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To the Editor

Effects of tap water lead, water hardness, alcohol, and cigarettes on blood lead concentrations

SIR—This recent contribution by S J Pocock *et al* (March 1983, 1–7) clearly shows the role of tap water and personal habits in raised blood lead concentrations. The authors, however, conclude by stating that “because direct evidence of a comparable nature has not been shown for lead in petrol . . . lead in water should be given priority . . .” Petrol lead sales in Boston, Massachusetts, have been shown to correlate very well with blood lead concentrations.¹ We suggest that reduction in lead exposure requires attention to both air and water.

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Note: This letter was shown to the authors of the article who do not wish to reply but they would agree with the last sentence of the letter. Editor.