Overview of Status of Global and National Lead Paint Laws

Meeting with the Jordan Government Officials

Desiree Narvaez / 1 April 2019 / Royal Scientific Society / Amman, Jordan
Brief Global History of Lead Paint Laws

Early 1900s:
The hazard of lead paint was recognized by doctors a long time ago.

1920s-30s:
Initial actions by countries to ban the use of lead carbonates and sulfates in paints through ILO Convention on White Lead. (Effective in 1923, ratified by 63 countries)

1970s-90s:
A small number of countries began to look again at problem of lead in paint, and to introduce more comprehensive laws.

2000-2019:
Lead paint laws have become more restrictive as the health hazards of lead have become better understood and more countries are beginning to introduce laws.
Progress of Implementation of UNEA 3 Resolution 9: Lead in Paint

Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region, as of February 2019

- Europe: 100.0%
- Africa: 33.0%
- West Asia: 75.9%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 20.5%
- Asia and the Pacific: 11.1%
- North America: 27.3%

About 38% of countries have laws.
Global Perspective: Countries with Confirmed Lead Paint Laws

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*New since 1 October, 2017
^The law has been passed, but it has not been put into force
+Status change in WHO database

Countries with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2018

Current Situation in West Asia Region

3 countries (27.3%) in the West Asia region have lead paint laws

Paint testing
- Lebanon: levels of lead exceeding targeted level in 73% to 80% of sample tested
- Jordan: levels of lead exceeding targeted level in 12% of 18% of sample tested
Since 2015: legally-binding standard in place regarding all lead compounds with a binding limit of 0.06% (600 ppm) of lead in paint.

Exceptions:
- Industrial paint
- Car paints
- Road paints
- Artists paints

IPEN study (2012): levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 or 600 ppm were found in 12% to 18% of samples.
- Collection of 17 different random samples
- 2 above the 600mg/kg thresholds where identified.

Jordan is currently working on strengthening this limit.
Economic Cost of Childhood Lead Exposure in Jordan

- Economic cost of childhood lead exposure is 466 million USD in Jordan
- Cost as a percent of GDP: 1%
- Average blood lead level: 1.78 μg/dl
- No safe level of lead in blood
- 163,200 children at risk under 5 years old

Thank you

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