

Rebekah Davis

Environment, Society, and Health, MPH 613

PRACTICE LAB: The Integrated Lead Poisoning Prevention Assignment

4/23/2021

- 1) Identify and briefly explain five potential lead sources that could affect people's health in the mock community. Which one is likely to affect the most people? Why?
 - One of the Potential lead sources that could affect people's health in the mock community happy town is the renovation of the old historic houses. Many homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint on the inside and outside of most homes.
 - Another potential lead source could be deteriorating lead-based paint in the old homes, also, lead from the house being absorbed into the soil or found in the pipes that contaminate the drinking water.
 - The third source of lead exposure includes children's toys. Second-hand toys from the community funfair could have lead dust on them from deteriorated or renovated homes. When children take those toys home, lead dust could get on their toys, causing lead-based exposure.
 - The fourth source of lead exposure includes lead found in the bullets from the town's buckshot buddies hunting club.
 - The final type of lead exposure is lead found in the pots or food imported from different countries to serve the mock community (Arturo's place).
 - The lead exposure that is likely to affect the most people is the deteriorating homes; this is because deteriorating homes have chips and cracks, which produces lead dust since people spend most of their time in the homes they are constantly breathing in and are exposed to lead. Also, older deteriorating homes are significant exposure to lead poisoning, especially in the U.S.
- 2) Identify and briefly discuss three conditions/characteristics/practices/activities in the mock community – including cultural beliefs, values and practices – that could affect people's risk of lead poisoning? How are these factors important in how a lead poisoning education program is designed?
 - Free giveaway of second-hand toys to young children attending the fair can affect people's risk of lead poisoning. When those children get home, those toys could later be exposed to lead dust or already contain lead dust if not properly cleaned.
 - A civic pride, keeping happy town beautiful; the homeowners renovate their old homes through the town's semi-annual "renovate it yourself" class to tear down the old paint and replace window frames. Tearing down these old homes can cause exposure to lead poisoning since these homes are likely to have lead paint because they were built before 1978.
 - Lastly, the last condition of the mock community that could affect people's risk of lead poisoning includes the town's Arturo place for food. Since this food place gets its food imported from Oaxaca and Mexico, their food could contain lead.

- These factors are essential in how a lead poisoning education program should be designed because it helps identify how lead hazards can be removed from the environment. For example, implementing an education program on becoming lead-safe certified to renovate homes would also include information on why lead is harmful and what lead poisoning is. Another education program implemented is a guidebook on how to keep homes clean from lead contamination. The book would include instructions to wet mop floors and windows and baseboards every week and regularly wash children's faces and hands. The book would also have a guide on wasting well-balanced meals preventing increased lead absorption. Lastly, the book would demonstrate how to inspect and maintain all painted surfaces of a house to avoid deterioration.
- 3) Why are cultural factors in the mock community important for effectively communicating lead poisoning information? Using what you know about this community and its situation, recommend specific risk communication strategies for reaching three different audiences and sectors in the mock community.
- Cultural factors in the mock community are crucial for effectively communicating lead poisoning information because different cultures may have different values, beliefs, or practices. Other cultures may view things differently, like potential solutions; not all resources may be available to specific groups of people. Different cultures may communicate differently. Not every part of the population may not trust the same sources or spokespersons. Other cultures also may not look at lead poisoning as a threat or that it poses a risk.
 - One Communication strategy that I would recommend for the audience of children, adults, and the elderly is to be sure there is a good match between your message and the audience's literacy level. Content could be misunderstood, and the intervention may not be effective. For example, the elderly may take in or misinterpret certain information. Talking in a language that all ages would understand is necessary for an intervention to be effective. Another risk communication strategy includes preparing specialized materials to explain situations to children. For example, demonstrating to children not to put materials in their mouth that are not food, simple language needs to be presented to children to understand what is going on. Another strategy includes remembering that high-stress situations can affect communication abilities. Even though some adults may have a high health literacy education, they process information differently when people are under stress. To fix this limiting number of critical messages and keeping messages briefs, repeating notes, and using graphics can help.
 - Communication strategies that I would recommend to different sectors such as folks with disabilities and who are of diverse cultural backgrounds and those who live in poverty would be first to remember that this is a multicultural, multilingual society where different cultures can influence information and respond to recommendations. To combat this, familiarizing oneself with different cultures and languages and adapting to cultural differences can help follow the three R's, recognizing cultural differences, respecting cultural differences, and being responsive. Another risk communication strategy would be to remember that disabilities can affect the communication process. Having special needs assessments for those with disabilities is essential. Also, resources should be freely provided to those in poverty.