



# Clinical and population strategies to protect children from low-level lead poisoning - by Prof Bruce Lanphear

LEAPP Alliance



*Email from Professor Bruce Lanphear, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and LEAPP Alliance - Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention Alliance - A joint initiative of the Lead Containing Materials Association and Lead Safe World UK, December 2024*

**From:** Bruce Lanphear

**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 December 2024 2:56 AM

**Subject:** Re: LEAPP Alliance Update

Tim and others:

**Re:** article by Laura Hughes in the Financial Times: 'A timebomb': fears for children being poisoned by lead paint in UK homes - Lack of routine testing means thousands of youngsters could be suffering from effects, say experts.

It is encouraging to read high-profile articles like Laura's.

I encourage LEAPP Alliance to have in-depth discussion on clinical and population strategies to protect children from low-level lead poisoning. The US led population strategies in the 1970s and 1980s, but then shifted to clinical strategies. These two strategies are complementary, but for the past 30 years the US emphasized the clinical strategy (testing children in the clinic setting) at the expense of a population strategy.

The clinical strategy is important, but if sufficient investments are made in population strategies (e.g., replacing lead service lines, identifying residential lead hazards, banning leaded aviation fuel, and so on), then clinical strategies will become unnecessary over the next 10 years.

Some of the key strategies to discuss are:



Identifying and mitigating sources rather than using children as biological indicators of lead hazards. This could begin with a national survey of lead in water, housing and soil analogous with the national housing survey in the US. Enacting laws and regulations to eliminate or control lead hazards.

Conducting ongoing representative surveys of UK children for lead and other toxic chemicals to quantify the prevalence of lead poisoning, identify risk factors for lead poisoning, and monitor trends in lead poisoning.

Ongoing surveillance of high-risk children who are screened for low-level lead poisoning in the clinical setting.

All these will obviously require enhanced communication of lead hazards and the health impact of low-level lead poisoning.

Cheers,

Bruce



IMAGE: <https://volcanoartprize.com/?s=lanphear>



## Bruce Lanphear's Little Things Matter (Video), VAP 2014

in Vap archive



Volcano Art Prize (VAP) 2014 Entry by Professor Bruce Lanphear et al

**Lead-safety Message:** “We’ve been studying the impact of toxins on children for the past 30 years and reached the inescapable conclusion: little things matter. We’ve discovered that extremely low levels of toxins can impact brain development. We have also discovered that subtle shifts in the intellectual abilities of individual children have a big impact on the number of children in a population that are challenged or gifted. Steps should be taken to reduce children’s exposure to toxins or suspected toxins.”

**Artists:** Bruce Lanphear (Producer and Narrator), Bob Lanphear (Art Direction and Graphic Design), Trevor Phillips (Motion Graphics and Video Production), David Murphy, Chris Jeschelnik and Jason Levis (Audio/Video)

**Advisory Team:** Erica Phipps, Adrienne Montani, Bruce Lanphear, Joanne Telfer, Manda Aufochs-Gillespie

**Sponsors:** Simon Fraser University Engagement Fund, Artemis Fund

**Materials:** Infographic Video (Graphics, Video Editing Software, Filming Equipment)

<https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/little-things-matter/> which links to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6KoMABz1Bw> where you can watch the video.