



Negative Effects of Lead in Environment Ecosystems and Human Health

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Abstract: Lead is the most abundant of the heavy metals in the Earth's crust. It has been used since prehistoric times, and has become widely distributed and mobilized in the environment. Exposure and uptake of this non-essential element have consequently increased. Both natural and anthropogenic sources exposures to lead remain a serious problem in many developing and industrializing countries, as well as in some developed countries. Contamination of soil with lead causes a variety of environmental problems, including loss of vegetation, pollution of underground water resources. The toxicity of lead from environment has tend to arrives into animals and human health through the food chain. Acute lead poisoning has become rare in such countries, but chronic exposure to low levels of the metal is still a public health issue, especially among some minorities and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. In developing countries, awareness of the public health impact of exposure to lead is growing but relatively few of these countries have introduced policies and regulations for significantly combating the problem. Environmental pollution and the poisoning of people depend on the level and the duration of exposure to lead in the environment and people (causing different disease in human health). The main ways of lead exposure in humans and animals are: food and breathing process. Therefore, the main problem remains preliminary measures to reduce the level of lead particularly in soil, by different methods in-situ, of-site or phyto-remediation extraction. Aspiration of lead by plants through the root system goes together with nutrients in plant up to the food chain. This article reviews the nature and importance of environmental exposure to lead in developing and developed countries, outlining past actions, and indicating requirements for future policy responses and interventions.

Key words: *sources of lead; environmental exposure; toxicological effects, occupational diseases;*

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