Assessing Lead Exposure Risks Among Dental Students and Faculty: In house Survey by the Advanced Study Institute of Asia

The Advanced Study Institute of Asia at SGT University conducted a survey to evaluate potential risks of lead exposure among dental students and faculty of SGT University. This initiative aimed to identify various sources of lead exposure and assess safety and hygiene practices within households. By analyzing the survey responses, the study seeks to uncover patterns that may indicate health risks associated with lead exposure in domestic environments.

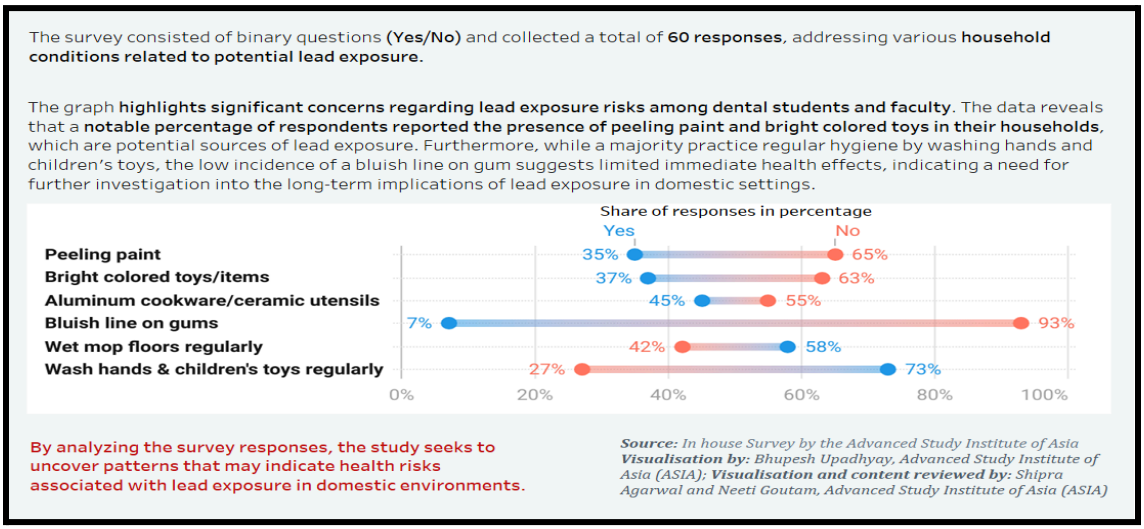
Survey Overview

The survey consisted of binary questions (Yes/No) and collected a total of 60 responses, addressing various household conditions related to potential lead exposure:

1. Peeling Paint in Homes
2. Presence of Bright Colored Toys
3. Use of Aluminum Cookware and Ceramic Utensils
4. Observation of Bluish Lines on Gums
5. Regular Wet Mopping of Floors
6. Regular Washing of Hands and Toys

Data SummaryAnalysis of Responses

About 1/3rd of them reported peeling paint in their homes, and presence of bright-colored toys which is a known risk factor for lead exposure, especially in older buildings where lead-based paints were commonly used, raising concerns about children's safety.



A notable portion almost half of them reported using aluminum cookware and ceramic utensils, which can leach lead if not manufactured according to safety standards.The combination of using aluminum cookware alongside environmental hazards like peeling paint painted a concerning picture of potential cumulative exposure.

However, very few of them noticed a bluish line on anybody’s gums, a classic sign of lead poisoning, suggesting that acute lead exposure may not be widespread. On a positive note, most of them regularly wet mopping their floors, wash hands and children's toys regularly indicating proactive measures to reduce dust and potential lead contamination.

Conclusion

The survey indicates potential environmental risks for lead exposure among dental science students and faculty, particularly concerning home conditions and household items. While practices like regular cleaning help mitigate these risks, further investigation into blood lead levels would provide clearer insights into actual exposure faced by this population.

As the outreach program concluded, participants left with newfound knowledge and a sense of responsibility toward their households. By addressing these concerns proactively, we could create safer living environments and reduce health risks associated with environmental hazards like lead exposure.