

Eco 499 Homework #2
due Friday, February 7 at 5pm

Read the following articles:

- Drum, Kevin, 2013, "America's real criminal element: lead," January/February 2013 issue, Mother Jones
- Manzi, Jim, 1/10/13, "Lead and crime", National Review
- At least 2 other articles discussing the link between lead and crime (the articles can be short, and are easy to find via google)

Write an approximately 3 page (typed) essay addressing the following questions. Throughout, back up any substantive claims with evidence taken from the articles you read.

1. What is the biological basis for a link between lead and the crime rate?
2. What is the empirical evidence in favor of a link between lead and crime?
3. Why did atmospheric lead levels fluctuate so much over the past century? What benefits does using lead in gasoline and other consumer products provide?
4. What does Kevin Drum see as the policy implications of the evidence linking lead to crime?
5. What are some of the criticisms of Mr. Drum's article? (You may focus on Jim Manzi's article, but feel free to draw from other sources as well).

Please turn in your assignment via email by 5pm on Friday, February 7. A pdf copy is preferred, but other file types, such as Word, are ok too.