

Narration Script

Lead Poisoning The Hidden Epidemic

Picture

1. Snapshots of young children from slide projector mixed races, ages & sexes

"An epidemic is loose in our land. These are its victims.- children from 1 - 6. It attacks *the poor whether black or white* ~~black... white... rich... poor.~~ It kills about 200 a year and brings sickness to half a million but, official figures don't tell the full truth. This is a hidden epidemic. No one really knows how many young lives it has ruined or destroyed.

Men can stop this epidemic, for lead poisoning is a preventable disease, yet it continues to kill and cripple our children.

2. Street scenes with children playing - poorer homes

Where do children get lead? *From their food and from the air... but these are* ~~from soil where exhaust fumes and industrial wastes have settled... and from lead based~~ *relatively unimportant compared to old*

paint that can still be found in the old homes of our countryside... towns... and cities. In ~~urban~~ *hidden* our ~~urban~~ centers alone... 30 million delapidated dwellings threaten our children with remnants of lead paint.

Picture

3. Stop at one door..
go in, up steps
and into home

Lead Hazards lurk in old homes... mostly
in the form of paint chips that our young
can easily reach... chew and swallow - day
after day.

4. Close ups of
ceiling chipp -
ing, chips on floor
cracks in wall,

Chips may fall from decaying ceilings onto
floors... or they may be picked up by the
child from cracked or damaged walls...
cabinets... pipes and radiators. Lead paint
even if it is buried beneath layers of
newer paint... may be absorbed by the child
who sucks or chews on a window ledge.

5. Pan across
room to phone
with chewed
pencil in front

Lead has been found in certain pottery... in
the paint on some childrens toys and even in
the paint on pencils. Exterior paint... ~~often~~
improperly
1 used to cover furniture and other objects
inside the house... are extremely high in
lead content.

6. To window and
outside traffic

Children eat lead... and they inhale it. ~~Lead-~~
~~fallout from industrial waste and auto exhausts~~
~~is a growing danger to our children in the very~~
~~air they breathe... and poisoned air does not~~
~~respect color... income... or social level.~~

*I don't see
how we
modify this*

Picture

7. Ambulance siren
driver brings
emergency to
hospital

Lead poisoning doesn't happen overnight. Lead is held in the body -- and builds up there until the child becomes lead sick... and then lead poisoned. In this advanced stage... the victim races against time. Seized by the severe symptoms -- vomiting, coma, convulsions.

8. Hospital
emergency room
Dr. & Nurse

First the emergency condition will be treated. Later, the lead will be flushed from the ^{CHILD'S} body with de-leading injections.

9. Children in
hospital beds.

Lead poisoning can kill a child... it can cripple him for life with brain damage... kidney disease... blindness... cerebral palsy. Yet all of this suffering is unnecessary -- preventable. Why do we allow it?

The epidemic of lead poisoning has remained hidden because the symptoms of the disease are all too often diagnosed as other ^{illnesses} conditions.

You will only find lead poisoning if you look for it... and hard. Before any severe symptoms appears... the lead poisoned child might ~~on~~ seem only irritable... listless. He might might have abdominal cramps... or become constipated... or simply lose his appetite...

Picture

Children in hospital

and sometimes he may show no symptoms at all... even with high level of lead in his body. This is why it is so important that we examine and test as many children as possible. It is the only way to bring the hidden epidemic into the open. The only way we can find ^{AND CURE} all of its victims.

10. Children having
fingers stuck for
blood test

Measuring the level ^{OF LEAD} in the blood is now accepted as the most reliable method for diagnosing lead poisoning. Many cities have developed their own ^{BLOOD} tests and have started mass screening programs. One of the new tests... developed in the Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. involves only a simple prick of the finger. It is easy... accurate and inexpensive.

11. Close-ups
of laboratory
test

With testing such as this... treatment can be started immediately on all children with high blood lead levels, even if those children are symptom free... for a child may absorb harmful lead for 3 to 6 months before he shows any signs of illness.

Picture

12. Parent in home:

Early detection by testing and prompt treatment are very important... but alone they cannot completely eliminate the hidden epidemic. If testing and treatment are to be effective... we must ^{remove all the} also eliminate the sources of lead poisoning.

feeling walls

child in playpen

mother sweeping
up chips
putting on contact
paper

Parents can help,, even with small temporary measures. They can examine their homes for lead hazards. They can keep children from eating paint chips, isolate children from dangerous areas with a playpen. They can sweep up loose chips, and if they can't afford to have flaking paint removed... they can cover it with wallboard or such non-flammable materials as Contact paper. They can ask their local health center for help. They can demand that Housing Codes be strictly enforced and most of all... parents can take their children for regular lead blood tests.

Picture

13. Happy children
at play in open
playgrounds...

We are wasting our most precious resource—
our young. We can put men on the moon...
shouldn't we be able to save our children
from needless suffering? or the grave?
We can wipe out lead poisoning. We need
more mass testing and treatment programs.
We need laws and funds to improve housing.
We need the help of parents and health
workers, and the support of local and
Federal governments.

14. Many children
putting many things
in their mouths
Freeze on last &
to negative image

Young children will always put things in
their mouths -- its only natural....
But would anyone let a child chew on a loaded
gun? No, that would be MURDER.