

than 5% had BLLs of 5 mcg/dl or higher ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013](#)).

Causes of Lead Poisoning

Although there are numerous sources of lead ([Box 13-3](#)), in most instances of acute childhood lead poisoning, the source is nonintact lead-based paint in an older home or lead-contaminated bare soil in the yard. Microparticles of lead gain entrance into a child's body through ingestion or inhalation and, in the case of an exposed pregnant woman, by placental transfer. When measured, a mother's lead level is nearly the same as that of her unborn child. Although the level of lead may not be harmful to adult women, it can be harmful to the fetuses.

Box 13-3

Sources of Lead*

Lead-based paint in deteriorating condition

Lead solder

Lead crystal

Battery casings

Lead fishing sinkers

Lead curtain weights

Lead bullets

Some of these may contain lead:

- Ceramic ware
- Water
- Pottery