

How lead affects children's health

Brain

Any exposure is linked to lowered **IQ, ADHD, hearing loss, and damaged nerves**. Acute exposures can cause **convulsions, loss of body movement, coma, stupor, hyperirritability, & death**.

Heart

Studies suggest that adults who endured lead poisoning as children had significantly higher risks of **high blood pressure** 50 years later.

Hormones

Lead disrupts levels of vitamin D, which can **impair cell growth, maturation, and tooth and bone development**.

Blood

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, & shortness of breath**.

Stomach

Severe lead exposure can create intense **abdominal pain and cramping**.

Kidneys

Chronic exposures can cause chronic inflammation, which can lead to **kidney failure, bloody urine, fever, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, coma, weight gain, confusion, rash, and urinary changes**.

Reproductive System

A moderate exposure can not only **lower sperm count**, but also **damage them**. Chronic exposures 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**.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control; World Health Organization
TECH INSIDER

Lead poisoning can cause...

- brain or nerve damage
- seizures
- death
- cardiac implications
- hearing damage/loss
- digestive issues
- kidney damage and/or failure
- stunts their growth
- slows their educational development (irreversible reduction in IQ and processing disorders)
- behavior and attention problems- children with lead poisoning 7.2x's as likely to have ADHD



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Later in life there is a correlation to lead poisoning and...

- Fertility problems←
- Addictions←
- Delinquency←
- Increase in high school dropout rates←
- Incarceration of violent acts←
- Dementia←
- Population deemed "impaired" and needing services←