The Link Between Lead Poisoning and Community Violence

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Lead + Poisoning = Crime?

Lead: The Real Crime of The Century
NYC 1960 Violent Crime Rates Pre- Mayor Giuliani

- Rape: Quadrupled
- Murder: Quintupled
- Robbery: Increased 14 Times
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

NYC: Mayor Giuliani/NYPD Commissioner Bratton Era

- Mayor Giuliani Elected 1993 running on a “Tough on Crime” agenda
- Appointed William Bratton as NYC Police Commissioner in 1994
- Commissioner Bratton first initiative 1994 “CompStat”, deployment & crime tracking
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

NYC: Mayor Giuliani/NYPD Commissioner Bratton Era

- Decentralized Policing - More control given to police precinct commanders
- CompStat – Used to track crime hot spots
- Intro of the “Broken Window” Theory
- Implement “Stop and Frisk”
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

NYC: Mayor Giuliani/NYPD Commissioner Bratton Era (Results)

Reported RESULTS:

- New York Times reported in 1996 Crime plunged for the 2nd straight year
- Reported Violent Crime dropped in 1993: Rape dropped 17%, Assaults 27%, Robbery 42%, Murder 49%
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

NYC: Mayor Giuliani/NYPD Commissioner Bratton Era (Results)

Reported RESULTS:

- Note: The New York Crime Rate peaked in the early 90’s 4 years before the Giuliani/Bratton era…
- By the time of the election of NYC Mayor Giuliani, crime had dropped 12%
- Because of the stated Violent Crime drop, NYC was/is looked upon as a model of success
Reported Reasons of RESULTS:

- Political Scientist John Dilulio Jr warned of a demographic bulge of millions of young men that he called Juvenile super-predators… Predicting in the early 90’s juvenile crime would triple by 2020. The demographic bulge happened, however, research reported crime began to decline in the early 90’s
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

NYC: Mayor Giuliani/NYPD Commissioner Bratton Era (Results) Umm, Let’s take a Deeper Dive...

Reported Reasons of RESULTS: Connecting the Dots

- Political Scientist John Dilulio Jr later said “Once it was out there, there was no reeling it in.”

- Violent crime declined in DC 58%, Dallas 70% Newark 74%, LA 78%... city after city crime fell after peaking in the early 90’s...

- Police tactics may have promoted the fall of crime, however the fall was already in motion...
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

So, Why is Crime Falling Across America

Connecting the Dots:

- Is it the matter of economics? Crime continued to drop in cities that experienced prolonged economic downturns.

- How about the Crack Epidemic of the 80’s? Mass Incarceration, War on Drugs… Between 1980 – 2000 Crime increased 5%.

- Roe V Wade, Gun Control, Parole and Probation???
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

So, Why is Crime Falling Across America?

Connecting the Dots:

- Causation vs Correlation = Correlation does not imply causation
- Broken Window Theory, Mass Incarceration, abortion, more cops, CompStats, War on Drugs… Many of these events and actions happened at the same time, however crime continue to fall since the 90’s
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

Lead Exposure Crime Connection

Connecting the Dots:

- The Cincinnati Lead Study- Studies of Juvenile Delinquency and adult Criminality…John Paul Wright, PH D.
- Tracked and tested 400 children over a 30 year period. Exposed to lead
- Almost 85% of all males had an arrest record
- Almost 77% of all females had an arrest record
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

Lead Exposure Crime Connection

Connecting the Dots:

- The biggest source of lead in post World War II was lead gasoline
- Lead emissions quadruped from the 1940’s – 70’s at the same time crime rose throughout the US, France, Canada, Britain, Italy, Germany
- Jessica Wolpaw Reyes, Public Health Policy Professor discovered the reduction of emission test and the reduction of crime rates happened simultaneous
Dr. Herb Needleman, could predict how well a child would perform in school based upon the lead level in the child's baby teeth.

Dr. Needleman, stated high levels of lead exposure in children leads to hyperactivity, impulsivity, low functioning, and distractible behavior that mirrors the ADHD cluster.

No safe level of lead in the body…
City of Cleveland
Violence Profile 2017

Domestic Violence: Kamm’s Corner
❑ 1 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Sexual Violence: Kamm's Corner
❑ 4 out of 32 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Homicide Rate: Kamm’s Corner
❑ 3 out of 27 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Aggravated Assaults: Kamm’s Corner
❑ 1 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Overall Violent Crime: Kamm’s Corner
❑ 1 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods
City of Cleveland
Violence Profile 2017

Domestic Violence: Lee–Harvard
- 13 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Sexual Violence: Lee–Harvard
- 2 out of 32 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Homicide Rates: Lee–Harvard
- 4 out of 27 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Aggravated Assaults: Lee–Harvard
- 15 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Overall Violent Crime: Lee–Harvard
- 9 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods
City of Cleveland
Violence Profile 2017

Domestic Violence: Clark Fulton
- 24 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Sexual Violence: Clark Fulton
- 27 out of 32 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Homicide Rates: Clark Fulton
- 11 out of 27 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Aggravated Assaults: Clark Fulton
- 18 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Overall Violent Crime: Clark Fulton
- 21 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods
Domestic Violence: Glenville
- 29 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Sexual Violence: Glenville
- 17 out of 32 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Homicide Rates: Glenville
- 23 out of 27 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Aggravated Assaults: Glenville
- 29 out of 34 Cleveland Neighborhoods

Overall Violent Crime: Glenville
- 28 out of 34 Neighborhoods
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Rene Dubos – American/French Microbiologist

"Quote"

“The problem is so well defined, so neatly packaged, with both causes and cures known, that if we don’t end this social crime, our society deserves all the disasters that have been forecast for it” (1967)
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

Ahmed Sekou Toure, Past President of Guinea

“Quote”

“If we all agree on the revolution, why do the revolution suffer?”
Lead + Exposure = Crime?

Unknown Originator:

“Cleaning up the rest of the Lead could turnout out to be the Cheapest Most Cost Effective Crime Prevention Tool We Have”

What do You Think?
Cleveland Clinic

Every life deserves world class care.