



Integrated Pest Management

About SHPPS: SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. This fact sheet reports data from the 2014 study, which collected data at the school and classroom levels.

Integrated pest management (IPM) is an approach to pest control that focuses on addressing the underlying issues that make schools attractive to pests. By practicing IPM, schools focus on pest prevention, inspect for pest problems, and apply pesticides only when needed. This reduces exposure to pests and the unnecessary exposure to pesticides for students, teachers, and other people who work in schools.

Percentage of schools that notify staff, students, and families prior to the application of pesticides (e.g., by sending letters or email to families or posting information on a school website)

(Note: 30.2% of schools do not apply pesticides):

- 35.6% each time pesticides are applied
- 6.1% once per year
- 4.2% on some other time frame
- 24.0% never notify

Percentage of Schools that Engaged in Specific Integrated Pest Management Practices		
Practice	Almost always or always (%)	Never or rarely (%)
Allowed eating only in designated areas to control pests ¹	49.6	31.3
Kept vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch at least one foot away from buildings to control pests ^{1,2}	57.3	24.9
Marked indoor and outdoor areas that had been treated with pesticides ^{1,2}	52.5	39.5
Removed infested or diseased plants ^{1,2}	63.4	14.9
Repaired cracks in the pavement and sidewalks ^{1,2}	50.8	17.3
Sealed openings in walls, floors, doors, and windows with caulk or weather stripping ^{1,2}	49.2	21.0
Stored food in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it was inaccessible to pests ¹	84.5	10.6
Stored food waste in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it was inaccessible to pests ¹	79.8	12.4
Used spot treatments and baiting rather than widespread applications of pesticides ^{1,2}	54.5	18.6
¹ During the 12 months before the study.		
² Among schools for which this question was applicable.		

Percentage of Schools that Require Students Clean Their Lockers, Desks, and Cubbies, that Clean Desk Tops, and Conduct Campus-Wide Inspections for Pests, by Frequency					
	Requires students to clean their lockers ¹	Requires students to clean the inside of their desks ²	Requires students to clean the inside of their cubbies ³	Cleans desk tops	Conducts campus-wide inspection for pests ⁴
Frequency	%	%	%	%	%
Daily	1.0	5.7	9.8	42.0	NA ⁵
Weekly	4.6	31.4	32.2	37.1	12.8
Monthly	8.7	15.4	13.3	7.2	42.5
Quarterly	22.1	9.1	6.0	1.9	15.0
Every 6 months	13.0	2.3	2.6	0.5	5.6
Once per year	28.8	6.6	5.8	1.2	2.8
Only as needed	18.2	24.5	25.9	8.9	18.9
Other time frame	3.7	5.0	4.4	1.2	2.3

¹Not including gym lockers. Question not asked among elementary schools.
²Among elementary schools with this type of desk. Question not asked among middle and high schools.
³Among elementary schools with cubbies. Question not asked among middle and high schools.
⁴Such as ants, roaches, bees, mice, or rats.
⁵Not an available response option.

Custodial or Maintenance Training

- 56.1% of schools require custodial or maintenance staff to receive training on pest management practices that limit the use of pesticides.

To learn more about school IPM, please visit <http://www2.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools>

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/shpps or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).