



Statement

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tiffany Harrington (703) 741-5583

Email: Tiffany_Harrington@americanchemistry.com

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AMERICA'S CHEMICAL MAKERS ON CDC'S THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON HUMAN EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS

ARLINGTON, VA (July 21, 2005) – America's chemical makers applaud and support CDC's scientific efforts to understand exposure to natural and manmade substances through biomonitoring. Americans should feel proud of efforts to reduce blood lead levels in children and exposure to second-hand cigarette smoke, which the CDC report reflects. Like the previous two studies, this report also indicates that exposure to the manmade and natural compounds that CDC studied remains extremely low.

Biomonitoring is a useful public health tool for monitoring exposure to substances. Thus, the CDC report provides another layer of information, on top of more than a dozen federal safety laws and a large network of regulatory safeguards, to help scientists and government regulators make reliable decisions about protecting the environment and about the safety of consumer products.

In that regard, member companies of the American Chemistry Council take seriously their own responsibility to make safety information available so policymakers and consumers can make informed choices about the essential and life-saving products that Americans rely on every day.

America's chemical makers support a balanced approach to biomonitoring that uses validated methods developed by the CDC, relies on independent scientific groups (such as the National Academy of Sciences) to help society understand how to interpret and use biomonitoring information and communicates this information in an appropriate context.

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Researchers in this scientific area echo the CDC's caution that: "Just because people have an environmental chemical in their blood or urine does not mean that the chemical causes disease... Small amounts may be of no health consequence, whereas larger amounts may cause adverse health effects." Therefore, the CDC data must be viewed in context and used responsibly.

America's chemical makers create products that have helped billions of people live healthier, safer lives. The member companies of the American Chemistry Council have an abiding interest in and commitment to producing products in a manner that protects people's health and have reduced emissions to the environment by more than 75 percent over the past 15 years.

The benefits of chemistry have helped all of us live longer and healthier lives. These advances should not be underestimated or undermined by unnecessarily alarming people about everyday products that protect our health, keep us from harm and contribute to our well being.

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$516 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies invest more in research and development than any other business sector. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.