

Doctor who linked kids' lead exposure to health issues dies

July 20 2017

A pediatrician and University of Pittsburgh researcher who linked lead exposure in children to health and intelligence issues has died. Dr. Herbert Needleman was 89.

The Ralph Shugar Chapel is handling funeral arrangements and confirmed Needleman died Tuesday in Pittsburgh. His cause of death wasn't immediately clear.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports Needleman was also a psychiatrist and had been a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Pitt's School of Medicine and Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

But he was best known for his research in the 1970s that led companies to remove lead from gasoline and other products after documenting [behavior problems](#), lower intelligence scores and worse school performance in children exposed to lead.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Rodef Shalom Temple in Pittsburgh.

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Citation: Doctor who linked kids' lead exposure to health issues dies (2017, July 20) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-07-doctor-linked-kids-exposure-health.html>

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