

TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR LEAD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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DISCLAIMER

The use of company or product name(s) is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for Lead, Draft for Public Comment was released in September 2005. This edition supersedes any previously released draft or final profile.

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

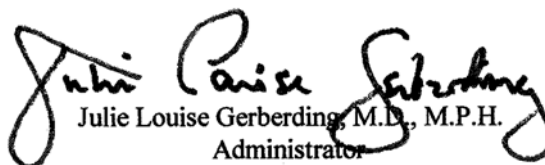
The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and is being made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepare toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 2005 (70 FR 72840). For prior versions of the list of substances, see *Federal Register* notices dated April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486); April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744); November 17, 1997 (62 FR 61332); October 21, 1999 (64 FR 56792); October 25, 2001 (66 FR 54014); and November 7, 2003 (68 FR 63098). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health.

Chapter 3: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by type of health effect (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), by route of exposure, and by length of exposure (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

- Section 1.6** **How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?**
- Section 1.7** **How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to (Chemical X)?**
- Section 3.7** **Children's Susceptibility**
- Section 6.6** **Exposures of Children**

Other Sections of Interest:

- Section 3.8** **Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect**
 - Section 3.11** **Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects**
-

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) **Fax:** (770) 488-4178
1-888-232-6348 (TTY)

E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History—The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental Hazards*; *Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures*; *Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity*; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III—*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*—is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. Contact: NCEH, Mailstop F-29, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 • Phone: 770-488-7000 • FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. Contact: NIOSH, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 • Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. Contact: NIEHS, PO Box 12233, 104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 • Phone: 919-541-3212.

Referrals

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. Contact: AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-347-4976 • FAX: 202-347-4950 • e-mail: AOEC@AOEC.ORG • Web Page: <http://www.aoec.org/>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Contact: ACOEM, 25 Northwest Point Boulevard, Suite 700, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1030 • Phone: 847-818-1800 • FAX: 847-818-9266.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. Health Effects Review. The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
2. Minimal Risk Level Review. The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.
3. Data Needs Review. The Applied Toxicology Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.
4. Green Border Review. Green Border review assures the consistency with ATSDR policy.

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PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for lead. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. Philip Landrigan, M.D., Ethel H. Wise, Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics, Director, Division of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York;
2. Deborah Cory-Slechta, Ph.D., Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Medical University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Piscataway, New Jersey; and
3. Howard Hu, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts.

These experts collectively have knowledge of lead's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(I)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

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CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	ii
UPDATE STATEMENT	iii
FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.....	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	ix
PEER REVIEW	xi
CONTENTS.....	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF TABLES	xix
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT.....	1
1.1 WHAT IS LEAD?	1
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO LEAD WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT?	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO LEAD?	4
1.4 HOW CAN LEAD ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	7
1.5 HOW CAN LEAD AFFECT MY HEALTH?.....	8
1.6 HOW CAN LEAD AFFECT CHILDREN?.....	9
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO LEAD?.....	11
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO LEAD?	14
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?.....	14
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	18
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	19
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES	19
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS	21
2.3 LEAD DOSE-RESPONSE RELATIONSHIPS	31
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	35
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	35
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS	36
3.2.1 Death	36
3.2.2 Systemic Effects.....	49
3.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects.....	96
3.2.4 Neurological Effects.....	101
3.2.5 Reproductive Effects.....	136
3.2.6 Developmental Effects.....	142
3.2.7 Genotoxic Effects.....	148
3.2.8 Cancer	151
3.3 TOXICOKINETICS.....	156
3.3.1 Absorption.....	156
3.3.1.1 Inhalation Exposure.....	156
3.3.1.2 Oral Exposure.....	158
3.3.1.3 Dermal Exposure.....	166
3.3.2 Distribution	168
3.3.3 Metabolism.....	173
3.3.4 Excretion	174

3.3.4.1	Inhalation Exposure.....	174
3.3.4.2	Oral Exposure.....	175
3.3.4.3	Dermal Exposure.....	175
3.3.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	175
3.3.5.1	O'Flaherty Model.....	185
3.3.5.2	IEUBK Model.....	189
3.3.5.3	Leggett Model.....	194
3.3.5.4	Model Comparisons.....	197
3.3.5.5	Slope Factor Models.....	199
3.4	MECHANISMS OF ACTION.....	202
3.4.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms.....	202
3.4.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity.....	208
3.4.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations.....	220
3.5	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY.....	220
3.6	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT.....	224
3.6.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to Lead.....	226
3.6.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by Lead.....	231
3.7	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS.....	234
3.8	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE.....	237
3.9	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS.....	247
3.9.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure.....	247
3.9.2	Reducing Body Burden.....	248
3.9.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects.....	251
3.10	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	253
3.10.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of Lead.....	253
3.10.2	Identification of Data Needs.....	255
3.10.3	Ongoing Studies.....	270
4.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION.....	277
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY.....	277
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES.....	277
5.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL.....	289
5.1	PRODUCTION.....	289
5.2	IMPORT/EXPORT.....	294
5.3	USE.....	294
5.4	DISPOSAL.....	299
6.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE.....	301
6.1	OVERVIEW.....	301
6.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT.....	303
6.2.1	Air.....	309
6.2.2	Water.....	313
6.2.3	Soil.....	315
6.2.4	Paint.....	316
6.3	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE.....	317
6.3.1	Transport and Partitioning.....	317
6.3.2	Transformation and Degradation.....	322
6.3.2.1	Air.....	322
6.3.2.2	Water.....	323
6.3.2.3	Sediment and Soil.....	324

6.4	LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	326
6.4.1	Air	327
6.4.2	Water	329
6.4.3	Sediment and Soil	331
6.4.4	Paint	335
6.4.5	Other Sources	336
6.5	GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	344
6.6	EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	363
6.7	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	374
6.8	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	375
6.8.1	Identification of Data Needs	376
6.8.2	Ongoing Studies	380
7.	ANALYTICAL METHODS	383
7.1	BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS	383
7.2	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	390
7.3	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	398
7.3.1	Identification of Data Needs	399
7.3.2	Ongoing Studies	400
8.	REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES	403
9.	REFERENCES	415
10.	GLOSSARY	523
APPENDICES		
A.	ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS	A-1
B.	USER'S GUIDE	B-1
C.	ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS	C-1
D.	A FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT DECISIONS AT LEAD SITES	D-1
E.	INDEX	E-1

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LIST OF FIGURES

3-1. Change in the Systolic Pressure Associated with a Doubling of the Blood Lead Concentration.....	53
3-2. Change in the Diastolic Pressure Associated with a Doubling of the Blood Lead Concentration	54
3-3. Indicators of Renal Functional Impairment Observed at Various Blood Lead Concentrations in Humans	81
3-4. Relative Bioavailability (RBA) of Ingested Lead from Soil and Soil-like Test Materials as Assessed in an Immature Swine Model	162
3-5. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance	177
3-6. Lead Metabolism Model.....	179
3-7. Compartments and Pathways of Lead Exchange in the Marcus (1985b) Model.....	180
3-8. Schematic Model for Lead Kinetics in Marcus (1985a) Bone Model.....	181
3-9. Compartmental Model for Lead in Plasma and Red Blood Cells in the Marcus (1985c) Model.....	183
3-10. Compartments and Pathways of Lead Exchange in the O’Flaherty Model.....	186
3-11. Structure of the IEUBK Model for Lead in Children	190
3-12. Compartments and Pathways of Lead Exchange in the Leggett Model	195
3-13. Blood Lead Concentrations in Children Predicted by the O’Flaherty, IEUBK, and Leggett Models.....	198
3-14. Blood Lead Concentrations in Adults Predicted by the O’Flaherty and Leggett Models	200
3-15. Effects of Lead on Heme Biosynthesis.....	212
3-16. Multiorgan Impact of Reduction of Heme Body Pool by Lead.....	215
3-17. Existing Information on Health Effects of Lead.....	254
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with Lead Contamination.....	302

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LIST OF TABLES

2-1. Blood and Bone Lead Concentrations Corresponding to Adverse Health Effects	32
3-1. Internal Lead Doses Associated with Health Effects from Selected Studies.....	37
3-2. Characteristics of the Study Population in Meta-Analyses of Effects of Lead on Blood Pressure	51
3-3. Selected Studies of Lead-Induced Nephrotoxicity in Humans	78
3-4. Summary of Dose-Response Relationships for Effects of Lead Exposure on Biomarkers of Glomerular Filtration Rate	83
3-5. Major Prospective Studies of Intellectual Development in Children	126
3-6. Genotoxicity of Lead <i>In Vivo</i>	149
3-7. Genotoxicity of Lead <i>In Vitro</i>	152
3-8. Percent Relative Lead Mass of Mineral Phases Observed in Test Materials Assessed for Relative Bioavailability in Immature Swine	163
3-9. Ranking of Relative Bioavailability of Lead Mineral Phases in Soil	165
3-10. Comparison of Slope Factors in Selected Slope Factor Models.....	201
3-11. Effects of Nutritional Factors on Lead Uptake in Animals	238
3-12. Ongoing Studies on Lead.....	271
4-1. Chemical Identity of Lead and Compounds	278
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of Lead and Compounds	283
5-1. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Lead.....	290
5-2. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Lead Compounds.....	292
5-3. Current U.S. Manufacturers of Lead Metal and Selected Lead Compounds.....	295
5-4. U.S. Lead Production 1999–2003.....	296
5-5. Current and Former Uses of Selected Lead Compounds.....	298
6-1. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Lead	305
6-2. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Lead Compounds	307
6-3. Historic Levels of Lead Emissions to the Atmosphere in the United States	310
6-4. National Lead Emission Estimates (in 103 Metric Tons/Year), 1979–1989	312

6-5. Lead Levels in Various Food Categories.....	337
6-6. Lead Levels in Canadian Foods 1986–1988.....	339
6-7. Contribution of Various Food Categories to the Average Daily Intake (AVDI) of Lead in Adults (1980–1982).....	346
6-8. Daily Average Intake of Lead (μg Lead/Day).....	348
6-9. Dietary Exposure Estimates of U.S. Populations to Lead Based on the Dietary Exposure Potential Model (DEPM).....	350
6-10. Lead Concentrations for Various Media From the NHEXAS Arizona Study.....	351
6-11. Total Lead Exposure of Subject Population From the NHEXAS Arizona Study.....	352
6-12. Geometric Mean Blood Lead Levels ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) and the 95 th Percentile Confidence Interval, by Race/Ethnicity, Sex, and Age.....	355
6-13. Geometric Mean and Selected Percentile Urine Concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$) of Lead in the U.S. Population From 1999 to 2002.....	357
6-14. Median, Range, and Weighted Geometric Mean Blood Lead Levels in U.S. Workers, Ages 18–64 in 1988–1994.....	361
6-15. Median, Range, and Weighted Geometric Mean Blood Lead Levels in U.S. Workers, Ages 18–64 by Industrial Categories.....	362
6-16. Blood Levels of Lead in Children (1–5 Years) in 1976–2002.....	367
6-17. Ongoing Research Regarding the Environmental Fate and Exposure of Humans to Lead.....	381
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining Lead in Biological Materials.....	385
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining Lead in Environmental Samples.....	391
7-3. Ongoing Research Regarding the Analytical Methods for Lead in Environmental and Biological Samples.....	401
8-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Lead and Lead Compounds.....	404