

EFFECTS OF LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN



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**.



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**.



Hormones

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



Heart

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



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**.

