



## Pesticides: Health and Safety

### Pesticides and Food: Health Problems Pesticides May Pose

Laboratory studies show that pesticides can cause health problems, such as birth defects, nerve damage, cancer, and other effects that might occur over a long period of time. However, these effects depend on how toxic the pesticide is and how much of it is consumed. Some pesticides also pose [unique health risks to children](#).

For these reasons, the Federal Government, in cooperation with the States, carefully regulates pesticides to ensure that their use does not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. In particular, the Federal pesticide program is designed to ensure that these products can be used with a reasonable certainty that they will pose no harm to infants, children, and adults.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/risks.htm>

### Pesticides and Food: What You and Your Family Need to Know

#### Learn More About...

- [How the Government Regulates Pesticides](#)
- [What the Residue Limits are on Food](#)
- [Why Children May be Especially Sensitive to Pesticides](#)
- [What "Integrated Pest Management" Means](#)
- [What "Organically Grown" Means](#)
- [Types of Pesticides on Foods](#)
- [Health Problems Pesticides may Pose](#)
- [Healthy, Sensible Food Practice](#)
- [Where to Get More Information](#)

- Does my food contain pesticide residues?
- Could those pesticides harm me or my family?
- What does the government do to ensure that pesticides used on food are safe?

The pages in this Web area answer these and other questions about pesticides and food.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/>