

99.8%: Rebuffing Environmental Working Group's 'Dirty Dozen' pesticide claims, EPA says almost all fruits and vegetables are safe

We often talk about how [government data shows over 99.8%](#) of foods sampled are well below [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) safety standards](#), commonly referred to as “tolerances.” But how are those safety standards or tolerances developed and established so they are protective of consumers, including infants and children?

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Before allowing the use of a pesticide on food crops [the EPA evaluates:]

- The aggregate exposure from the pesticide through diet and drinking water and from pesticides used in and around the home.
- The cumulative effects from exposure to pesticides that have a common mechanism of toxicity (that is, two or more pesticide chemicals or other substances that cause a common toxic effect(s).
- Whether there is increased susceptibility to infants and children or other sensitive subpopulations, from exposure to the pesticide.
- Whether the pesticide produces an effect in people similar to an effect produced by a naturally occurring estrogen or produces other endocrine disruption-effects.

...

[According to EPA:](#)

EPA is confident that the fruits and vegetables our children are eating are safer than ever...

It is important to note though, that just because a pesticide residue is detected on a fruit or vegetable, that does not mean it is unsafe. USDA's Pesticide Data Program (PDP) detects residues at levels far lower than those that are considered health risks.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here](#)