

Blood Lead Test on children of Yaoundé

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A pilot study on blood lead levels (lead levels in the blood) in children aged 0-7 years in the city of Yaoundé recently, showed that about 85 % of affected children have blood lead levels above 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood and an arithmetic average of more than 8 times greater than the average in France (which is 1.3 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood). This study was carried out thanks to an equipment loan from an international NGO based in the USA.

Lead poisoning is associated with severe neurological problems, lower IQ, cardiovascular disease, infertility, violent behavior and crime in adulthood. Lead is also a hormonal disruptor which is a risk factor for diabetes type B.

In Cameroon, it is not possible to detect cases of lead poisoning, local health facilities do not have adequate equipments to do so, intoxicated people are doomed to develop the disease. In addition there is still no laws or standards to protect people against lead poisoning.