

EFFECTIVENESS OF PHILADELPHIA PAINT ORDINANCE

(Reported by Hill & Knowlton)

Thomas Connor, sanitarian, accident control section of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, regarding the effectiveness of the Philadelphia paint ordinance passed in 1966, made the following points about the situation there:

1. From a compliance of the law standpoint (after the owner has been approached following a reported case), the law has been over 80 percent effective. The reason why it has not been 100 percent effective is the result of an inadequacy in the Philadelphia court system which has now been corrected.
2. They are very satisfied with the ordinance. There are two difficulties: 1) When a child comes down with a case of plumbism, the family has often moved before paint samples can be taken; 2) The Health Department cannot inspect a property, without being invited, unless they have a reported case. The housing department does some inspection.
3. Following are some figures on effectiveness:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>
1950-1955 (no program)	53	15
1961 (ESB blood tests)	109	12
Ordinance Instituted in 1966		
1968	184	1*

* This fatality may have resulted from a wrong diagnosis of symptoms.