

Healthy Legacy

Healthy people,
a clean environment
and a thriving economy

BPA-Free Baby Products

Thousands of children's toys have been recalled because of lead paint. Unfortunately, lead is not the only hazard we should be worrying about. Chemicals in children's products are virtually unregulated, and many other "bad actors" are ending up in a place they shouldn't: our children's bodies.

One chemical of high concern is bisphenol A (BPA). BPA is a chemical component of polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. It is commonly found in baby bottles, "sippy" cups, the lining of infant formula containers and other products. This chemical stands out as a particular threat because exposure is widespread and it is an established hormone disruptor.

Low doses matter

Chemical manufacturers often claim that exposures to hormone-disrupting chemicals don't matter because the doses are so low. But emerging science shows that low doses do indeed matter. For example, BPA causes adverse effects on mammary cells at levels 2000 times lower than the EPA "safety" level of 50.0 parts per billion.¹

Children and fetuses at greater risk

Children have higher metabolic rates than adults, meaning they eat, drink and breathe more, pound for pound, than adults. The biologic systems that normally detoxify and excrete toxic chemicals are not fully developed in babies and fetuses. Exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals like BPA during critical times in development can result in lifelong adverse health effects. *See back page*

It is well established in the medical community that our "first environments" are key to developing healthy adults. Disrupting development in the first few years, especially with synthetic hormones, can lead to various adverse health effects. Protecting those first environments can prevent chronic diseases later in life.



Policy recommendation

Support a phase out of BPA

Healthy Legacy supports the phase out of bisphenol A from products intended for use by children ages three and under. This bill would not ban a product, but rather, would restrict the use of this harmful chemical in making products such as baby bottles, "sippy" cups and infant formula containers.

Let's not compromise our children's health. Safe and cost-effective BPA-free products are on the market today.

Recently, Canada and Europe have moved to phase out the chemical from baby bottles. Several retailers are choosing to stock only BPA-free products and manufacturers are voluntarily phasing out BPA from baby bottles, "sippy" cups and the like.

Minnesota parents want products that are safe and tested before they get to the store. Support a phase out of BPA

Healthy Legacy promotes the production and use of everyday products without toxic chemicals.

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Health effects of bisphenol A

BPA is linked to a variety of health effects, including:

- Hormone disruption: mimics estrogen and affects hormone synthesis, with resulting abnormalities in the male reproductive tract² and early onset of puberty in girls³
- Low sperm counts⁴
- Prostate and breast cancer^{5,6}
- Reproductive health problems, miscarriage⁷
- Obesity, diabetes and insulin resistance^{8,9}
- Behavioral problems and learning disabilities like ADD and ADHD¹⁰
- Immune system alterations¹¹
- Cardiovascular disease and liver disruption¹²



Independent research

Healthy Legacy uses 100 percent independent, peer-reviewed research to support a phase out of bisphenol A from children's products.

References

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New science supports a phase out of BPA

New science is making it more apparent that we need a bisphenol A phase out.

Adverse health effects have not only been found in rodent studies. A recent study demonstrated similar adverse effects of BPA on the brains of monkeys.¹³

In addition, a new groundbreaking study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* demonstrates the effects of BPA in humans, linking higher levels of BPA in urine with heart disease, diabetes and liver abnormalities.¹²

States take the lead

Fourteen states are taking the lead to protect children from exposure to bisphenol A. The list of states is growing but currently includes:
AK, CA, CT, IL, MA, ME, MI, MN, NJ, NY, WA, WI, VT

Contact us for more information, and join us on a path to a better future

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Who is Healthy Legacy?

Healthy Legacy is a public health coalition representing over one million Minnesotans who are dedicated to safe products, made safely. Our coalition is comprised of 30 diverse organizations ranging from groups like the Minnesota Council of Churches, the MN Parent Teacher Association, and the Learning Disabilities Association of MN, to the Minnesota Nurses Association, the League of Women Voters and more. Staffing for Healthy Legacy is housed at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Clean Water Fund.

We educate consumers, work with leading businesses and promote protective policies.

Visit our Web site, healthylegacy.org, for a complete list of our coalition partners.