**Blood lead level among Palestinian schoolchildren: a pilot study**

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Tue, 2014-06-24 14:27 — [Professor Waleed M. Sweileh](http://staff.najah.edu/waleed-sweileh)

Journal Title, Volume, Page:

East Mediterr Health J. 2013 Feb;19(2):151-5.

Year of Publication:

2013

Link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23516825>

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Preferred Abstract (Original):

[Sawalha AF](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Sawalha%20AF%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23516825)1, [Wright RO](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Wright%20RO%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23516825), [Bellinger DC](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Bellinger%20DC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23516825), [Amarasiriwardean C](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Amarasiriwardean%20C%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23516825), [Abu-Taha AS](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Abu-Taha%20AS%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23516825), [Sweileh WM](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Sweileh%20WM%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23516825).

In Palestine, chronic exposure to lead has not been adequately addressed as a problem for children. To assess the exposure of Palestinian schoolchildren, we surveyed blood lead levels in 3 schools in Nablus city and collected demographic and clinical data. Blood samples were collected from 178 children (140 boys, 38 girls), age range 6-8 years. The overall mean blood lead level was 3.2 (SD 2.4) microg/dL, and 4.5% of children had levels above 10 microg/dL. Blood lead levels were significantly higher among children living in refugee camps near industrial/high traffic regions than among children living in residential areas of the city. Blood lead levels were positively correlated with family size (r = 0.15) and negatively correlated with household area (r = -0.18). Blood lead levels among these Palestinian schoolchildren were higher than those of other countries where leaded gasoline has been banned and seemed to be higher in more economically deprived children.