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Public Health Service Air Pollution Report

A report on atmospheric lead has just been completed by the U. S. Public Health Service. It is entitled "Survey of Lead in the Atmosphere in Three Urban Communities". This report covers a study conducted over a 12-month period, from June 1961 through May 1962, in Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, during which 3400 atmospheric samples at twenty sites in these cities, plus 4000 blood and urine samples taken from selected population groups living in these cities, were analyzed for lead.

The study is one of the most intensive conducted anywhere for air pollution evaluation. Its findings corroborate those of the National Air Sampling Network. The report states: "The annual average concentration of lead in the atmosphere ranged from about 2 micrograms per cubic meter of air in the downtown and industrial area of Cincinnati, to about 1 in the outlying areas of that city. The values in corresponding areas in Philadelphia ranged from 3 to 1, and in Los Angeles from 3 to 2."

This report indicates there has been little change in lead in the atmosphere over the past several years. However, it does find that individuals living and working in an environment of higher lead content reflect this fact in blood and urine tests. Individuals examined in this study were found within the range considered normal.

Lead Industries Association is now planning a new "Facts Bulletin" on the subject of air pollution. It will rely upon the Public Health Service study for much of its material. We expect to make distribution of this bulletin to you in a few months.

Don G. Fowler

Don G. Fowler
Director of Health and Safety

• Availability of this report will be announced at a later date.



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