

**Blood lead levels among schoolchildren living in the Pattani River basin: two contamination scenarios?**

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During Feb-Mar 1995 we collected data in a cross-sectional study to investigate risk factors including lead content of household dust and soil for total blood lead (PbB) among school-children living at three different sites in the Pattani River basin in southern Thailand. Site A is Amphur Bannang Sta, a region of exposed tin-mine waste at the river head- waters, site B is Amphur Yaha, a region in the mid-reaches where tin-mine waste had been removed 20 years earlier, and site C is situated in Pattani city at the river mouth. PbB concentrations at sites A and C were very significantly higher than those at site B, and also high by international standards, a matter of public health concern. A marked spatial pattern of contamination within each site (mine waste dumps at site A and boat-repair industry extensively using plumboplumbic acid at site C) can explain these findings.