1. According to the American Dental Association (ADA), Council on Scientific Affairs "To date, there is no evidence to suggest that mercury released from dental amalgams result in any adverse effect to health in the general population."

2. According to the American Dental Association (ADA), Council on Scientific Affairs "minute levels of mercury are released from amalgam restorations; but no health consequences from exposure to such low levels of mercury released from amalgam have been demonstrated."

3. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have adopted a threshold limit value (TLV) of 50ug mercury vapor per cubic meter of the breathing zone air for eight hours per day, 40 hours per week.

4. The World Health Organization (WHO) has adopted a lower limit of 25ug/m3 as the (TLV) Threshold Limit Value

5. The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry has established the Minimal Risk Level (MRL) at 0.3ug/m3 for long-term human exposure to mercury in ambient air.

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1 500 JDA, Vol. 129, April 1998
2 500 JDA, Vol. 129, April 1998
4 Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Mercury (aryl and inorganic compounds). Federal Register 1989-54(1212414-6).
6. The MRL is defined as the level of mercury vapor below which a person can continuously be exposed with no harmful health effects.

7. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also uses 0.3ug/m3 as the inhalation reference concentration for elemental mercury in air.\(^7\)

8. It is well established that both the placement and the removal of amalgam can result in significant levels of intraoral mercury vapor.\(^9\) \(^10\)

9. The American Dental Association recognizes that in the field of dentistry, chronic exposure to mercury vapor can become a potential health hazard in the work place, if dental amalgam is improperly handled.\(^11\) \(^12\) \(^13\)

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\(^13\) 496 JDA, Vol. 129, April 1998
10. Minute levels of mercury are released from amalgam restorations; but no health consequences from exposure to such low levels of mercury released from amalgam restorations have been demonstrated.14

11. The overwhelming body of scientific evidence demonstrates amalgam to be a safe restorative material15

12. In 1983 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared amalgam to be a hazardous substance within the meaning of Section 107 of (CERCLA) According to the EPA’s hazard summary the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, in its fact sheet entitled “MERCURY AND COMPOUNDS”, obtained from the EPA’s Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), a source of public exposure to this hazardous substance is released in the mouth from dental amalgam fillings. According to the EPA, exposure to amalgam results in harm to the central nervous system, gastrointestinal tract disorders, respiratory disorders, kidney damage, and birth defects from pregnant women and is especially injurious to children.16

13. Dental Amalgam is classified as a hazardous material in the workplace by OSHA, and excess dental amalgam must be disposed of according to OSHA’s Material Safety Data Sheet 17

14. The ADA has never certified dental amalgam, only “amalgam alloy.” The ADA is on record for saying: “...The specification is not for dental amalgam. It is only for the alloy for dental amalgam. The amalgam is not form until the Dentist mixes the alloy with mercury. Therefore dental amalgam per se cannot be certified. We cannot certify a reaction product made by the dentist18

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14 501 JDA, Vol. 129, April 1998
15 500 JDA, Vol. 129, April 1998

18 Letter from John W. Stanford, Ph.D., Secretary Council on Dental Materials, Instrument and Equipment’s ADA, 22 May 1986
TO: Food and Drug Administration

From: Lindell Tinsley Project Director Consumers for Dental Choice

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Comments: Statement of Scientific Facts Re: Mercury Dental Amalgam