



TIP BRIEF

November 28, 2025

Lead Poisoning From Gasoline Caused America's Crime Wave, Not 'Superpredators'

A comprehensive analysis of nine countries reveals that childhood lead exposure from leaded gasoline drove the violent crime surge of the 1970s-1990s, explaining 30% of the U.S. crime decline. While policymakers blamed 'moral poverty' and imprisoned millions in a catastrophic misdiagnosis, the real cause was environmental poisoning that damaged developing brains.

QUOTABLES

Childhood lead exposure harmed the developing brain, especially the regions that are responsible for cognition, decision making, impulse control, socially driven behaviors, emotional regulation, and risky behaviors

The predictions were off by a factor of four. It had doubled and it was supposed to double again and instead it was halved

ACCOUNTABILITY

EPA Administrator and Surgeon General permitted lead poisoning 1904-1996 despite evidence; state corrections officials imprisoned lead poisoning victims instead of addressing environmental cause

#Georgia #Prisons #LeadPoisoning #MassIncarceration #EnvironmentalJustice #Superpredators #CrimeDecline

Georgia Prisoners' Speak

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