

Some Baby Juices Contain Excess Lead

By MARILYNN MARTER
Inquirer Food Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Parents may be accidentally feeding their children excessive lead in baby juices sold in lead-soldered cans, a Washington, D. C., researcher reported Monday.

In fact, he said, some canned baby juices contain more than twice the permissible daily

MAY 15 1974 INQ
intake of lead as determined in recent studies of lead build-up in the body.

Dr. Yuen S. Lee, a researcher with the District of Columbia Department of Human Resources, told the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists that the lead might accumulate in the body and ultimately cause lead poisoning.

A single four-ounce can of baby juice, he said, can contain one-half of the permissible daily intake of lead.

A combined diet of 32 ounces (four eight-ounce bottles) of canned milk formula and eight ounces (two four-ounce cans) of canned baby juice can far exceed the recommended daily allowance of lead, Dr. Lee said in his study.

He tested about 80 samples of canned baby juices of various kinds and from various manufacturers. He blamed the lead-soldered seams on the cans and urged baby-food manufacturers to change their method of making the cans.

Another study of 25 baby foods in glass jars showed only one-tenth as much lead as the average content of canned juices, well within the safety limits.

Dr. Lee said the lead apparently "leaches" or contaminates the juice during storage, and the problem worsens the longer the juice is stored.

There is little hard evidence on what effects low but detectable amounts of lead in the body may have, but some researchers believe such levels may cause minor nervous disturbances and even learning difficulties.

However, there's no agreement on exactly how much lead is "too much" for the body to tolerate.

Dr. Lee said the lead levels recorded in the baby juices averaged out to the maximum permitted under the British system and most cans contained more than the proposed U.S. Food and Drug Administration levels.

But Dr. Lee contended that because lead enters the body in many foods and from many sources, these maximums are too high.

A House Of Mint Safest?

SEP 15 1974 INQ
RONALD KUTLAR
Chicago Sun Times Service

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A child's dream of having a house made out of peppermint could turn into a distasteful nightmare and that's exactly what a team of Brown University researchers are hoping for.

According to the investigators, painting your house with peppermint paint could discourage your children from nibbling on potentially toxic paint chips and plaster.

Reporting in the current issue of the National Safety Council's Journal of Safety Research, the researchers said they may finally have found a practical solution to the problem of children eating flaking paint that often carries a risk of lead poisoning.

In a search for a taste that children would find revolting, the researchers experimented with 102 children between the ages of 3 and 6 years and found to their surprise that the children hated peppermint the most.

What was strange was that the kids didn't mind the bitter taste of horehound candy, which was rated the worst by adults given the same taste test.

The four candies the children were asked to taste included sweet cherry, spicy cinnamon, hot peppermint and bitter horehound.

Even when the horehound herb was added in twice the amounts normally found in commercial horehound coughdrops, the children still preferred it over peppermint.

"This indicates the potential unreliability of predicting children's preferences by

Lead Poisoning Found in Children

SEP 6 1974 INQ

virtually all recent blood samples collected from school children in the mining town of Kellogg show dangerous levels of lead poisoning, according to a state health officer.

Dr. James Bax said the lead poisoning showed up in 98 percent of 175 blood samples taken from children who lived within a mile of the Bunker Hill lead-zinc smelter in Kellogg.

Spokesmen for the smelter disputed Bax's announcement, saying company surveys have turned up no such problems.

The state survey was started after two Kellogg children were hospitalized in April for treatment of lead poisoning.

Car Fumes Linked To Lead Poisoning

AUG 4 - 1974 INQ

Newark — Auto exhaust fumes may be a major reason for lead poisoning in children, according to an associate professor at the New Jersey Medical School of the College of Medicine and Dentistry here.

Dr. Morris Joselow, director of the lead laboratory of the school, said studies show that blood lead concentrations in youngsters were directly related to distance of their homes from major traffic arteries.

Dr. Joselow, who made the survey with Rutgers University scientists, said:

"Children living within 100 feet of a major roadway were almost twice as likely to have blood lead levels in a dangerous range than those living more than 200 feet away.

"Furthermore, the traffic densities carried by the roadways were also found to be very significant in their effect

on the occurrence of cases of lead poisoning."

Thus, Dr. Joselow said, lead-based paint is a factor in lead poisoning "but clearly it is not the only one."

He said almost 10 percent of children sampled who were close to roads with "average weekly vehicular densities" of over 24,000 showed high blood lead concentrations — 60 or more micrograms per 100 milliliters of blood.

However, the doctor said, only 5 percent of those exposed to lower traffic densities were so affected.

By standards of the U.S. surgeon general, blood lead levels of less than 40 micrograms of lead per 100 milliliters of blood — roughly one part in 2 million — are considered acceptable.

(A microgram is one-millionth of a gram, which itself is only a tiny part — .035 of an ounce.)

adult nouns," said Dr. Tygg. Eagen and Florence E. Gaspainen.

The children liked the cherry the best. They could take or leave cinnamon, most turned up their noses with horehound but all the children tasted found peppermint "yucky."

The results, said the investigators, support the hypothesis that there is a basic taste that practically all young children find revolting and that this taste could be used to discourage them from eating paint, plaster, putty and other potentially harmful products.

N39142