

25 Pupils Tested for Lead Poisoning

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 brain damage leading to retardation, convulsions, and death.
 Weiner said that although there have been no lead poisoning fatalities in the city since 1969, there were 231 Model Cities area of North Philadelphia, where there is a high proportion of the older houses more likely to contain lead-based paint.

Most lead poisoning occurs after children eat chips of peeling lead-based paint or chew on objects, such as window sills, doors and stair rails painted with a lead-based paint.

A 1966 city ordinance outlawed the use of lead-based paint in houses. Since 1967 the Philadelphia Housing Authority has been removing lead paint from buildings it owns. Sam Ettinger, a PHA official, says 75 percent of the city's public housing units have been tested. Harrison Plaza, where yesterday's tests were made, has not been tested yet, he said.

The Harrison program was arranged by Ronald Williams, a social worker for the project, and Dorothy Thomas, coordinator of the Fairmount Health Clinic, 717 N. 7th st.

Roxanne Jones, a VISTA volunteer who helped administer the free tests, said they were disappointed that, aside from the school children, few people had taken advantage of them. Leaflets had been distributed throughout the project announcing the tests, she said.

And only about a third of the school children came, according to Mrs. Azalea Brown who accompanied them, because the others' parents had not signed their permission slips.

25 Pupils Tested In N. Phila. for Lead Poisoning

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 BY BARBARA LEWIS

Special to The Bulletin

Harry Crowl, 10, stiffened in fear as his arm was prepared for a routine blood test that would determine if he is a victim of lead poisoning.

He pulled away when the lab technician swabbed the spot near his elbow with alcohol, and nearly jumped out of his seat whenever the needle came close.

Finally, an aide diverted his attention, and, as Harry looked away, the technician inserted the needle into his vein. Harry didn't even notice. When he turned back he stared wide-eyed as the blood flowed into the test tube.

When it was all over he bounded up with a grin and accepted the proffered lollipop.

Youngsters Tested

Harry and 24 other fourth, fifth, and sixth grade pupils from Harrison Elementary School, 61th and Thompson sts., North Philadelphia, were being tested yesterday for

lead poisoning at the Harrison Community Center, 10th and Thompson sts.

The entire group was swabbed, jabbed and lollipoped in about a half hour. There were few tears, many giggles, and repeated declarations that it didn't hurt a bit.

The blood samples will be analyzed at Ludlow Laboratories, and within a few days those children who have confirmed lead paint poisoning will be able to begin treatments to cure it.

Brain Damage

Edward Weiner, assistant chief of the city Public Health Department's accident control section, said the legal definition of lead poisoning is 80 micrograms of lead in the blood. The normal level for area residents is 17 to 25 micrograms, he said. Children whose blood has 40 to 79 micrograms of lead are given follow-up tests and examinations, he said.

Lead poisoning can cause brain damage.
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