

The New York Times

OPINION
LETTERS

Feb. 5, 2023

Lead in Baby Food

To the Editor:

Re “[To Reduce Lead Levels in Baby Food, F.D.A. Proposes New Set of Guidelines](#)” (news article, Jan. 25):

The science is clear that lead imperils children’s brains even at very low levels, and that other chemicals such as arsenic and mercury are also toxic, with serious consequences from early life exposures.

These chemicals are in our children’s food and contribute to intellectual and learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, A.D.H.D. and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

While reducing dietary exposure to lead by 25 percent for some children is progress, the simple reality is that there is no “safe” level of lead. No parents would be happy to give their child only 25 percent less of a dangerous chemical. We want to give all children the best chance in life, and that means not accepting any unnecessary risk to their brain development.

Moreover, this is a clear issue of racial and environmental justice, as the research shows that African American and other children of color and those living in poverty are more exposed to lead and can suffer greater harm.

The F.D.A. must take immediate action to drastically minimize levels of toxic chemicals and speed up the process of removing them entirely from foods our children eat.

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