

12 Reasons Why Even Low Levels of Glyphosate Are Unsafe

By Zen Honeycutt | [Children's Health Defense](#)



A California jury on Friday found Monsanto liable in a lawsuit filed by a man who alleged the company's glyphosate-based weedkillers, including Roundup, caused him cancer and ordered the company to pay \$289 million in damages. (Photo: London Permaculture/cc/flickr)

Proponents of GMOs and Glyphosate-based herbicides and staunch believers in the EPA have long argued that low levels of glyphosate exposure are safe for humans. Even our own EPA tells us that Americans can consume [17 times more glyphosate](#) in our drinking water than European residents. The [EWG asserts that 160 ppb of glyphosate found in breakfast cereal](#) is safe for a child to consume due to their own safety assessments, and yet renowned scientists and health advocates

have long stated that no level is safe. Confusion amongst consumers and the media is rampant.

Glyphosate is the declared active chemical ingredient in Roundup and Ranger Pro, which are both manufactured by Monsanto, the original manufacturer of Agent Orange and DDT. There are [750 brands of glyphosate-based herbicides](#). Glyphosate based herbicides are the most widely used in the world and residues of glyphosate have been [found in](#) tap water, children's urine, breast milk, chips, snacks, beer, wine, cereals, eggs, oatmeal, wheat products, and most conventional foods tested.

The detection of glyphosate in these foods has set off alarms of concern in households and food manufacturers' offices around the world. [Lawsuits](#) have sprung up against companies that make food products that claim to be "100% Natural" and yet contain glyphosate residues. These lawsuits have been successful. Debates, using the argument that "the dose makes the poison," have been pushed by media. Speculation is that these media outlets are funded by advertisers that make or sell these chemicals or have sister companies that do, and threatening their profits would be unwise for all involved – except the consumers.

It is time to set the record straight

Here are 12 reasons why there is no safe level of glyphosate herbicide residue in our food or beverages.

1. Babies, toddlers, and young children have kidneys and livers which are underdeveloped and [do not have the ability to detox toxins the way adults do](#). Their bodies are less capable of eliminating toxins and therefore are particularly susceptible. The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) has stated that children, especially,](#)

should avoid pesticides because, “prenatal and early childhood exposure to pesticides is associated with pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioral problems.”

2. Glyphosate does not wash, dry or cook off, and has been shown to **bioaccumulate** in the bone marrow, tendons and muscle tissue. Bioaccumulation of low levels over time will result in levels which we cannot predict or determine; therefore there is no scientific basis to state that the low levels are not dangerous, as they can accumulate to high levels in an unforeseeable amount of time.
3. “There is no current reliable way to determine the incidence of pesticide exposure and illness in US children.” -AAP Children are exposed through food, air, contact with grass and pets. How much they are being exposed to daily from all these possibilities is simply not something that we have been able to determine. Therefore no one is capable of assessing what levels are safe from any one modality of exposure because an additional low level from other modalities could add up to a high level of exposure.
 1. Ultra-low levels of glyphosate herbicides have been proven to cause non-alcoholic liver disease in a long term animal study by Michael Antoniou, Giles Eric Seralini et al. The levels the rats were exposed to, per kg of body weight, were far lower than what is allowed in our food supply. According to the Mayo Clinic 100 million, or 1 out of 3 Americans now have liver disease. These diagnoses are in some as young as 8 years old.
 2. Ultra-low levels of glyphosate have been shown to be endocrine and hormone disrupting. Changes to hormones can lead to birth defects, miscarriage, autoimmune disease, cancer, mental and chronic illness.
 3. The EPA Allowable Daily Intake Levels (ADIs) of

glyphosate exposure were set for a 175-pound man, not a pregnant mother, infant, or child.

4. Glyphosate alone has been shown to be chronically toxic causing organ and cell damage. Glyphosate herbicides final formulations, have been shown to be acutely toxic, causing immediate damage at low levels.
5. The detection of glyphosate at low levels could mean the presence of the other toxic ingredients in glyphosate herbicides on our food. Until studies are done, one must practice the Precautionary Principle. The label on glyphosate herbicides does not specify the pesticide class or “other”/“inert” ingredients that may have significant acute toxicity and **can account for up to 54% of the product.**
6. Regarding the label and low-level exposure: “Chronic toxicity information is not included, and labels are predominantly available in English. There is significant use of illegal pesticides(especially in immigrant communities), off-label use, and overuse, underscoring the importance of education, monitoring, and enforcement.” – AAP. Exposure to low levels of glyphosate herbicides can occur through pregnant wives or children hugging the father who is a pesticide applicator. The chronic health impacts such as rashes which can, years later, result in non-Hodgkin lymphoma, are often ignored, especially by low income or non-English speaking users dependent on their pesticide application occupation for survival.
7. The EPA has admitted to not having any long-term animal studies with blood analysis on the final formulation of any glyphosate herbicides. **The EPA cannot state that the final formulation is safe.**
8. For approval of pesticides and herbicides, the EPA

only requires safety studies, by the manufacturer who benefits from the sales, on the one declared active chemical ingredient—in this case glyphosate. [Glyphosate is never used alone.](#)

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