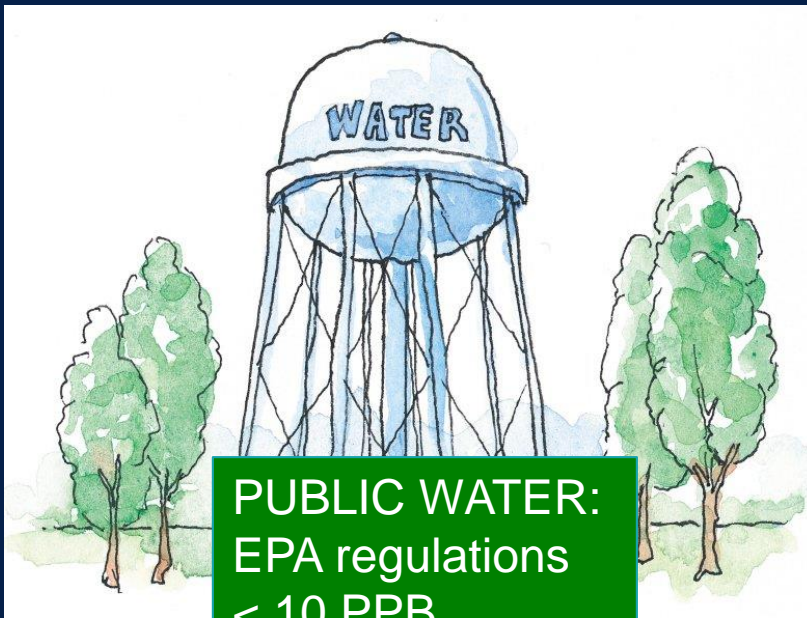
5ppb -> 1.5 excess cancer\* in 1,000

10ppb -> 3 excess cancer\* in 1,000

20ppb -> 7 excess cancer\* in 1,000

\*cancer refers to bladder and lung cancer

# Arsenic exposure via water



**PUBLIC WATER:**  
EPA regulations  
< 10 PPB



**PRIVATE WATER:**  
Unregulated  
Homeowner is responsible  
For testing and treatment

2 million of people in US on wells  
exceeding U.S. water standard


# Arsenic levels in common foods

Arsenic intake occurs through food and drinking water with recent concerns focused on high levels in rice. Elevated levels of arsenic can cause lung, bladder and skin cancers, cardiovascular disease and hypertension and could cause neurological deficits and diabetes.

**RICE, RICE PRODUCTS**  
3.5-6.7  $\mu\text{g}$   
per cup




**MEAT\***  
**Beef**  
0.1  $\mu\text{g}$  per half pound



**COOKED SPINACH**  
1.1  $\mu\text{g}$   
per cup



**Chicken**  
0.2  $\mu\text{g}$  per half pound



**GRAPEFRUIT**  
0.4  $\mu\text{g}$  per half pound



**Shrimp**  
0.4  $\mu\text{g}$  per half pound



**\*FISH**  
Fish has high amounts of organic arsenic that are not as risky to human health as inorganic arsenic.



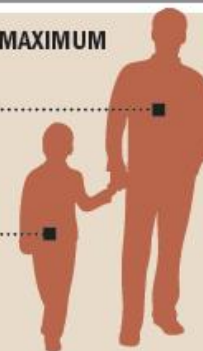
## RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM ARSENIC INTAKE

220-lb. person  
**30  $\mu\text{g}$**

50-lb. child  
**14  $\mu\text{g}$**



Health threat = **50+  $\mu\text{g}$**



## Arsenic in water

### WELL, SPRING, NATURAL WATER

- Concentration can reach 100-200 ppb (parts per billion) = 200-400  $\mu\text{g}$  per 2 liters of water.

### PUBLIC WATER

- Typical concentration: 2-4 ppb = 4-8  $\mu\text{g}$  per 2 liters of water.

**NOTE:** 10 ppb is the maximum concentration allowed, or 20  $\mu\text{g}$  per 2 liters of water.

**REGULATED**

**UNREGULATED**

Sources: "A Market Basket Survey of Inorganic Arsenic in Food," Food and Chemical Toxicology 37 (1999), by R.A. Schoof, et. al.

James Hilston/  
Post-Gazette

# Is there a health concern?

- 2008 Baby Rice cereals study
  - Drinking water 10 ppb: 0.17  $\mu\text{g}/\text{d}/\text{kg}$
  - Baby rice cereal: 0.21  $\mu\text{g}/\text{d}/\text{kg}$
- FDA 2013
  - 1343 samples
  - 30% contained levels > 4.0 ppb per serving (excesses drinking water limit if > 4 servings/day)
  - Arsenic also in Infant and children's food products
- 2017 Gluten free diet study
  - Higher concentrations of urinary total arsenic,
  - Mean concentration of estimated urinary total arsenic was nearly double among those on a gluten-free diet versus not on a gluten-free diet

Meharg AA, Sun G, Williams PN, Adomako E, Deacon C, Zhu YG, Feldmann J, Raab A. Inorganic arsenic levels in baby rice are of concern. Environ Pollut. 2008 Apr;152(3):746-9.

Bulka CM, Davis MA, Karagas MR, Ahsan H, Argos M. The Unintended Consequences of a Gluten-Free Diet. Epidemiology. 2017 Feb 1.



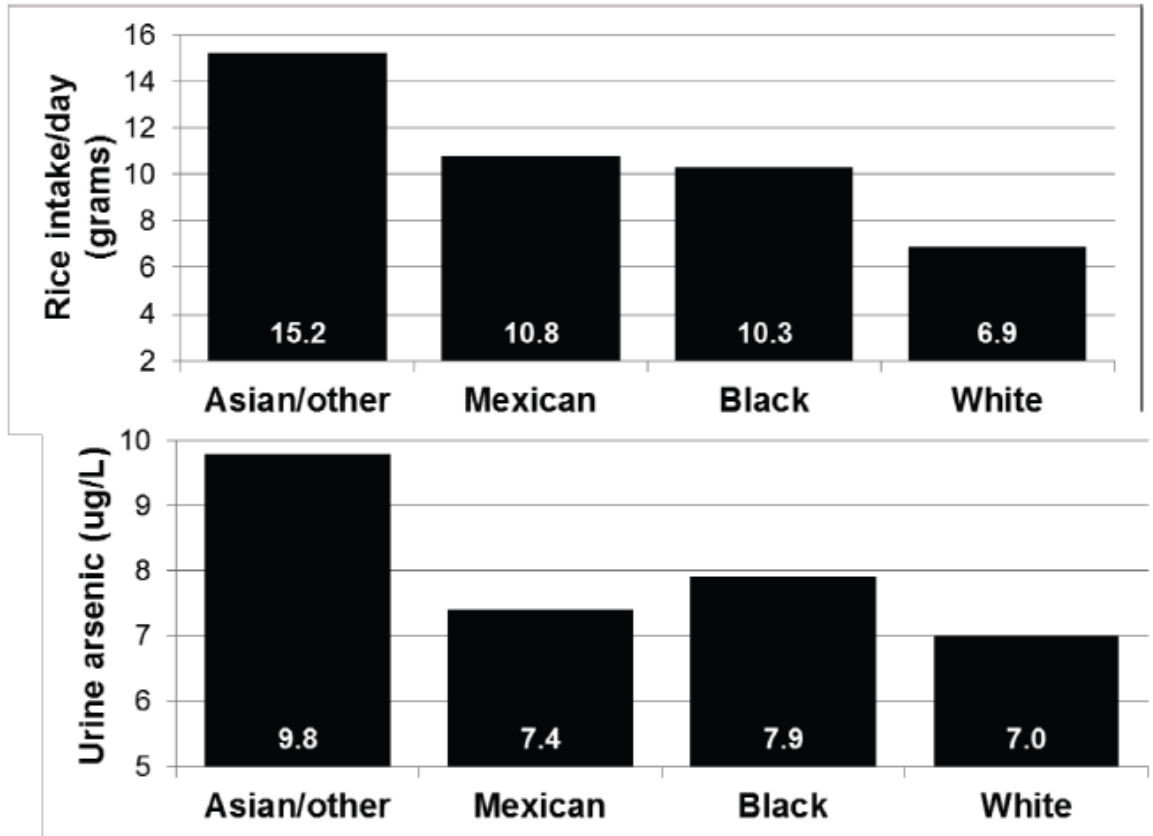
# What do we know?

- Rice > other grains
  - Anaerobic growing environment
  - Unique physiology
- Brown rice > white rice
  - Arsenic accumulates in the bran
  - Brown rice has more fiber and vitamins
- South Central U.S. > California
- Basmati and sushi rice less than other types of rice



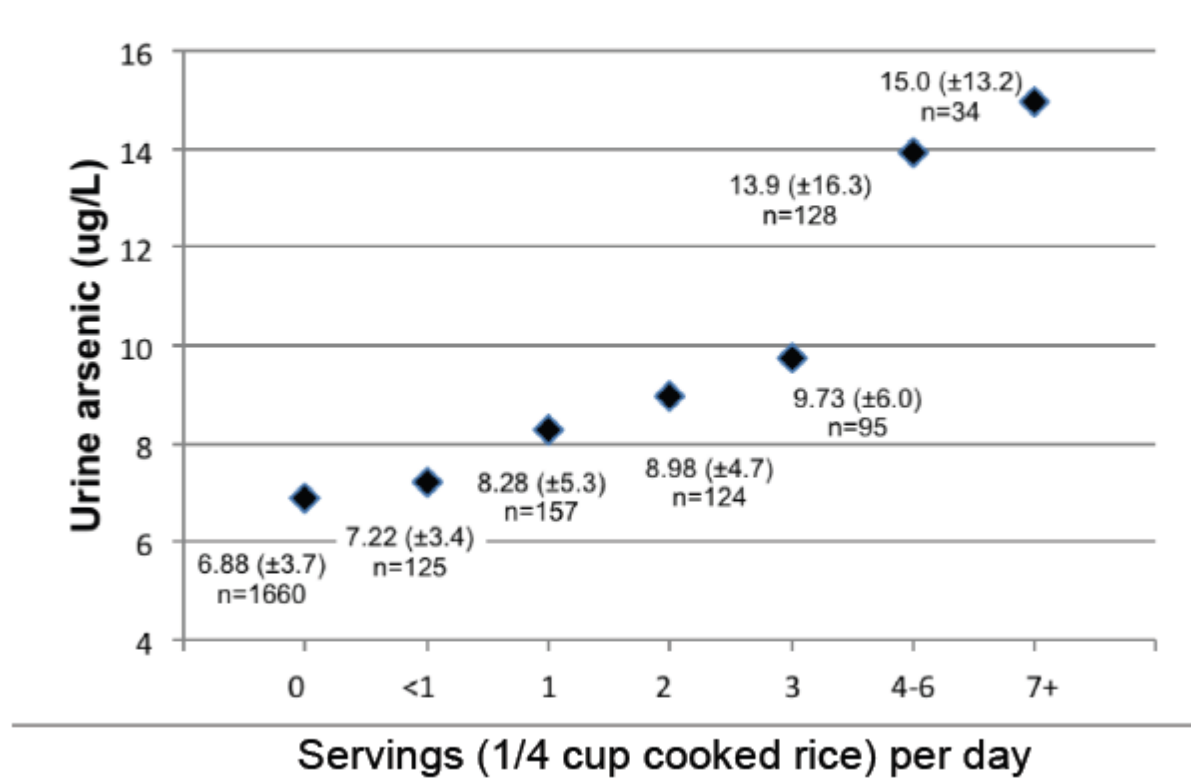
# Is there a health concern?

Figure 4. Urinary arsenic and rice intake levels in children by race, NHANES 2003-2008.



# Is there a health concern?

Figure 3. Increasing median urine arsenic with increasing rice intake in children. NHANES 2003-2008.



# What can you do?

- The FDA advises consumers to:
  - Eat a well-balanced diet
  - Vary your grains
  - Consider diversifying infant foods
- The AAP advises parents to:
  - Offer children a wide variety of foods, including other grains such as oats, wheat and barley
  - Parents commonly feed infants rice cereal as a first food, but other foods are equally acceptable as a first food

# Summary: Arsenic

<b>Sources of Exposure</b>	Rice, fish, water
<b>Primary concern (chronic exposure)</b>	Bladder, lung, skin cancer
<b>T<sub>1/2</sub></b>	Blood 10 hours, urine 48 hours
<b>Screening:</b>	24 hour urine collection is best
<b>National average ages 6- 11 total arsenic - urine</b>	7.78 µg/L (creatinine corrected)
<b>National average ages 6- 11 inorganic arsenic - urine</b>	7.38 µg/L (creatinine corrected)
<b>95% Percentile ages 6- 11 inorganic arsenic - urine</b>	17.8 µg/L (creatinine corrected)
<b>Treatment</b>	Removal from exposure

Lead



# What is lead?

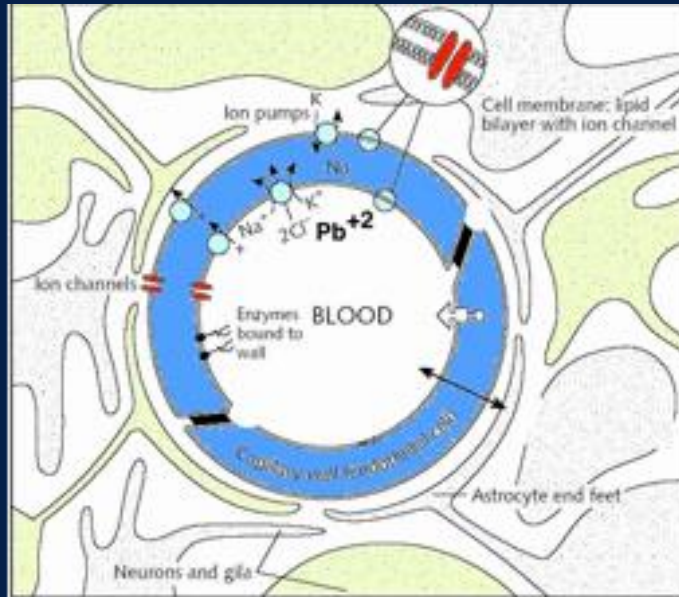


- Inorganic lead is a malleable, blue-gray, heavy metal that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust. It has a low melting point, high density and corrosion resistant. These properties allow it to be used in a variety of products with minimal technical equipment or expertise.
- Lead was one of the first metals used by humans and consequently, the cause of the first recorded occupational disease (lead colic in a 4th century BC metal worker).
- In 2012, U.S. production of lead was estimated at 1.6 million metric tons; primarily from secondary refining of scrap metal.
- U.S. mines produced 342,000 metric tons, ranking third in the world behind China and Australia.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/lead/>



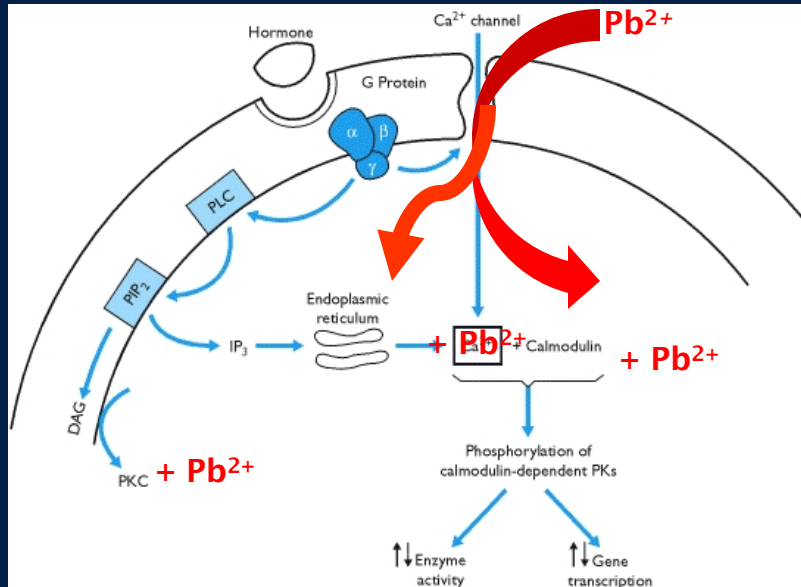
# Leads movement through the blood brain barrier



- Substitutes for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and passes through ion channels
- Interferes with astrocyte and endothelial cell communication
- In children <6 (12 – 24 months) have incomplete blood brain barrier that permits the entry

Brochin, R., Leone, S., Phillips, D., Shepard, N., Zisa, D., & Angerio, A. (2008). The cellular effect of lead poisoning and its clinical picture. *Issues*, 5(2).

# Lead's multiple toxic mechanisms



Nussey S, Whitehead S. Endocrinology: An Integrated Approach. Oxford: BIOS Scientific Publishers; 2001. Chapter 5, The parathyroid glands and vitamin D. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK24/>

- Pb<sup>2+</sup> enters through Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel, and binds with calmodulin with a higher affinity than Ca<sup>2+</sup>
- Pb<sup>2+</sup> may also be stored in the endoplasmic reticulum, in place of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, and released when the G-protein activates phospholipase C, leading to abnormal enzyme activity and gene transcription
- Protein kinase C binds Pb<sup>2+</sup> more readily than Ca<sup>2+</sup> resulting in cellular dysfunction

Sanders T, Liu Y, Buchner V and Tchounwou P. Neurotoxic Effects and Biomarkers of Lead Exposure: A Review. Rev Environ Health. 2009 Jan–Mar; 24(1): 15–45.

# Where is lead?

## Damaged paint in homes built pre-1979

Cracked or peeling paint creates paint chips and lead dust that can be accessible to children in the home and through contact with bare soil.



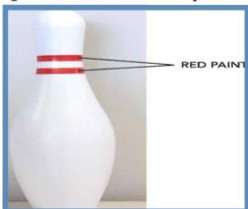
## Lead dust from work and hobbies

Working in construction, painting, gardening or recycling centers as well as doing activities like fishing or making jewelry, pottery or stained glass can track lead dust back to the house. Shower as soon as getting home.



## Children s Toys

Lead has been found in the paint, glaze & metal parts of various toys.



## Children s Clothing

Coatings, jewelry & decals on some children's clothing.



## Home Remedies

Some remedies from foreign countries contain lead.



## Unsafe Work Practices

Homes can become contaminated with lead due to improper remodeling. Always hire a lead-certified contractor to do home repairs. Requiring lead safe work practices in your home will protect children, pets and the environment.



## Children s Art Items

Some children's arts and crafts products are recalled due to violation of paint standard. Unless labeled "Meets ASTM D-4236".



## Handmade & Imported Ceramic Ware

May have lead glaze. Do not purchase if item has Prop. 65 Warning. ▼



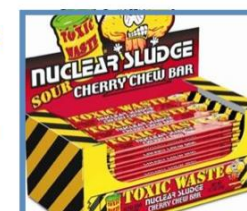
## Makeup

Some lipsticks have been found to have lead, as well as eyeliners from the Middle East.



## Metallic Jewelry & Keys

Some necklaces, rings, bracelets, charms and keys contain lead. Swallowing an item can be fatal.



## Imported Candies

Numerous foreign candies have been found to contain lead. Consider fruit instead of candy.



## Soft Cables & Cords

Lead in the plastic coatings may be swallowed when cables/cords are sucked on or chewed.



### Worries About Lead for New York's Garden-Fresh Eggs

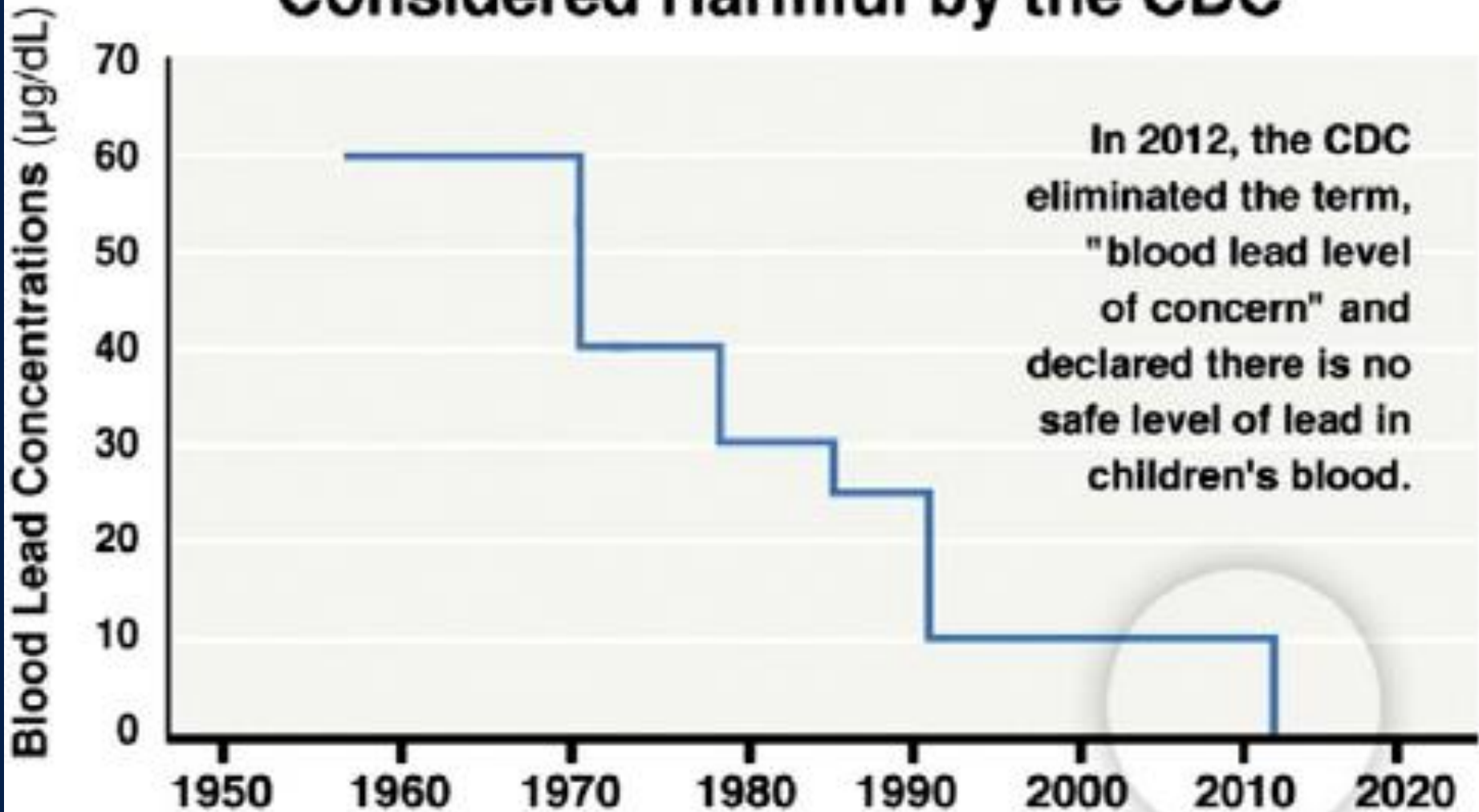
A study suggests eggs from neighborhood gardens show elevated levels of lead, but whether the amounts are alarming is not clear.

NYTIMES.COM | BY JULIE SCELFO



Spliethoff HM, Mitchell RG, Ribaud LN, Taylor O, Shayler HA, Greene V, Oglesby D. Lead in New York City community garden chicken eggs: influential factors and health implications. Environ Geochem Health. 2014 Aug;36(4):633-49. doi: 10.1007/s10653-013-9586-z. Epub 2013 Nov 28.

# Blood Lead Concentrations Considered Harmful by the CDC



Taylor MP, Winder C, Lanphear BP. Australia's leading public health body delays action on the revision of the public health goal for blood lead exposures. *Environ Int.* 2014 Sep;70:113-7.

# Organ System toxicity

## ■ GI

- Lead colic, which includes sporadic vomiting, intermittent abdominal pain, and constipation,

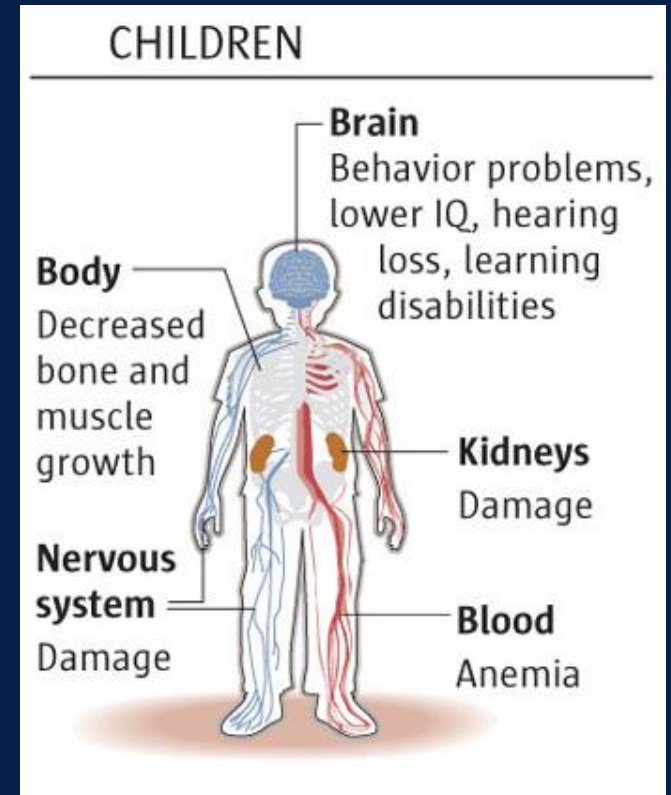
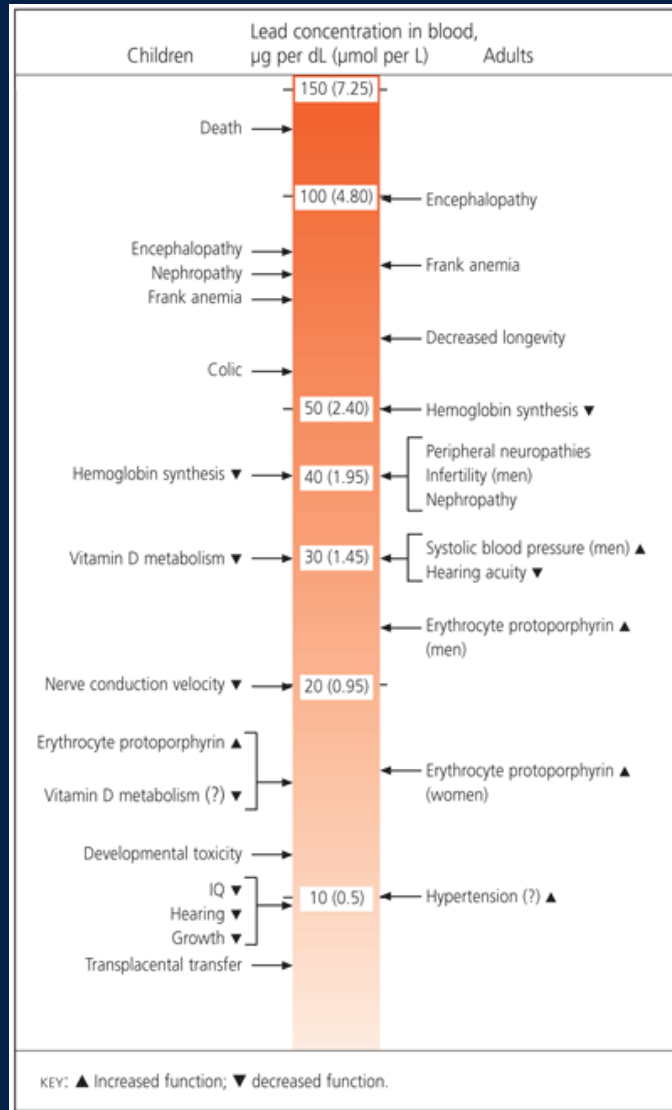
## ■ Renal

- $< 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$  = Lead nephropathy/chronic interstitial nephritis, renal tubular dysfunction: aminoaciduria, glycosuria, proteinuria

## ■ Nervous System

- Any Level = cognitive deficits.
- $20 \mu\text{g/dL}$  = Peripheral Neuropathy
- Hearing Loss
- $100 \mu\text{g/dL}$  = encephalopathy

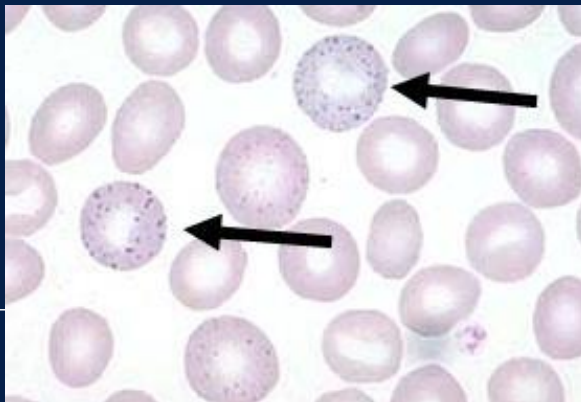
# Target Organs



# Lead induced anemia

## Ineffective erythropoiesis

- $<40 \mu\text{g/dL}$  likely iron deficiency anemia (same risk factors as lead toxicity)
- $40 \mu\text{g/dL}$  = anemia 2/2 to hemoglobin precursors:
  - Inhibition of delta aminolevulinate dehydratase and ferrochelatase
  - Results in accumulation of heme intermediates such as free protoporphyrin in erythrocytes



## Hemolysis ( $>70 \mu\text{g/dL}$ )

- Acquired deficiency of erythrocyte pyrimidine 5'-nucleotidase
- or
- Inhibits alpha chain synthesis, mimicking alpha thalassemia
- or
- Inhibition of RBC membrane ATP-ase

Aly MH, Kim HC, Renner SW, Boyarsky A, Kosmin M, Paglia DE.

Hemolytic anemia associated with lead poisoning from shotgun pellets and the response to Succimer treatment. *Am J Hematol.* 1993 Dec;44(4):280-3.

Wright RO, Tsaih SW, Schwartz J, Wright RJ, Hu H. Association between iron deficiency and blood lead level in a longitudinal analysis of children followed in an urban primary care clinic. *J Pediatr.* 2003 Jan;142(1):9-14.

Kwong WT, Friello P, Semba RD. Interactions between iron deficiency and lead poisoning: epidemiology and pathogenesis. *Sci Total Environ.* 2004 Sep 1;330(1-3):21-37. Review.



# Lead lines

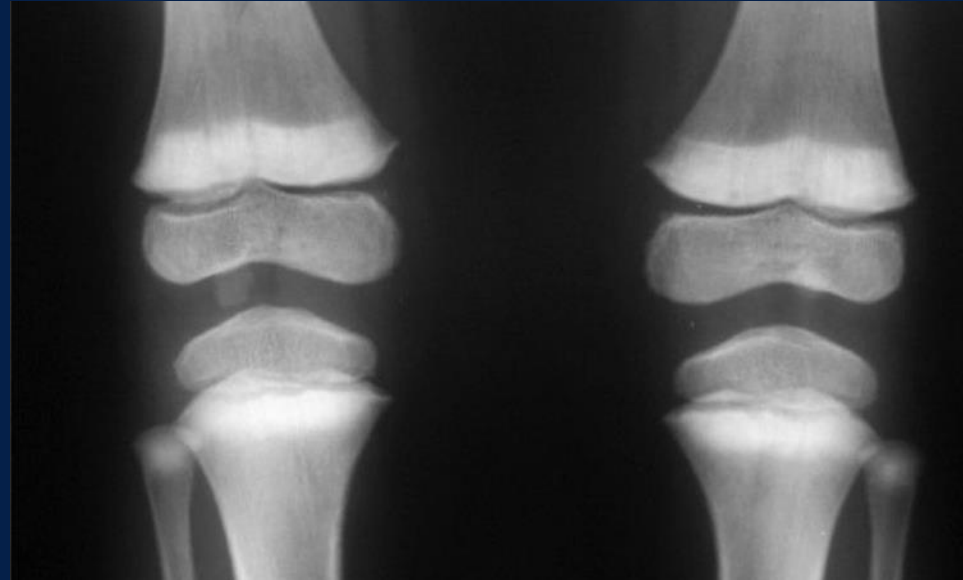
At 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  as BLL $\uparrow$ , Vitamin D  
 $\downarrow$  affecting tooth/bone  
maturation

Bands of increased density at  
metaphyses of tubular bones  
(growing bone)

Metaphyses of growing bones may  
be dense normally

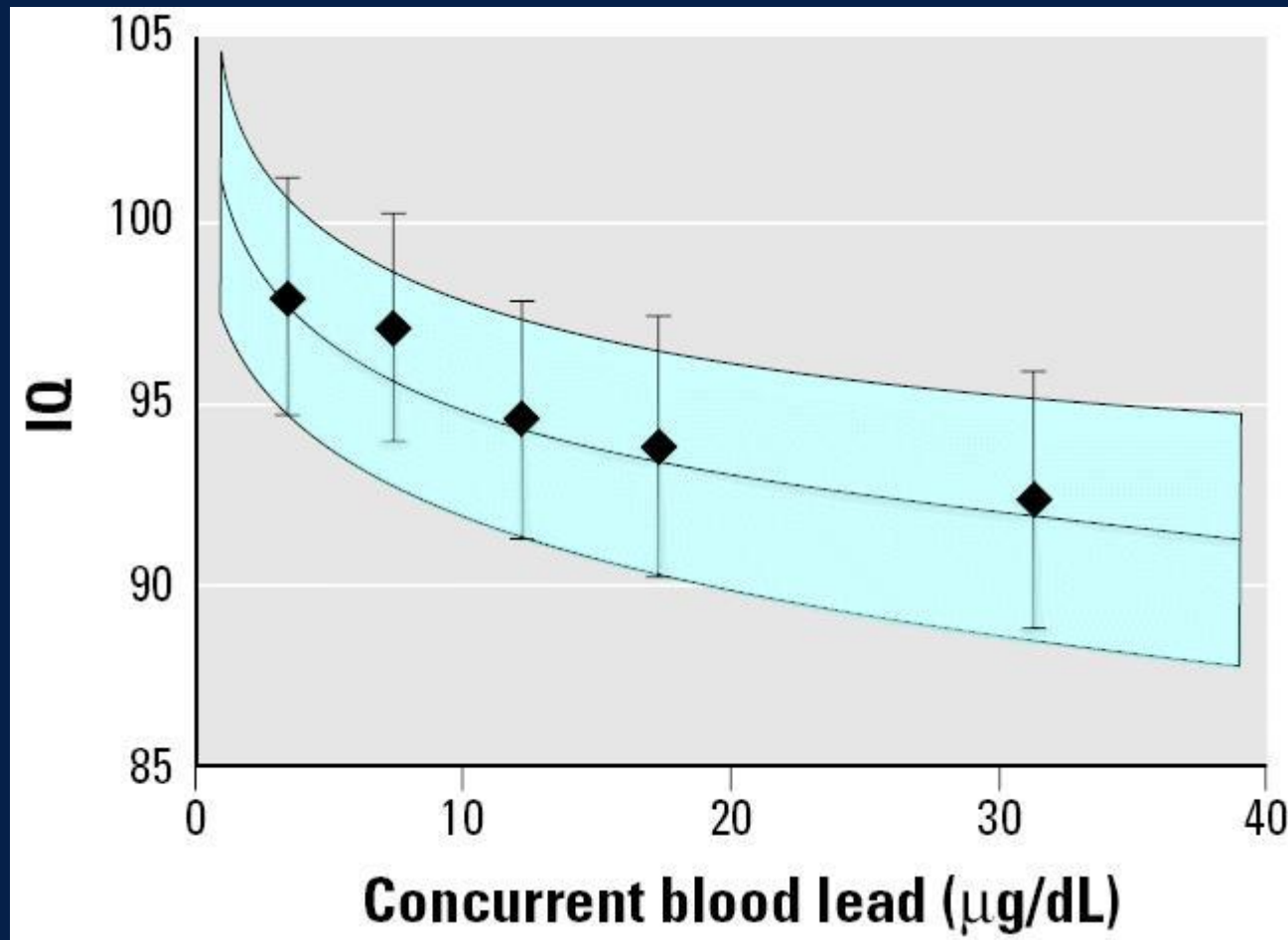
Lead lines more apt to be seen in  
proximal fibula and distal ulna  
where growth is not as great as  
other long bones

Frontal radiograph of both knees of a child with  
lead poisoning



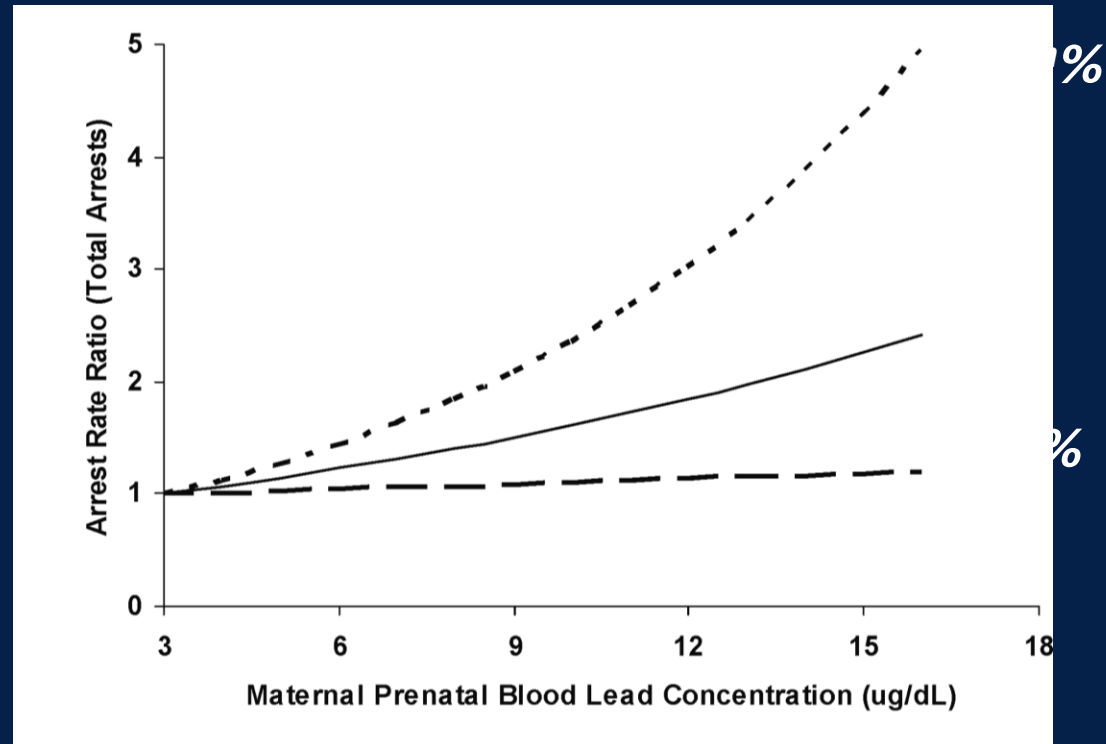
<http://www.learningradiology.com/notes/bonenotes/leadpoisonpage.htm#sthash.5lp8J7M4.dpuf>

# Blood Lead and IQ scores in 1,333 children followed from birth to age 10.



# Societal Costs

- The costs of lead hazard control range from \$1.2-\$11.0 billion/yr.
- The benefits range from \$192-\$270 billion/yr, this includes the sum of the costs for medical treatment, lost earnings, tax revenue, special education, lead-linked ADHD cases, and criminal activity.



Wright JP, Dietrich KN, Ris MD, Hornung RW, Wessel SD, et al. (2008) Association of Prenatal and Childhood Blood Lead Concentrations with Criminal Arrests in Early Adulthood. *PLoS Med* 5(5): e101.

Gould, E. (2009). Childhood Lead Poisoning: Conservative Estimates of the Social and Economic Benefits of Lead Hazard Control. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 117(7), 1162–1167.

# Levels of Prevention

	<b>Primary Prevention</b>	<b>Secondary Prevention</b>	<b>Tertiary Prevention</b>
Definition	Intervention implemented before there is evidence of injury	Intervention implemented after a disease has begun, but before it is symptomatic	Intervention implemented after a disease is established
Intent	Eliminate causative factor	Early identification and treatment	Prevent sequelae
Example	Eliminate lead Exposure	Screen for lead exposure	Prevent anemia, encephalopathy, and renal failure

# PRIMARY PREVENTION:

- Hygiene Guidance
  - Change out of work clothes and shoes before going inside the home.
  - Take off shoes or wipe them on a doormat before going inside the home
  - Keep the home clean and dust-free.
  - Keep furniture away from paint that is chipped or peeling.
  - Never sand, dry scrape, power wash or sandblast paint
  - Always wash hands before eating and sleeping.
- Nutrition Guidance
  - Balanced diet two daily servings of dairy or other calcium rich foods and two servings of fruit or fruit juice provide sufficient calcium and vitamin C in the diet

# Secondary Prevention

- **AAP\***

- A risk assessment and anticipatory guidance to parents of children particularly **6 months to 6 years**

- **BLL's ideally at 1 and 2 years of age**, unless lead exposure can be confidently excluded.

- n **USPSTF (2006)**

- n There is **INSUFFICIENT** evidence to recommend for or against routine screening for elevated blood lead levels in asymptomatic children aged 1 to 5 who are at increased risk.

- n Recommends **AGAINST** routine screening for elevated blood lead levels in asymptomatic children aged 1 to 5 years who are at average risk.

- **CA DPH**

Screen:

- Children in publicly supported programs at both 12 months and 24 months.
- Children age 24 months to 6 years in publicly supported programs who were not tested at 24 months or later.
- **Lives in a place built before 1978** that has peeling or chipped paint or that has been recently remodeled

# Tertiary Prevention

- Any level = **REMOVAL FROM EXPOSURE!**
- >45 µg/dL
  - Gut Decontamination
  - Hospitalization or other Lead free environment
  - Oral Chelation (Succimer/DMSA)
- >70 µg/dL
  - Oral + IV (Succimer + Ca EDTA)
- >100 µg/dL
  - IV + IM (Ca EDTA + Dimercaprol/BAL)

# Wholesale Prices for Calcium Disodium Edetate (Calcium EDTA) – 5 ml ampules (200mg/ml)

Manufacturer	Package Size (# of ampules)	Effective Date	Wholesale Acquisition Cost - Package	Average Wholesale Price - Package	Average Wholesale Price per ml	Percent Increase per ml
Graceway Pharmaceuticals	6	10/02/2008	\$464.24	\$557.09	\$18.57	
Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America	5	12/22/2014	\$26,927.33	\$33,659.16	\$1346.37	7,150 %

[Source: Red Book Online Database – Micromedex Solutions®  
accessed 1/23/2016]





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# Valeant Ex-CEO, Ex-CFO Are a Focus of U.S. Criminal Probe

by Christian Berthelsen [@CBerthelsen1](#) Greg Farrell [gregfarrel](#) Neil Weinberg [NeilAWeinberg](#) Cynthia Koons [CynthiaLKoons](#)

October 31, 2016 – 12:24 PM PDT *Updated on* October 31, 2016 – 1:49 PM PDT



Pharmaceuticals.

CaEDTA entered the US pharmacopoeia in the 1950s as a chelating agent that accelerates the removal of lead from the body. When prescribed by medical toxicologists, it is administered by parenteral (i.e. intravenous or intramuscular) injection in a hospital setting to patients with extremely high blood lead concentrations, usually in excess of 100 µg/dl, who are suffering from severe or life-threatening complications of

UCSF

# Description of 3,180 Courses of Chelation with Dimercaptosuccinic Acid in Children $\leq 5$ y with Severe Lead Poisoning in Zamfara, Northern Nigeria: A Retrospective Analysis of Programme Data

Natalie Thurtle<sup>1</sup>, Jane Greig<sup>2\*</sup>, Lauren Cooney<sup>1</sup>, Yona Amitai<sup>3</sup>, Cono Ariti<sup>4</sup>, Mary Jean Brown<sup>5</sup>, Michael J. Kosnett<sup>6</sup>, Krystel Moussally<sup>1</sup>, Nasir Sani-Gwarzo<sup>7</sup>, Henry Akpan<sup>8,9</sup>, Leslie Shanks<sup>1</sup>, Paul I. Dargan<sup>1,10</sup>

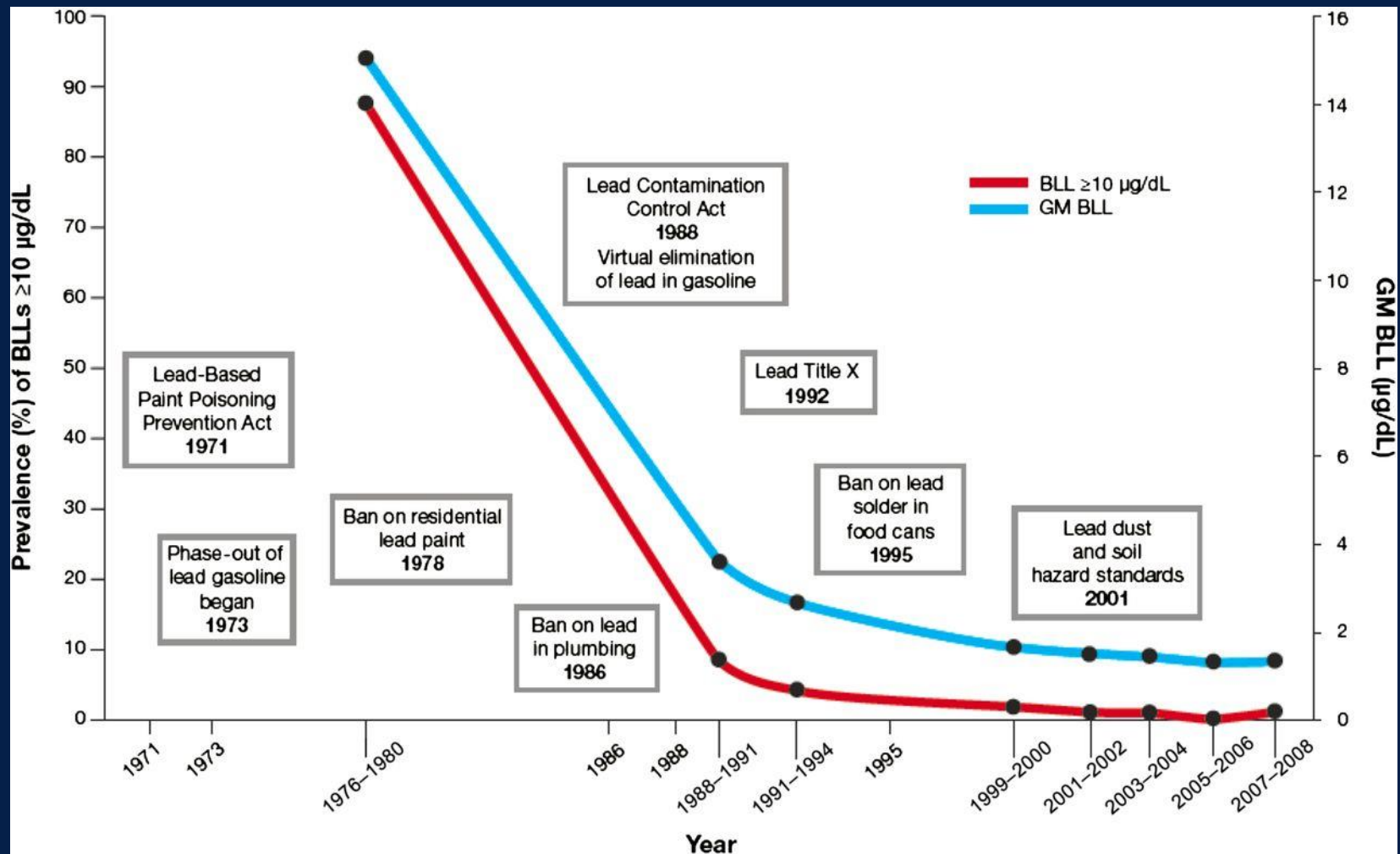
<sup>1</sup> Médecins Sans Frontières, Amsterdam, Holland, <sup>2</sup> Médecins Sans Frontières, London, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup> Department of Management Bar Ilan University Ramat Gan, Israel,

**Table 3.** Baseline characteristics.

Characteristic	Pre-Chelation <sup>†</sup> (n=1,156 Children)	Pre-Course (n=3,180 Courses)
<b>Age at start of course</b>		
0 to <6 mo	48 (4%)	63 (2%)
≥6 mo to <1 y	128 (11%)	300 (9%)
≥1 y to <2 y	190 (16%)	689 (22%)
≥2 y to <3 y	115 (10%)	342 (11%)
≥3 y to ≤5 y	675 (58%)	1,786 (56%)
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	599 (52%)	1,638 (52%)
Female	557 (48%)	1,542 (48%)
<b>VBLL (µg/dl)</b>		
45–64.9	709 (61%)	1,856 (58%)
65–79.9	68 (6%)	187 (6%)
80–119.9	295 (26%)	945 (30%)
120–199.9	69 (6%)	174 (5%)
200–345	15 (1%)	18 (1%)

Over a 2-month period until in May 2010, nearly 300 children aged <5 years old presented with intractable seizures of unknown etiology, with a mortality of 48%.

Timeline of lead poisoning prevention policies and blood lead levels in children aged 1–5 years, by year—NHANES, United States, 1971–2008.



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Pediatrics  
2016;138:e20161493

# Summary: Lead

<b>Reference value</b>	<5 µg/dL in whole blood
<b>Screening:</b>	12 and 24 Months
<b>Sources of exposure</b>	Paint chips, demolition, construction
<b>Treatment (asymptomatic, levels &lt;45 µg/dL)</b>	Removal from exposure, KUB, ZPP, CBC, CMP
<b>Treatment (symptomatic, &gt;45µg/dL)</b>	Succimer x 19 days x 1
<b>T<sub>1/2</sub></b>	30 Days -blood
<b>Primary Concern</b>	Neurologic, renal, hematologic

# Mercury

# Forms of Mercury

Elemental

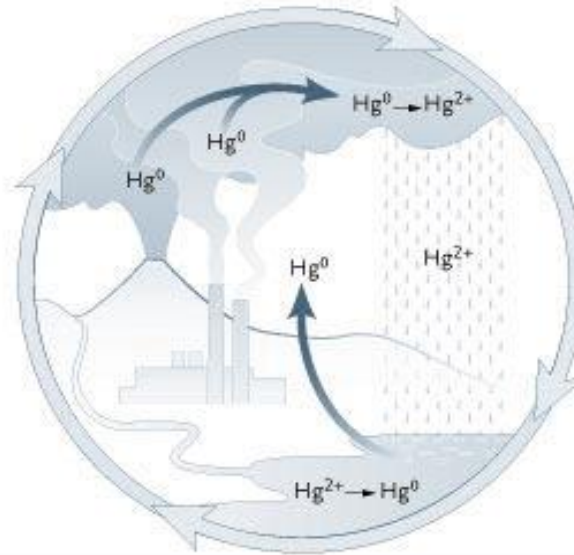
Inorganic

Organic

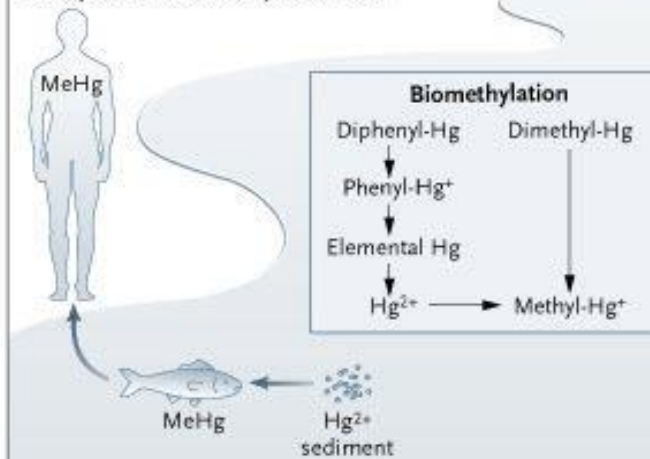


# The Global Cycle of Mercury.

**A The Global Cycle of Mercury**



**B Exposure to Mercury from Fish**



# Elemental

- Absorption: Inhalation
- Source: thermometers, old barometers and electrical switches, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury mining, smelting and artisanal gold mining
- Situation: Generally accidental
- Health Effects:
  - **Neurologic**: tremor, ataxia, polyneuropathy, abnormal reflexes, mercurial erethism (excitability, loss of memory, insomnia, extreme shyness); neurocognitive disorders
  - **Dermatologic**: acrodynia with painful, swelling of extremities, pinkish discoloration, desquamation, erythema
  - **Pulmonary**: cough, dyspnea, **Oral**: gingivitis, stomatitis, **Renal**: proteinuria
- Symptoms may not correlate with levels



# Inorganic

- Absorption: Dermal, inhalation, oral
- Source: Skin-lightening creams, soaps, Ayurvedic medicine
- Situation: Exposure/application of products from developing countries
- Health Effects:
  - Nephritic syndromes
  - Acrodynia
  - Tremor

# Organic

- Absorption: Oral, dermal
- Source: Prenatal exposure
- Situation: Mother's diet high in methylmercury
- Health Effects:
  - Chronic low level: Neurodevelopment: loss of IQ points, decreased performance on tests, including memory, attention, language, and spatial cognition.
  - Extremely high level: microcephaly, cerebral palsy, severe mental retardation, seizure disorders, blindness, deafness, a

# Advice About Eating Fish

## What Pregnant Women & Parents Should Know

Fish and other protein-rich foods have nutrients that can help your child's growth and development.

For women of childbearing age (about 16-49 years old), especially pregnant and breastfeeding women, and for parents and caregivers of young children.

- Eat 2 to 3 servings of fish a week from the "Best Choices" list OR 1 serving from the "Good Choices" list.
- Eat a variety of fish.
- Serve 1 to 2 servings of fish a week to children, starting at age 2.
- If you eat fish caught by family or friends, check for fish advisories. If there is no advisory, eat only one serving and no other fish that week.\*

## Use this chart!

You can use this chart to help you choose which fish to eat, and how often to eat them, based on their mercury levels. The "Best Choices" have the lowest levels of mercury.

### What is a serving?



For an adult  
4 ounces



For children,  
ages 4 to 7  
2 ounces

To find out, use the palm of your hand!

### Best Choices EAT 2 TO 3 SERVINGS A WEEK

Anchovy	Herring	Scallop
Atlantic croaker	Lobster, American and spiny	Shad
Atlantic mackerel	Mullet	Shrimp
Black sea bass	Oyster	Skate
Butterfish	Pacific chub mackerel	Smelt
Catfish	Perch, freshwater and ocean	Sole
Clam	Pickering	Squid
Cod	Plaice	Tilapia
Crab	Pollock	Trout, freshwater
Crawfish	Salmon	Tuna, canned light (includes skipjack)
Flounder	Sardine	Whitefish
Haddock		Whiting
Hake		

OR

### Good Choices EAT 1 SERVING A WEEK

Bluefish	Monkfish	Tilefish (Atlantic Ocean)
Buffalofish	Rockfish	Tuna, albacore/white tuna, canned and fresh/frozen
Carp	Sablefish	Tuna, yellowfin
Chilean sea bass/Patagonian toothfish	Sheepshead	Weakfish/seatrout
Grouper	Snapper	White croaker/Pacific croaker
Halibut	Spanish mackerel	
Mahi mahi/dolphinfish	Striped bass (ocean)	

### Choices to Avoid HIGHEST MERCURY LEVELS

King mackerel	Shark	Tilefish (Gulf of Mexico)
Marlin	Swordfish	Tuna, bigeye
Orange roughy		

\*Some fish caught by family and friends, such as larger carp, catfish, trout and perch, are more likely to have fish advisories due to mercury or other contaminants. State advisories will tell you how often you can safely eat those fish.

[www.FDA.gov/fishadvice](http://www.FDA.gov/fishadvice)

[www.EPA.gov/fishadvice](http://www.EPA.gov/fishadvice)



4/47/2017

# Summary: Mercury

	Elemental	Inorganic	Organic
<b>Route of absorption</b>	Inhalation	Dermal, inhalation (chronic), oral	Transplacental
<b>Clinical effects</b>	Tremor, Acrodynia	Erethism, tremor, Acrodynia	“Minamata” disease
<b>Screening</b>	Urine	Whole Blood/Urine	Whole Blood
<b>Average value*</b>	0.241 μg/dL	ND (blood)	0.209 μg/dL
<b>Source</b>	Thermometers	Skin creams	Predator fish diet
<b>T<sub>1/2</sub></b>	90 days in urine	4-45 days in urine	50 days in blood

\*Ages 6- 11, NHANES 2011-2012

ND = Not detectable



University of California  
San Francisco

# Common Pitfalls

# Common Pitfalls

## Treating

- Chelation
  - Nausea, vomiting
  - Electrolyte disturbances
- “Detoxification”
  - Colon cleanse
  - Cyanide
  - Hydrogen peroxide

## Testing

- Personal Testing:
  - Hair
  - Nails
  - Excreta
  - \$\$\$
- Environmental testing

Most important route(s) of exposure to lead for  
is/are:

Ingestion  
Inhalation  
Dermal contact  
Endogenous  
sources

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## The toxicity of arsenic is related to:

Organic or  
inorganic form

Valence state

Solubility

Rate of absorption

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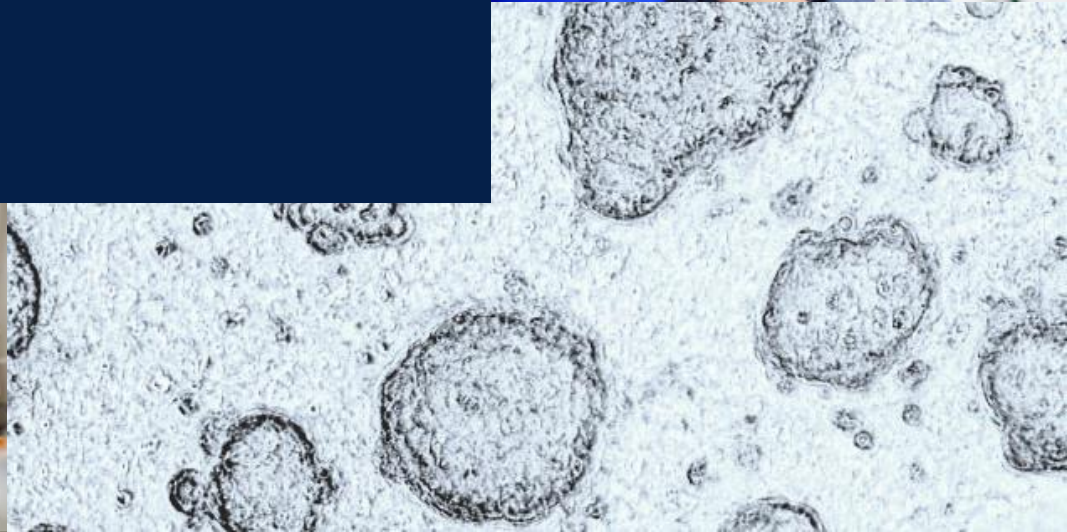
# accurate test for measuring levels of organic exposure is:

- Urine
- Whole blood
- Serum
- Hair

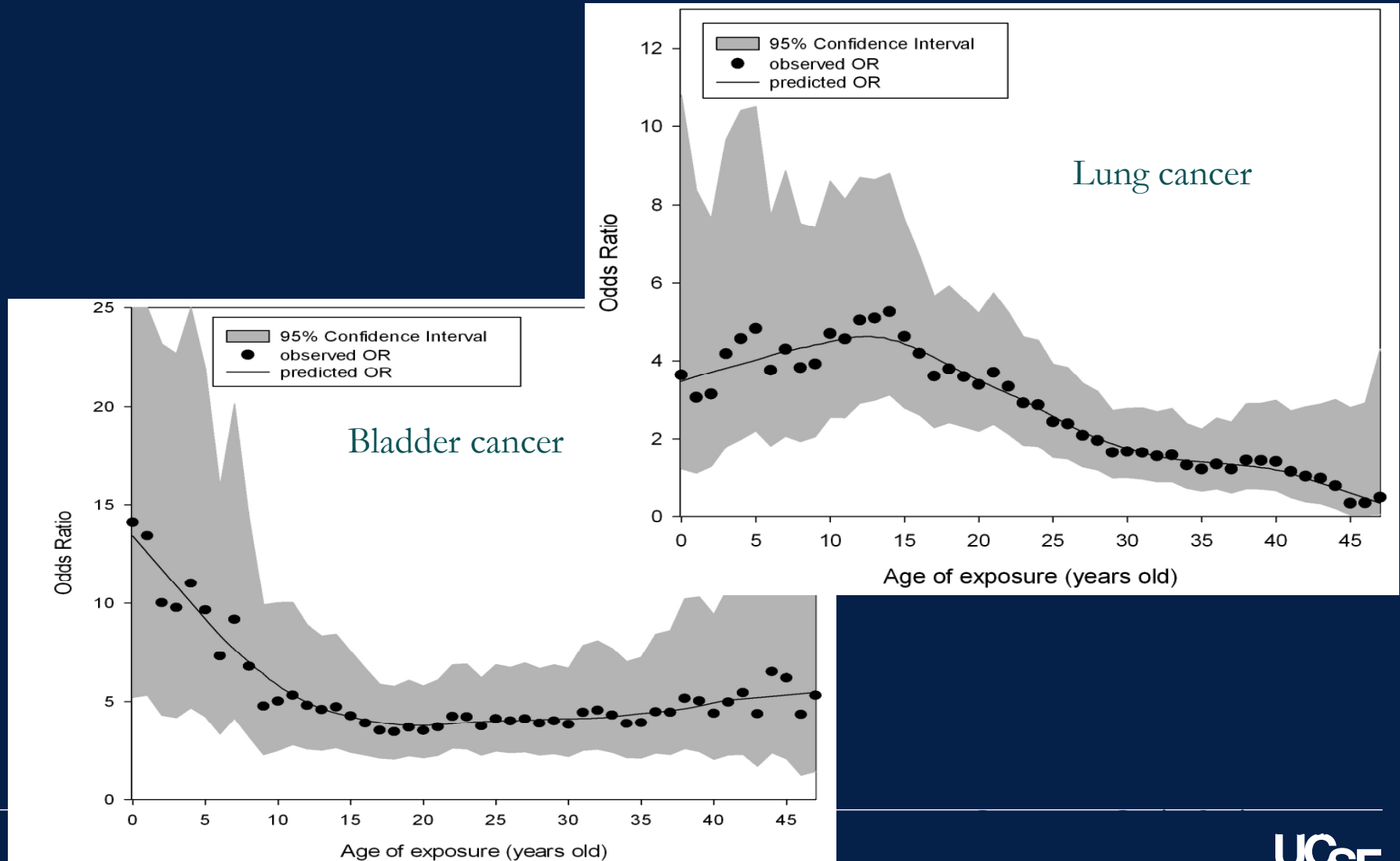
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# Early life exposure: greater lung and bladder cancer risk



- Arsenic Backup slides

# Why Rice?

- Rice more As than other grains
  - anaerobic environment, plant characteristics

## Average levels of inorganic arsenic

Product	Inorganic arsenic (mcg/serving)
Bakery mixes and pudding	4.1
Beverages (incl. beer, protein and rice drinks)	2
Cereals	2.6
Grain-based bars	1.8
Rice cakes	4.3
White rice	4.2
Brown rice	7.2
Basmati rice	3.5

Brief summary of rice grain and rice products sampled by the FDA and the corresponding amount of inorganic arsenic per serving, based on data published in 2013.

# US Water Standard

$10 \mu\text{g As/L} \times 1\text{L/day (adult)} = 10 \mu\text{g/d}$

- $10 \mu\text{g/d}$  results in excess cancer risk 1 in 300 \*
  - Eating 0.56 cups of cooked rice/d =  $10 \mu\text{g/d}$ \*\*
- Top 1% rice-eating children eat  $\geq 1.75$  cups  
= >>> 1 in 300 estimated cancer risk

\*National Academy of Sciences 2001

\*\*Gilbert-Diamond et al. Rice consumption contributes to arsenic exposure in US women PNAS 2011

# Who are at risk?

- Children
- High rice consumers
  - Asian American, ethnic minorities
  - Poor
  - Celiac disease / Gluten Free Diets
  - Food allergies
  - Vegan
  - Macrobiotic Diet

- Lead Backup slides



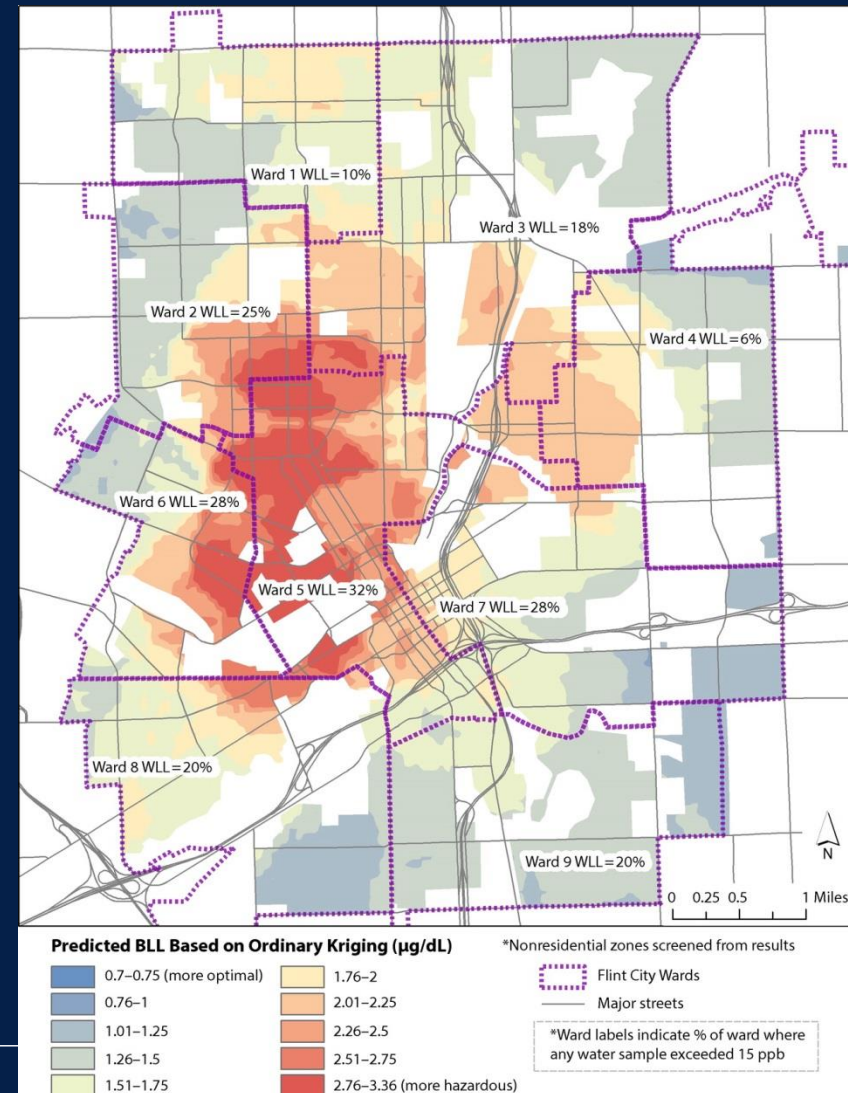
# California Rental Laws



- The landlord must disclose the presence of known lead-based paint and lead-based paint
- The landlord is not required to conduct any evaluation of the lead-based paint, or to remove it

# Flint, Michigan

- April 25, 2014: Michigan state officials changed the water source for the City of Flint from Detroit's municipal system to the Flint River.
- Anti-corrosives weren't used, lead began to leach from aging water lines.





## Healthy Homes Department

Including the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Maricela Narvaez-Foster  
Director

- Home
- Location / Directions
- Contact Us
- ABOUT US ▶
- GOVERNING BOARD ▶
- WHAT'S NEW ▶
- LEAD POISONING ▶
- PROGRAM SERVICES ▶
- CLASSES ▶
- HEALTHY HOMES ▶
- FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS ▶
- FOR CONTRACTORS ▶
- RESOURCES ▶
- DOCUMENTS & REPORTS ▶
- Información en Español
- Website Feedback



### Welcome!

We provide services to prevent lead poisoning and to promote health and safety in the home.

Main Phone Line: 510-567-8280



Oakland es la ciudad más grande y una de las más diversas lingüística y culturalmente en el país.

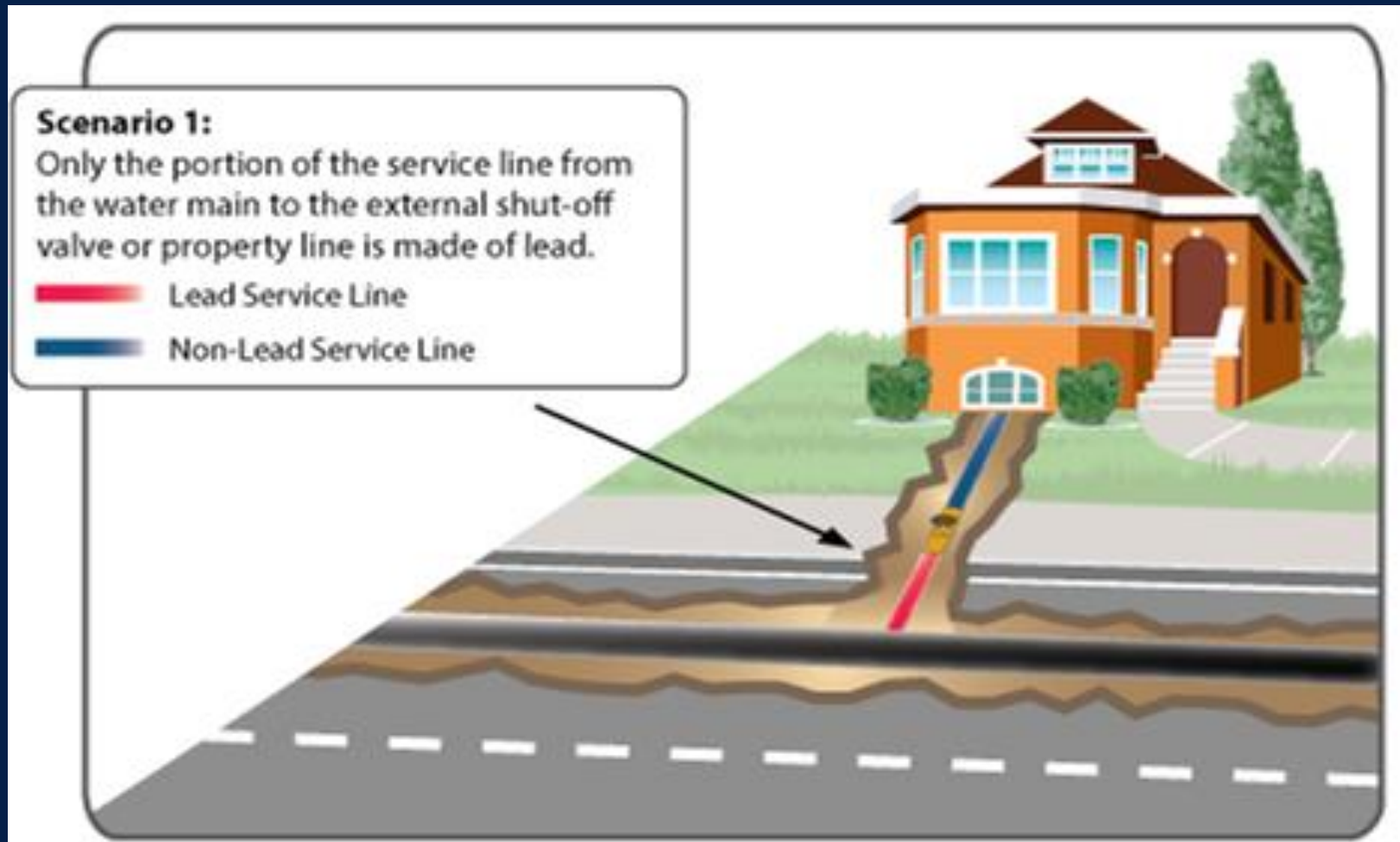


**Alameda County  
Healthy Homes  
Department**

November 3 at 5:26pm

Landlords renting to families with children age 6 and under

# How lead gets into home water



# Childhood Lead Exposure

Amid growing evidence that even low levels of lead exposure can cause long-term damage to children's development, the American Academy of Pediatrics urges stronger federal action to eliminate exposure.



## Common sources of lead in the home:

- Dust
- Soil
- Water in lead pipes
- Toys
- Nutritional supplements
- Dishware
- Fishing sinkers
- Bullets
- Residue from parent occupations
- Paint/hobby materials

**37 million**

Estimated number of housing units in United States that contain lead-based paint

U.S. housing built from 1940-1959: **39 percent**



U.S. housing built from 1960-1977: **11 percent**

U.S. housing built from 1978-1998: **3 percent**

**None**

Level of lead exposure considered safe for children

**\$50 billion**

Annual cost of childhood lead exposure in the United States

**\$17 to \$221**

Money saved for every \$1 invested to reduce lead hazards in U.S. housing

**535,000**

Estimated number of U.S. preschool children with blood lead levels high enough to call for medical management (more than 5 ug/dl)

**23 million**

Estimated total loss of IQ points among U.S. children today from lead toxicity

**1 in 5**

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder cases attributed to lead exposure

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



UCSF