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NVCLPPP

Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

WHAT'S INSIDE?

WHO WE ARE

The Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NvCLPPP) is dedicated to working with medical providers, community partners, and health districts across the state to increase the health and well-being of Nevada's children, especially as it relates to lead poisoning prevention. NvCLPPP aims to:

- **Provide education to prevent and reduce lead poisoning**
- **Increase blood lead testing in Nevada**
- **Link children exposed to lead to services**
- **Improve childhood lead exposure surveillance**

We need your help! By learning about the sources and effects of lead exposure, ways to decrease exposure, and the importance of lead testing, we can work together to ensure all children in Nevada have an equal opportunity to thrive.

Visit our website—nvclppp.org— to see valuable information for medical providers, community partners, and parents.

CONTACT US

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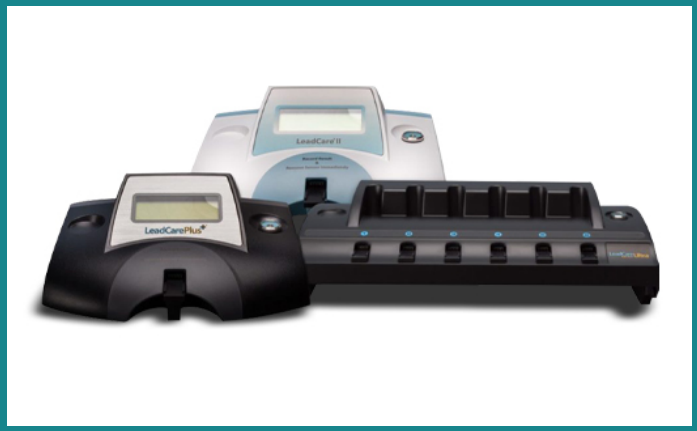
NVCLPPP NOW OFFERING HEALTHY HOMES PRESENTATIONS

NvCLPPP's Healthy Homes presentations provide information on everyday health hazards in the home such as lead hazards, asthma triggers, and preventable injuries. Our home and some of the things we bring into it can affect our children s health. For instance, lead can be found in paint in pre-1978 homes and in ceramic dishware, spices, candies, and toys we bring home. Lead exposure is known to lead to learning difficulties and behavioral problems. Other hazards can trigger or exacerbate other health conditions and cause preventable injury. Healthier homes mean healthier kids that can go to school ready to learn.

Book your free NvCLPPP workshop for your organization today!

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION RECALL NOTIFICATIONS

LeadCare II, Plus, and Ultra Blood Lead Tests



On May 28, 2021, Magellan Diagnostics recalled its LeadCare II (lots 2013M-2107M), LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Tests (lots 2011MU, 2104MU, and 2108MU) due to a significant risk of falsely low results. LeadCare devises that are not on the recall list can continue to be used.

Barhee Fishing Hero Toy Games

On June 10, 2021, CPSC recalled about 300 units of the Barhee Fishing Hero Toy Games due to a high level of lead found on the metal rollers on the bottom of the flying dinosaur figures. The item was sold exclusively at Amazon.com from February through April 2021.

LEAD IN THE MEDIA

Click on the articles to learn more!

PNAS: The impact of childhood lead exposure on adult personality: Evidence from the United States, Europe, and a large-scale natural experiment

JAMA: Lead, Mistrust, and Trauma—Whistleblowing Pediatrician Discusses the Legacy of Flint's Water Crisis

LEAD EXPOSURE AND HEALTH

U.S. Government Finds High Levels of Lead in Baby Food

Recent findings[1] about lead in baby food has been troubling to parents, medical providers, and public health professionals alike as infants and young children are especially susceptible to the negative effects of heavy metal exposure. In 2019 the U.S. Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy received reports claiming high levels of toxic heavy metals, including lead, were found in baby foods. In response, the Subcommittee ordered reports from seven of the largest baby food manufacturers in the United States on November 6, 2019.

Only four of the companies (Nurture, Beech-Nut, Hain, and Gerber) cooperated with the Subcommittee's request. Walmart, Sprout, and Campbell refused to cooperate with the congressional investigation. Limited independent testing has already demonstrated their products exceed allowable levels of heavy metals. The Subcommittee is greatly concerned about what the lack of cooperation may signal.[1]

Table 1. Baby Food Companies that Cooperated with the Subcommittee's Request

Cooperated	Did Not Cooperate
• Beech-Nut Nutrition Company • Gerber • Hain Celestial Group, Inc. (including Earth's Best Organic) • Nurture, Inc. (including Happy Family Organics and HappyBABY)	• Campbell Soup Company (including Plum Organics) • Sprout Foods, Inc. (including Sprout Organic Foods) • Walmart Inc. (including Parent's Choice)

Currently there is no federal standard for lead in baby food. However, the Food and Drug Administration has set the maximum allowable limit of lead in bottled water to **5 Parts Per Billion (ppb)** and the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Environmental Defense Fund have recommended that lead in drinking water and baby food not surpass **1 ppb of lead**,[2-4] given the harmful impact lead in developing infants.

Lead Contamination Findings

Lead was present in baby foods made by all of the companies that responded to the Subcommittee's request. The concentration of lead in baby food ingredients was **886 times higher** than the recommended limit.

Table 2. Lead Concentration in Baby Foods by Company

Brand	Lead Concentration
Nurture (HappyBABY)	• Highest concentration in a baby food product: 641 ppb • Nearly 20% of foods contained over 10 ppb
Beech-Nut	• Highest concentration in an ingredient: 886 ppb • 483 ingredients contained over 5 ppb • 89 ingredients contained over 15 ppb • 57 ingredients contained over 20 ppb
Hain (Earth's Best Organic)	• Highest concentration in an ingredient: 352 ppb • 88 ingredients contained over 20 ppb • 6 ingredients contained over 200 ppb
Gerber	• Highest concentration in an ingredient: 48 ppb • Six tested over 200 ppb

Note: ppb= parts per billion

Toxicologist, Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger, noted the importance of access to contaminant free healthy food. To get there he states, "We need a deeper investigation into the original sources of contamination so that we can remove them or find safer alternatives." This sets the stage to develop and implement standards for lead in baby food. Ongoing testing of baby foods for heavy metals is, and will continue to be, critical to ensure that foods are safe for young children. Dr. Gerstenberger asserted, "The entire process is a monumental task, but it's the right thing to do to protect our children from heavy metal exposure, which is entirely preventable."

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Subcommittee Recommendations to Reduce Lead in Baby Food

1. **FDA standards:** The FDA should set maximum levels of heavy metals permitted in baby foods.

2. **Mandatory testing:** The FDA should require baby food manufacturers to test their finished products for heavy metals, not just the individual ingredients.

3. **Voluntary phase-out of toxic ingredients:** Manufacturers should find alternatives for, or phase-out, ingredients and/or products that frequently test high for heavy metals.

4. **Labeling:** The FDA should require manufacturers to report levels of heavy metals on food labels.

5. **Parental vigilance:** Parents should avoid baby foods that test high in heavy metals.

Steps to Protect Children from Lead

In the meantime, parents can take these steps to protect their children from lead:

1. **Ask your child's doctor for a lead test**. A blood lead test can show how much lead is in a child's body and trigger appropriate medical, environmental and other interventions to reduce the exposure.

2. **Be aware of where your food comes from.** The answer is not as simple as just making your own baby food at home. Contamination often starts at the food supply—fruits and vegetables may absorb lead from contaminated soil.[1]

3. **Avoid or limit** the baby food items that have routinely tested positive for lead such as:
   - Grape juice
   - Sweet potatoes
   - Arrowroot biscuits
   - Mixed fruit juice
   - Teething biscuits
   - Carrots[4]

4. **Advocate for limits to lead in baby food** following the 1 ppb limit of lead established by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Environmental Defense Fund.[3,4]

References

1. Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, Committee on Oversight and Reform, U.S. House of Representatives. (2021). Baby Foods Are Tainted with Dangerous Levels of Arsenic, Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury: Staff Report. Retrieved from https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2021-02-04%20ECP%20Baby%20Food%20Staff%20Report.pdf
2. Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. (n.d.). Lead in Food, Foodwares, and Dietary Supplements. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved from https://www.fda.gov/food/metals-and-your-food/lead-food-foodwares-and-dietary-supplements#:~:text=The%20FDA%2C%20through%20its%20regulatory,is%20set%20at%205%20ppb.
3. AAP COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity. Pediatrics. 2016;138 (1):e20161493
4. Environmental Defense Fund; EDF Health. (2017). Lead in food: A hidden health threat; FDA and industry can and must do better. Retrieved from https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/edf_lead_food_report_final.pdf

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