

Dear Ms Fisher,

I am a member of the [Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System](#) steering group in Public Health England. I have been in communication with the National Screening Committee (NSC) Evidence Team. They tell me that they take input from the Fetal, Maternal and Child Health (FMCH) reference group of which, I believe, you are the patient and public voice member. The NSC will be reviewing their recommendation to not screen children for elevated lead levels in 2021 and the Evidence Team tell me that they refer to the FMCH when scoping their review. Would there be any opportunity for the Lead Safe World UK group to help scope the review through you and the FMCH reference group?

You may not be aware that a recent [Unicef report](#) estimated that there are around 214,000 children in the UK affected by lead. Data collected in the mid-1990s found 14% of pregnant women ([Taylor et al, 2013](#)) and 27% of toddlers ([Chandramouli et al, 2008](#)) had elevated lead levels - possibly related to older housing. The [2012 USA National Toxicological Programme monograph on lead](#) reviewed over 600 papers and found evidence that low lead toxicity levels are linked to spontaneous abortion, preterm birth, low birth weight, reduced fetal growth, reduced postnatal growth, decreased hearing, problem behaviours, attention problems, lower academic achievement and decreased IQ. You may also like to consider this article on the [Best Use of Medicines in Pregnancy](#) web site regarding lead.

If ARC and the FMCH reference group are not aware of the continuing problem of lead toxicity, I wonder if there would be any opportunity to present the evidence to either or both.

Yours sincerely

Tim

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[Lead Safe World UK](#)

PS: From the USA

- [US EPA](#)
 - Lead poisoning: **number one** environmental health threat to children ages six and younger in the U.S
- [US Presidential Task Force](#)
 - Reducing lead exposure in children is a **priority**

