



CLOSER TO ZERO

TRENDS IN EXPOSURE TO TOXIC ELEMENTS FROM FOODS FOR BABIES & YOUNG CHILDREN

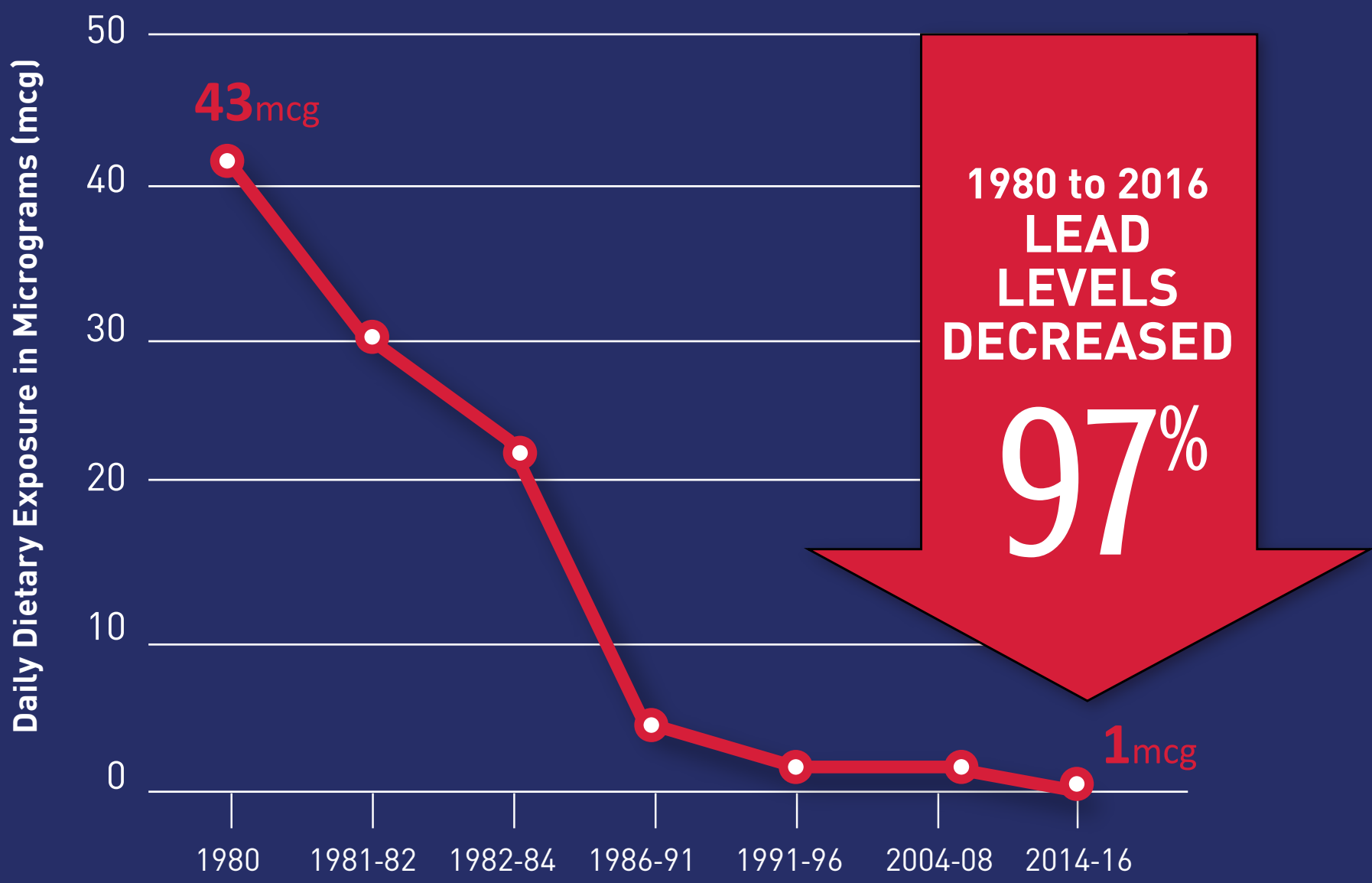
FDA’s research and monitoring, work with stakeholders, and setting of action levels has resulted in significant progress in reducing children’s exposure to lead and arsenic from foods.

We pay special attention to children because their smaller body sizes and metabolism make them more susceptible to the harmful effects of these contaminants.

Ensuring your child has a well-balanced diet with a variety of age-appropriate healthy foods is important for their growth and development.



Average Daily Dietary Exposures to Lead for 1-3 Year Olds



FDA’s work to reduce exposure to lead from food began in the 1970s with efforts to reduce the use of lead in cans.

This FDA action, combined with the phaseout of lead in gasoline—which contributed to significant levels of air pollution and contamination of crops—resulted in a dramatic decline in lead exposure from foods by the mid-1980s.

FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition uses exposure data to prioritize research and regulatory efforts for reducing toxic elements in food.

FDA’s approach aims to meaningfully reduce exposure to toxic elements over time through a science-based, iterative process for achieving continual improvements in reducing levels of toxic elements in foods.



Inorganic Arsenic in Infant Rice Cereal



In 2012, FDA shared our testing data with stakeholders to make them aware of the issue of inorganic arsenic in infant rice cereal and encouraged them to make improvements in their food products.

In 2016, FDA proposed an action level of 100ppb. In 2020, FDA finalized guidance to industry on this action level.

