

**Karen Folk Remedies (Daw Tway and Daw Kyin) Identified as  
Potential Sources of Lead and Arsenic Poisoning (Indiana Department of Health)**

Brief Summary of Report:	Two remedies, Daw Tway and Daw Kyin, have been found to contain high levels of lead and arsenic. These products are commonly used as digestive aids for children in the Burmese refugee population.
Description:	<p>Two products, Daw Tway and Daw Kyin, commonly used as digestive aids in children of Burmese refugees in Fort Wayne, Indiana, have tested high for lead and arsenic. The public is advised to avoid using these folk medicines. When working with this population, health-care providers are advised to inquire about folk medicine use and to routinely screen for lead and arsenic exposure.</p> <p>Daw Tway has been found to contain lead as high as 970 ppm, 200 times above acceptable limits. Daw Tway has also been found to contain arsenic as high as 7,100 ppm. Daw Kyin, generically referred to as "wonotsay," has been found to contain arsenic as high as 23,000 ppm. Additional information about the two products is available at the following website:  <a href="http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Arsenic_and_Lead_Poisoning.pdf">http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Arsenic_and_Lead_Poisoning.pdf</a>.</p> <p>The investigation has been a coordinated effort by the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health, St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), and CDC to identify products, customs, and environmental factors that may be contributing to a higher-than-normal percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels in the Burmese refugee population. Capillary lead screening of 199 Burmese children identified 14 children that had subsequently-confirmed lead poisoning, defined as a blood lead level <math>\geq 10</math> <math>\mu\text{g/dL}</math>. Increased anemia rates and arsenic poisoning also appear to be a risk in this community. Data and additional products are being analyzed.</p> <p>To ask questions, provide information about these products, or convey concerns about similar populations, please call ISDH's Matthew Ritchey, D.P.T., M.P.H., EISO, at (317) 233-7627.</p>

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