

## ***Baby and Children's Health***

Standards for safe pesticide use in foods have been based on adult tolerance levels. When selecting foods to feed your baby and children it makes sense to avoid foods with pesticides, since babies and children are far more vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides because of their small size, high metabolisms, immature digestive and detoxification system.

"More than 1 million children between the ages of 1 and 5 ingest at least 15 pesticides every day from fruits and vegetables. More than 600,000 of these children eat a dose of organophosphate insecticides that the US federal government considers unsafe, and 61,000 eat doses that exceed benchmark levels by a factor of 10 or more."

Source: *Food for Thought: The Case for Reforming Farm Programs to Preserve the Environment and Help Family Farmers, Ranchers and Foresters*, pages 12-13, found at [www.environmentaldefense.org/pubs/Reports](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/pubs/Reports). Original source: Environmental Working Group, *Overexposed: Organophosphate Insecticides in Children's Food*, 1998, pp. 1-3.