

Mercury is A Neurotoxin – Know the Facts

Mercury is a well known neurotoxin that is widespread and increasing in our environment. Coal burning in China has almost doubled in the last 15 years resulting in over 1,000 tons of mercury released annually into the environment. Research has documented that atmospheric mercury from China reaches the coast of California in approximately 10 days.

Recent findings document higher concentrations of mercury in infant cord blood compared to the mothers' blood at time of birth. According to recent NHANES data, 15% of women of childbearing age had blood levels at or above EPA safe levels of 3.5 PPB which equates to 630,000 of the roughly 4 million babies born annually in the United States at risk for neurological injury.

The developing nervous system is a target for mercury toxicity, especially in male infants. Recent research findings report that for each 1,000 pounds of environmentally released mercury there was a 43% increase in the rate of special education services and a 61% increase in the rate of autism. Autism is four times more prevalent in boys.

Children with autism were found to have more than double the levels of mercury in their baby teeth as compared to controls. These results suggest that patients with autism had higher body burdens of mercury during several years of early development. A specific biomarker for heavy metal toxicity, precoproporphyrin, has been found to be significantly elevated in patients with autism relative to controls.

Thimerosal, a preservative containing ethylmercury is known to cross the blood brain barrier in primates and resulted in more than double the amount of inorganic mercury deposited in the brain as equal amounts of methyl mercury. Thimerosal is still used in flu vaccines in the United States which are administered to pregnant women, infants and children and in routine vaccinations in developing countries worldwide.

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safeMinds

Sensible Action For Ending Mercury-Induced
Neurological Disorders



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Neurological Disorders

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Mercury Free Kids
Have Safe Minds

“Virtually every step forward of any consequence with respect to the scientific agenda on autism has come from parents.” — Mark Blaxill,

Board Member SafeMinds

For more information please visit:
www.safeminds.org



Mission

The Coalition for SafeMinds is a non-profit organization founded to scientifically investigate, support research, raise awareness, change policy and focus national attention on the growing evidence of a link between mercury and neurological disorders such as autism, attention deficit disorder, language delay and learning difficulties. Our mission is to end the health and personal devastations caused by the needless exposure to mercury, one of the most neurotoxic substances on earth.

Vision

We envision that through the accomplishment of our mission we will assist in creating optimal health in pregnant women, infants and children through the elimination of unnecessary exposure to mercury in its many forms.

How to Help

- Donate at www.safeminds.org
- Start a fundraising page at: www.firstgiving.com/safeminds
- Participate in our annual online auctions
- Volunteer
- Distribute SafeMinds Material
- Contact info@safeminds.org for more information on how to help



Goals

- Educating the public and policymakers on the urgent need for mercury's removal from all manmade sources such as power and cement industry, lighting, food, and medicine;
- Funding life-changing research and coordinating peer-to-peer review opportunities that improve the scientific understanding of mercury to protect future generations and encourage creation of effective treatments;
- Reviewing, evaluating, critiquing, authoring and disseminating research to media and policymakers to raise awareness on mercury and its harmful effects;
- Advocating for open investigations free from conflicts of interest into mercury's use in widespread industrial processes, agricultural applications, household products and routine medical products, despite its known neurotoxicity.

Accomplishments

Since its inception in 2000 SafeMinds has:

- Established the link between mercury and autism through the landmark paper, "Autism, A Novel Form of Mercury Poisoning." SafeMinds is the driving force pushing forward science that links environmental factors, such as mercury, to autism.
- Sponsored almost \$1 million in research related specifically to mercury and adverse neurological outcomes. This level of financial commitment establishes SafeMinds as the largest private non-profit organization funding mercury and autism-related research.
- Brought this issue to national attention by publishing peer-reviewed articles, networking with leading scientists in the fields of toxicology and autism research, testifying before government committees and working with David Kirby on the publication of Evidence of Harm.
- Relentlessly pursued the scientific truth about mercury and neurodevelopmental disorders. SafeMinds provides constant surveillance and vigilance on misinformation about this issue in the media and provides rapid and high-quality responses to this misinformation.

SafeMinds ultimate goal is to find the truth — to encourage and support efforts to conduct medical research that provide credible findings to support that the mercury-autism hypothesis is true and to help find treatments that will reverse the damage these children have incurred.

Evidence of Harm —
Mercury in Vaccines and
the Autism Epidemic
by David Kirby

This compelling look at mercury related evidence, government reports and devastated families was awarded the "Investigative Reporters and Editors 2005 Award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting in a Book."

