

## BPA Study Talking Points

- BPA exposure is a concern for schools, just as it is for families purchasing food from the grocery store or at restaurants.
- This study shows BPA exposure from school meals is at a safe level according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
  - Schools, just like families, rely on their expertise to determine the safe level.
- The study did *not* conclude that consuming school meals results in a greater risk of BPA exposure than consuming brown bag lunches or meals from restaurants.
  - This study cites concern about any type of packaged food, which raises a red flag for families who pack lunches and rely on prevalent convenience packaging.
- Researchers admitted their calculations relied on BPA estimates for foods purchased in the grocery store, and that bulk sized foods purchased by schools may have lower BPA concentrations.
  - There was no actual measurement taken of BPA levels in the sample school meals.
- The research model assumed schools rely heavily on canned foods in school meal preparation, but schools nationwide are incorporating more fresh and frozen produce in school menus, particularly with recent Farm to School initiatives and efforts to serve more locally grown produce [*cite any specific examples of efforts to limit canned foods and serve more fresh or frozen produce*].

NOTE: The researchers did not actually measure the BPA in any school meals. They surveyed SN Directors and visited San Francisco area schools to determine a typical school menu, then used previous research on BPA concentrations in various foods to estimate the BPA content in their sample school menus.

The sample menus (on page 4 of the study) included a substantial amount of canned fruits and vegetables. In the Stanford press release on the research, the study authors concluded that the best way to lower BPA risk is to serve more fresh produce, since the studies they based their research on found high levels of BPA in canned goods. So if your district is limiting canned foods on the menu, you'll want to mention it and highlight efforts to serve more fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables.

Here is the Stanford release: <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2015/september/bpa-school-lunch-092315.html>