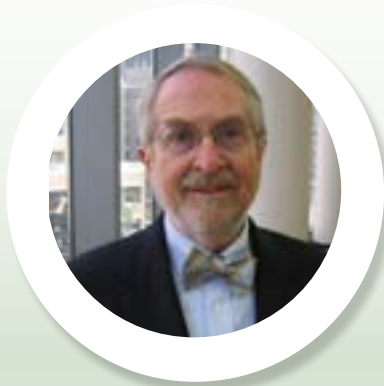


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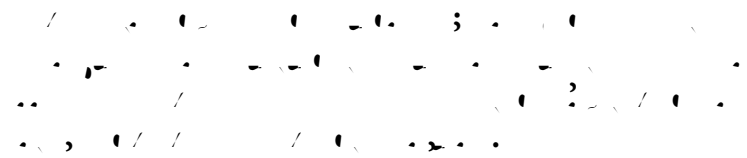
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Introduction:

Lead is an extreme toxicant. This study applies new instruments to find and map health relevant lead in parks and childcare areas where children play. Oslo, Norway and New Orleans, USA are similarly sized cities, and provide play areas for children. The median soil lead in Oslo play areas is 25 mg/kg vs. 418 mg/kg in New Orleans play areas. Why are median play areas in Oslo 17 times lower than play areas in New Orleans? The cultural attitudes toward two commercial lead products, lead-based paints and Pb additives in gasoline, provide cause for the unusual differences in soil lead at children's play areas of these two cities. In Norway lead-based paint was banned during the 1920s, and the US, lead-based paint contained 1%-50% Pb until regulated downward in 1978. In Norway public transportation was subsidized, and automobile use was discouraged and fuel was highly taxed. In the US, public transportation daw5 (lic t)5 eTJt)5 (a)