Lead is a naturally occurring metal found in small amounts in the earth’s crust.

Where is lead found?
- imported pottery & toys
- old paint
- batteries
- mining
- old pipes
- manufacturing processes

How are people exposed to lead?
- AIR: industrial emissions
- SOIL: contact with contaminated dirt or dust
- WATER: due to lead water pipes

How is health affected?
Children exposed to lead may have...
- brain damage
- decrease in IQ
- stunted growth
- problems with learning & behavior

As an adult, a child who is exposed to lead may also have...
- headaches
- memory loss
- high blood pressure
- kidney disease
- joint pain

USC: Southern California Environmental Health Centers
Who is most vulnerable?

People
- infants & kids
- pregnant women
- workers in lead industries

Communities
- low income people of color
- older homes with lead paint
- homes near lead industries

Understanding lead levels

<80 ppm
residential "safe"
(State of CA)

> 400 ppm
priority clean-up

> 1000 ppm
immediate cleanup

Soil
ppm = parts per million

Blood
> 5 ug/dl
Elevated

Teeth
can provide information on
lead levels during pregnancy &
early childhood

Exide
battery recycling plant - lead smelter

Released massive amounts of lead, arsenic and
other toxins into the community

Contaminated soil in schools, parks and homes

A comprehensive clean-up of contaminated soil
will prevent future lead exposure

7 million
pounds of lead that residents have
been exposed to over
30 years

#NoMoPlomo

USC Environmental Health Centers

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