



Physical School Environment

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.

School construction and renovations:

- The number of years since construction of schools' main instructional buildings ranged from 1 to 163 years, with a mean of 47.6 years.
- 19.9% of schools had undergone a major renovation to the main instructional building, including building new attached and/or detached permanent additions to original buildings

Percentage of Schools that Conducted Periodic Inspections	
Type of inspection	%
For clutter that prevents effective cleaning and maintenance	92.9
For condensation in and around the school facilities	80.6
For mold	86.0
Of the building foundation, walls, and roof for cracks, leaks, or past water damage	94.0
Of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, or HVAC, system	96.2
Of the plumbing system	87.7
That test drinking water outlets for lead	45.8

To promote indoor air quality:

- 46.0% of schools had ever been tested for radon.
- 57.3% of schools had adopted a policy to purchase low-emitting products for use in and around the school grounds.
- 59.0% of schools almost always or always maintained American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards for ventilation during the 12 months before the study.

Formal joint use agreements: 57.5% of schools had a formal agreement for shared use of school or community property, either directly or through the school district.

- Among all schools, these agreements applied to the use of facilities for indoor recreation or physical activity (47.2%), outdoor recreation or physical activity (45.6%), before- or after-school programs for school-aged children (36.2%), adult education programs (14.5%), healthcare services (13.6%), preschool or infant child care programs (12.8%), and library services (10.3%).

Inspection for lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs): During the past 12 months, among the 66.4% of schools for which the main instructional building was constructed before 1980:

- 34.0% inspected for lead in cracked or peeling paint and 28.6% had previously identified and remediated for lead paint.
- 23.3% inspected for PCBs in caulking around windows and doors and 28.9% had previously identified and remediated for PCBs in caulking.
- 23.2% inspected for PCBs in fluorescent light ballasts and 40.6% had previously identified and remediated for PCBs in fluorescent light ballasts.

Percentage of Schools that had Practices Related to Walking and Biking to School	
Practice	%
Has a walking school bus	6.2
Has bicycle racks	62.4
Has law enforcement officials to prevent crime near the schools	55.1
Has law enforcement officials to promote traffic safety near the school	47.5
Has paid or volunteer crossing guards	47.7
Has reduced speed limits on streets that abut or are adjacent to the school's grounds during peak school travel times	68.1
Has traffic calming devices on streets that abut or are adjacent to the school's grounds	40.0
Provides promotional materials to students or families on walking or biking to school	33.3
Speed limit during peak school travel times is 25 mph or less	76.3

Percentage of Schools in Which Custodial or Maintenance Staff are Required to Receive Training on Specific Topics Related to the Physical Environment	
Topic	%
Disposal of hazardous materials	86.8
How to reduce the use of hazardous materials	77.4
Labeling of hazardous materials	85.9
Storage of hazardous materials	87.9
Use of hazardous materials	87.4
Green cleaning products and practices	63.8
How to address mold problems	62.6
Indoor air quality	39.2
Pest management practices that limit the use of pesticides	56.1
School drinking water quality	25.6

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