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**Experts Agree that Toxic Chemicals are  
Hurting Babies' Brain Development**

**Scientists, Health Professionals, and Advocates  
Call for Immediate Action to Reduce Toxic Exposures**

**JULY 5, 2016**—In a first-ever, unprecedented [consensus statement](#) published on July 1, 2016 in the peer-reviewed journal, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, [leading experts in the field](#) agree that scientific evidence is now strong enough to support a link between exposures to toxic chemicals in food, air, and everyday products and children's risks for neurodevelopmental disorders. Neurodevelopmental disorders include intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficits, hyperactivity, and learning disabilities.

The statement is the result of a one year effort by [Project TENDR](#) (Targeting Environmental NeuroDevelopmental Risks)—an alliance of experts including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the National Medical Association, and more than 50 of the nation's top scientists, health professionals, and children's and environmental health advocates.

A national call-to-action, the statement explains:

“To lower children's risks for developing neurodevelopmental disorders, policies and actions are urgently needed to eliminate or significantly reduce exposures to these chemicals. Further, if we are to protect children, we must overhaul how government agencies and business assess risks to human health from chemical exposures, how chemicals in commerce are regulated, and how scientific evidence informs decision-making by government and the private sector.”

The statement concludes by stating, “We are confident that reducing exposures to chemicals that can interfere with healthy brain development will help to lower the prevalence of neurodevelopmental disabilities, and thus enable many more children to reach their full potential.”

[Healthy Babies Bright Futures](#) (HBBF) is working with Project TENDR to highlight the significance of this historic statement and to provide guidance on critical next steps. HBBF is dedicated to mobilizing families, organizations, companies, and government officials to protect our babies' brains from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals.

Healthy Babies Bright Futures urges the public to take the following actions in response to the Project TENDR consensus statement:

1. **Spread the word**. Share and discuss the statement with as many people as possible both online and off. Use [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), email, or any other online platform to involve your family, friends, coworkers, online sites, elected officials, and doctors' office. It will take combined efforts from all of us to make a difference.
2. **Protect your family and yourself**. Order or donate a [lead in water action kit](#) from HBBF to test the water in your home or for a family in need. Beyond just results, these affordable and informative kits deliver customized action items and steps needed to decrease exposure to lead.
3. **Learn what products are safe**. Use HBBF's [product guide](#) to help select everyday household items that are safe and that will help to lower your exposures to toxic chemicals at home.
4. **Advocate for policies that protect our children**. Replacing the lead water pipes under the street and banning phthalates as a food additive aren't things we can do for ourselves. We need public officials who are committed to protecting communities from chemicals that are hurting babies' brains. [Sign the petition to the FDA \(Food and Drug Administration\)](#) to stop the use of phthalates in food equipment and packaging. Also, sign up for [free updates](#) from Healthy Babies Bright Futures in an ongoing effort to convince governments and companies to make babies' futures healthier and brighter.

To learn more, please visit [Healthy Babies Bright Futures](#).



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