

# The fight for lead-free candy

After years of struggle to eliminate lead in candy, we can finally have confidence in the candy we buy.

## Getting Sick

Families report their children getting sick after ingesting the Bolirindo lollipop, a chili and tamarind-based candy found to have high levels of lead.

## Investigation

The Orange County Register investigates lead levels in candy, revealing that lead is present in many of our favorite candies.

## Lawsuit Filed

Several parties file a lawsuit against major candy manufacturers to demand manufacturing processes eliminate lead in candy. Parties include Environmental Health Coalition, the Center for Environmental Health, California Attorney General, Los Angeles City Attorney and Alameda County District Attorney.



Pre-2002

May 2002

June 2004



## AB121

AB121 goes into effect in California, prohibiting the sale of candies contaminated with lead above .1ppm, or a "normal" level.

Jan 2006

## Victory!

Three major candy manufacturers reach a settlement with the state of California to eliminate lead in candy products, making them safe to consume. The agreement requires: A change in manufacturing processes, purchasing only from suppliers who properly wash and clean chili peppers and an agreement to independent audits to ensure changes eliminate lead contamination. Manufacturers pay \$1-million for education and audits.

## Still Lead-Free

Today, lead-free candy policies remain strict. California continues to hold candy retailers and manufacturers to a lead minimum, making candies and our children safer than ever.

June 2006

Today



Please visit [EnvironmentalHealth.org](http://EnvironmentalHealth.org) for more information on lead-free candy.