Our research on the subject of pollutants and how they relate to violence quickly caused us to investigate the element lead (Pb on the periodic table). Lead is indicated as being one of the most pernicious and dangerous of pollutants, often predisposing humans to violence.

For instance, the Minneapolis Department of Health has the following page: <https://www.in.gov/health/files/Pb_behavior_problems_and_violence_fact_sheet.pdf>, which warns of increased violence as a result of the contaminate—in particular, total arrests and arrests for violence are seen where lead contamination is highest. Also, delinquency in youth, and antisocial behaviors, are also elevated as a result of exposure.

Wikipedia itself has a webpage devoted to the “lead-crime hypothesis” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead%E2%80%93crime_hypothesis>). The results are mixed: some studies show a weak association to various sub hypotheses and others a stronger association.

We also considered some general health advice that is related to lead exposure. For instance, the EPA has a web page discussing basic information about lead in drinking water. <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> While this health advice doesn’t directly relate to our hypothesis, we feel a general awareness in the population of this information is helpful for preservation of health.

All things considered, further research of the effect of lead exposure upon societal violence as well as health is warranted.