

Integrated Pest Management

About SHPPS: The School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health-related policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. SHPPS was conducted in 1994, 2000, and 2006. The 2012 study collected data at the state and district levels only. School- and classroom-level data collection took place in 2014.

One important aspect of a healthy school environment is pest management. Schools are particularly vulnerable to pest problems due to the large size of school structures and their grounds, as well as the abundance of books, supplies, and equipment that provide potential habitats for various types of pests (1).

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 only apply pesticides when needed. This reduces exposure to pests and pesticides for students, teachers, and other people who work in schools.

State Findings

Percentage of States Providing Assistance to Districts or Schools on Integrated Pest Management	
Strategy	States
Developed, revised, or assisted in developing model policies, policy guidance, or other materials*	29.8
Distributed or provided model policies, policy guidance, or other materials*	28.6
Provided technical assistance†	26.5
Provided funding for professional development or offered professional development*§	19.1**
*During the 2 years before the study. †During the 12 months before the study. § On how to implement school-wide policies and programs. ** A significant decrease from 45.7% in 2006.	

District Findings

Percentage of districts that required schools to conduct a campus-wide (i.e., inside the buildings and on school grounds) inspection for pests such as ants, roaches, bees, mice, or rats:

- 8.4% weekly
- 44.6% monthly
- 13.1% quarterly
- 4.3% every six months
- 4.4% once per year
- 22.6% only as needed

1. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. Schools. In: Etzel RA, Balk SJ, eds. Pediatric Environmental Health. 2nd edition. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003:459–476.

Percentage of Districts That Required Schools to Implement Integrated Pest Management Strategies	
Strategy	Districts
Allow eating only in designated areas to control pests	57.1
Keep vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch at least one foot away from buildings to control pests	54.1
Mark indoor and outdoor areas that have been treated with pesticides	55.0
Remove infested or diseased plants	78.3
Repair cracks in pavement and sidewalks	73.3
Seal openings in walls, floors, doors, and windows with caulk or weather stripping	82.1
Store food in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it is inaccessible to pests	81.3
Store food waste in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it is inaccessible to pests	74.5
Use spot treatments and baiting rather than widespread applications of pesticides	80.9

Percentage of districts that required schools to notify staff, students, and families **prior to the application of pesticides** (e.g., by sending letters or emails to families or posting information on a school website) (Note: In 20.2% of districts, schools did not apply pesticides).

- 44.8% each time pesticides were applied
- 10.3% once per year
- 3.2% on some other time frame
- 21.5% never required notification

77.2% of districts required district approval for the use of pesticides before teachers, administrative or custodial staff, or contractors at a school in the district applied pesticides.

Professional Development and Training

- During the two years before the study, 41.4% of districts provided funding for professional development or offered professional development to **school faculty and staff** on how to implement school-wide policies and programs related to integrated pest management (a significant increase from 27.4% in 2006).
- During the two years before the study, 59.1% of districts provided funding for training or offered training to **custodial or maintenance staff** on pest management practices that limit the use of pesticides

To learn more about school IPM, please visit www.epa.gov/opp00001/ipm

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

