

**Practice Lab**  
**Integrated Lead Poisoning Prevention Assignment**

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### **Integrated Lead Poisoning Prevention Assignment**

1. Although Happytown, USA seems like the perfect community, there are several potential sources of lead that could affect people's health. Half of Happytown's residents earn less than \$53,700 annually (which is about \$14,000 less than the United States median annual income), meaning they must resort to living low-cost apartments or older homes. The low-cost apartments in Happytown are from the 1940's and 1950's and the older single-family homes are from the 1930's. Lead paint was still being widely used back in those days and is likely still a part of these apartment and homes integrity. The indoor paint if not renovated correctly could lead to dust that contains lead particles- especially coming from windowsills. Another area of concern would be soil contamination coming from old exterior paint that contains lead. Both problems areas are a major concern for children as they are more likely to be playing there breathing in the contaminates and putting contaminated hands in their mouths. A couple more concerning sources of lead can result from the New Residents Day festivities. Plastic toy jewelry necklaces were distributed around the town and were incredibly popular with the young kids. Depending on where these toy jewelry necklaces originated from, it is possible that they could contain lead. Another source would be Tiro which is a traditional type of eye make-up popular in the middle east that is often made with lead that the kids were loving at the event. Happytown's Annual Fun Fair also brings about some items of concern. The town received enough donations to provide each child three second-hand toys. The paint on these second-hand toys could contain lead since they are older and already deteriorating. The final possible source of lead would be their drinking water. Happytown is known for being a historic place that has been around for many years. Leads pipes were widely used prior to 1986 and since it is very expensive and takes a very long time to replace old pipelines, it is very possible that Happytown may still have them in use. This source would be the one that is more likely to affect the most people as everyone needs access to clean drinking water. As the pipes continue to age, there is a greater possibility of lead leaking into the water.
2. Three factors within Happytown that could affects people's risk of lead poisoning are doing it yourself renovations, giving young children lots of plastic toys, and possible language barriers. For the financially better off families in Happytown, they live in more expensive but still historic homes. To demonstrate support for civic pride, the town sponsors a semi-annual class "Renovate It Yourself" that teaches residents tips on how to remove old interior and exterior paint, repainting, and replacing windows. While this would be a wonderful class to host, historic homes are not homes one would want to renovate on their own without having professional clearance first. Since these homes are old and possibly have interior and exterior lead contaminated paint- the homeowners should contact professionals to test the paint and remove it if needed. Chipping lead contaminated paint is a hazard and can lead to exposure. If the city is promoting a class such is this one, they may be giving their residents the wrong idea that their homes are completely safe to do work in without considering possible dangers. Many of Happytown's community events involve gifting the children plastic toys and jewelry that could possibly contain lead in the paints. The toys given are second-hand which oftentimes suggests that they are old and starting to deteriorate. Depending on how old the toys are and where they were made, the paints used to make them colorful could contain lead. It was not until 1978 that the United States government prohibited the use of lead paint in anything that was intended to be sold. These plastic toys could be used as an example in an education program to teach parents the importance of doing research when buying their children toys to minimize the risk of exposure. Happytown is known for being diverse and very welcoming,

especially to immigrants. A little over a third of Happytown's population do not identify as white or black which could mean that English may not be the native language of a good portion of this third, if they speak English at all. This would put them in greater risk of lead exposure if they were unable to fully comprehend the information being given to them or any public notices that are being publicized. This is an important factor to consider when creating a lead poisoning education program because there may be a need to bring in various certified translators to make sure the information given is able to be understood by everyone participating.

3. Cultural factors are highly important when discussing how to effectively communicate lead poisoning information. Cultural factors affect people in all areas of health such as what risks they may encounter, how much of a risk the person would be willing to take and how the risk is perceived, how they view any potential solutions, what resources are at their disposal, who they find credible and trustworthy, and the way they communicate. It is fundamental to recognize, respect, and be responsive in program planning to cultural differences. One cultural difference to take into consideration in Happytown is children. If a child is separated from their guardians for some reason, they need to be able to comprehend the information concerning lead poisoning, especially since they are considered a high-risk group when it comes to lead poisoning. The communication done with the child needs to be given with very simple language that is age appropriate, but also accurate with the information being provided. Another audience to consider are those with differing refugee status. With new immigrants moving into Happytown, it is imperative to think about how culture varies from their country of origin and any language barriers since there are hundreds of languages spoken around the United States. Those that are foreign-born also statistically speaking have higher numbers of low English proficiency. Focus groups and community meetings could be conducted to learn about their concerns, information needs, and communication preferences to better equip them when risk communication is conducted. One final group to keep in mind are the retirees of Happytown. They are a part of an older generation, and it will be essential to provide them a variety of communication methods. This could include making sure the information is easily accessible by the news, radio, or over the phone. Those that are 65 years or older are the age group that are least likely to use the internet and majority of those in this group tends to get their information by watching the television. Providing effective communication to this group will require greater effort as it will not be as simple as putting out a Public Service Announcement online that will be easily accessible to others that know how to navigate internet proficiently. Overall, with these groups that face cultural differences and any other groups, it is critical to provide several forms of communication that are simple to understand, provide all the necessary information, and use mix media methods like images and colors to help the audience absorb the material being given. The methods of communication should always be simple, timely, accurate, relevant, credible, and consistent. Working together with the members of the community will be the best way to truly comprehend what their needs are and from there be able to come up with solutions.