

THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

Legal Reference and Intent

Food and Agricultural Code section 13182: It is the policy of the state that effective least toxic pest management practices should be the preferred method of managing pests at schoolsites and that the state, in order to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides, shall take the necessary steps, pursuant to this article, to facilitate the adoption of effective least toxic pest management practices at schoolsites.

Lead Agency for Compliance Assistance California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Branch

School and Child Care IPM Programs

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Key Contacts for DPR

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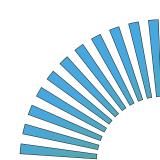
Lisa Estridge- Education and Outreach Unit

How To Get More Info

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DPR's School and Child Care IPM Programs

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation's School & Child Care IPM Programs facilitate the adoption of reduced risk pest management at California public K-12 schools and child care centers. Our Programs also provide Healthy Schools Act compliance support to school employees and pest control businesses.

The year 2020 brought unique and unprecedented pest management practice changes for California schoolsites. Pesticide applications at schools and child care centers decreased compared to previous years as stay at home orders, distance learning and other COVID-19 pandemic related challenges altered typical pesticide use patterns. Although reportable pesticide use decreased, the focus shifted at schools and child care centers to the increased use of antimicrobial pesticides in response to COVID-19. As a result, **109,113** people took an HSA training course in 2020, a **96%** increase from 2019.









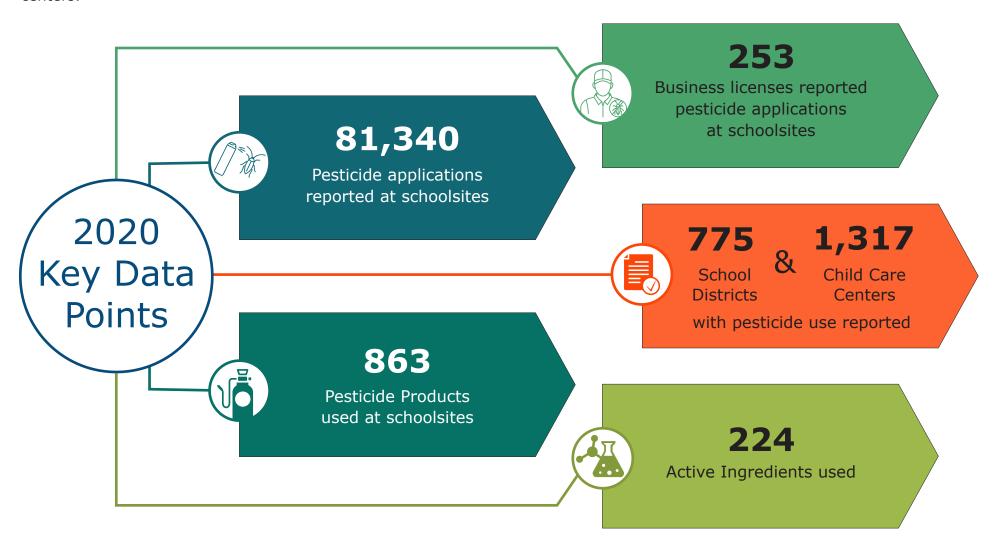
Sincerely,

Lisa Estridge

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2020 Data Highlights at Schools and Child Care Centers

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic considerably affected pest management practices at schoolsites. Many schools and child care centers closed their facilities for part or all of the entire year. Schoolsites also faced new challenges around the use of disinfectants. This year's report examines how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted pesticide use patterns at California schools and child care centers.



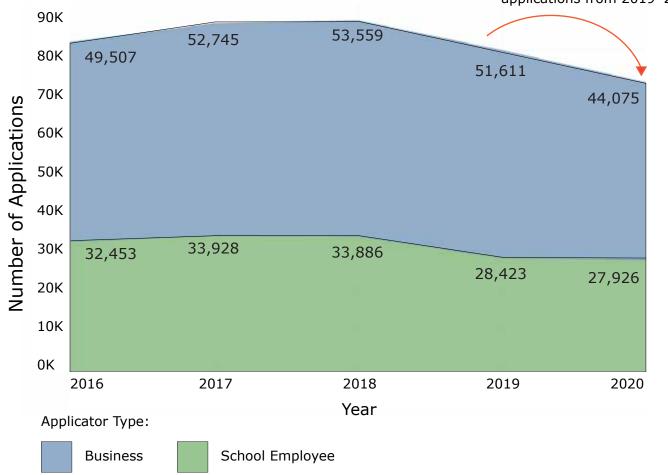
COVID-19 Closures Reduced Pesticide Applications Compared to 3 Year Average

- March-April: Stay-at-home orders that closed schools caused a major reduction in reported pesticide applications at schools compared to the prior three-year average for 2016–2019.
- **May-December**: The number of pesticide applications at schools follows the typical use pattern generally seen but continued to remain below the prior three-year average. A closer analysis of the data indicated that the reduction in the number of pesticide applications reported in 2020 can be attributed to pest control businesses reporting fewer applications. Applications reported by school staff remained consistent with previous years.



Schools and Child Care Centers Affected Differently

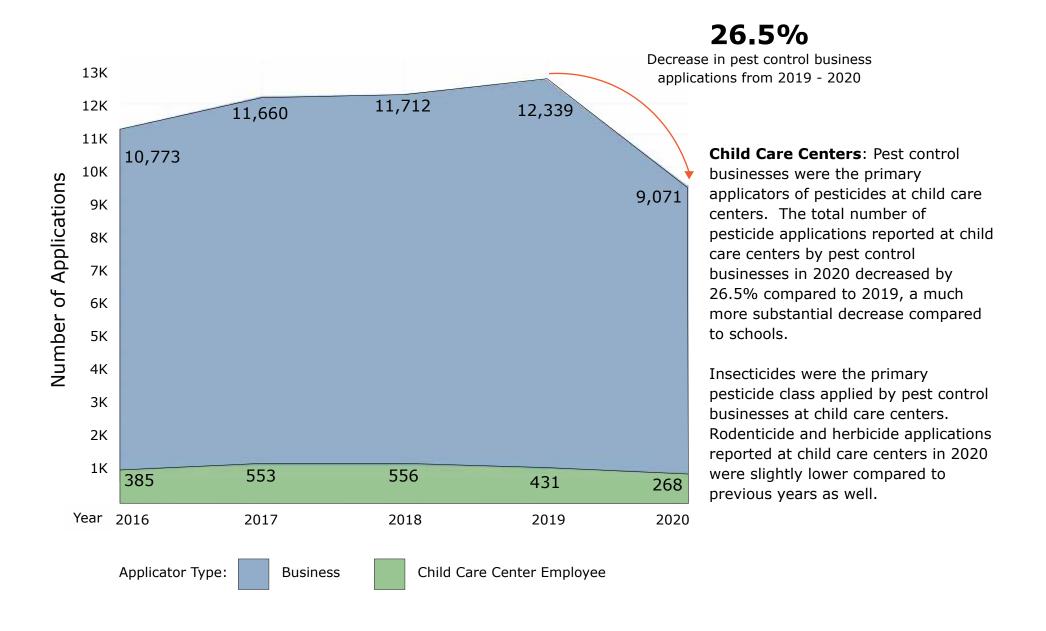




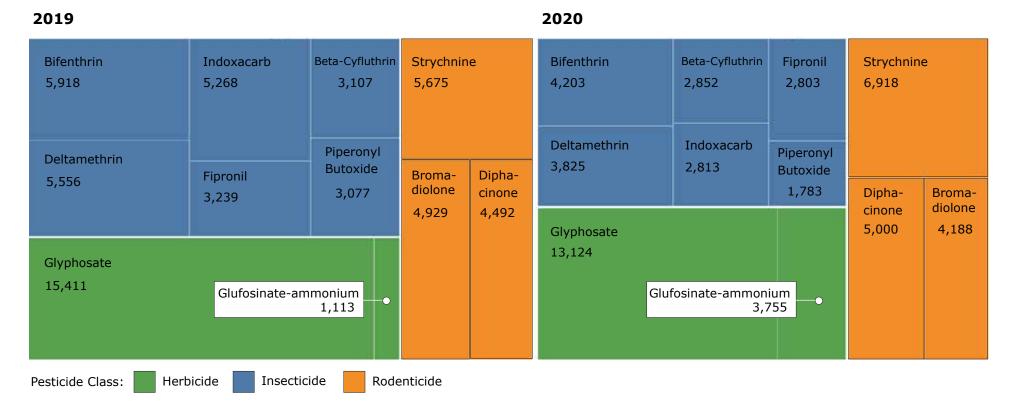
Schools: The number of pesticide applications made by school employees in 2020 remained consistent with previous years. School employees primarily applied herbicides. Fewer herbicide applications were reported during March and April 2020 but returned to historical use norms for the remainder of the year.

Pest control business applications at schools decreased noticeably in 2020 with 14.6% fewer applications reported compared to 2019. The decrease in pest control business applications was a result of fewer Insecticide applications.

Schools and Child Care Centers Affected Differently



Top 10 Active Ingredients



HERBICIDES

Glyphosate was the most applied active ingredient at schools in 2020 but continued to significantly decrease for the second year in a row. This continuing pattern was likely not a result of challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic because school employees, the primary applicators of herbicides, reported similar number of pesticide applications as past years. Glufosinate-Ammonium applications increased as school districts adopted this as an alternative.

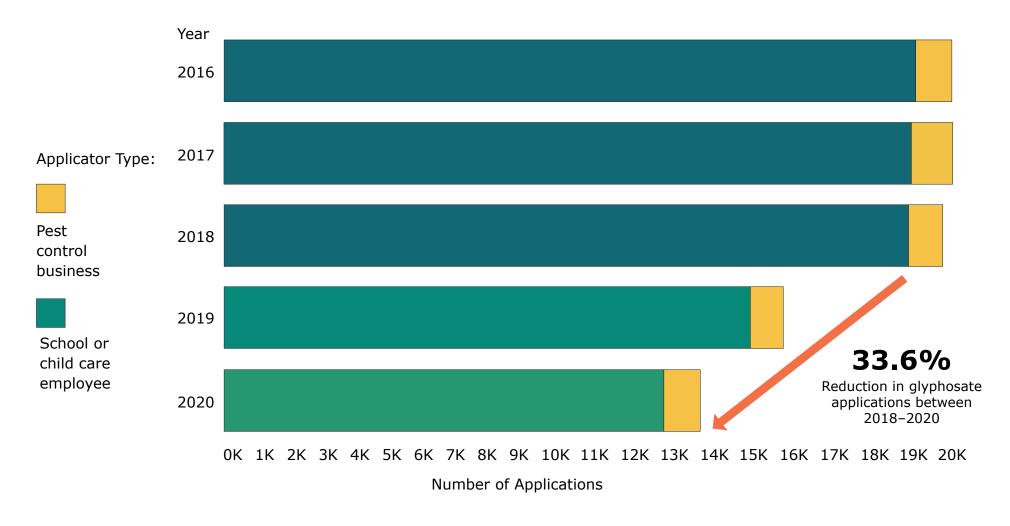
INSECTICIDES

Insecticides displayed the largest change in reported pesticide applications with all top active ingredients decreasing considerably in 2020 compared to 2019. Fewer insecticide applications, which were primarily reported by pest control businesses, was the primary cause for the decrease in reported pesticide applications at both schools and child care centers in 2020.

RODENTICIDES

Rodenticide applications displayed a modest decrease overall in 2020. Strychnine and diphacinone applications increased while bromadiolone decreased slightly. Aluminum phosphide applications, which are not shown in the visual because the top active ingredient was not a Top 10 application, continued decreasing as more school districts adopted carbon monoxide as an effective way to manage burrowing rodents.

Glyphosate Use Continued to Decrease



In 2020, the number of reported glyphosate applications showed a similar decrease as seen in 2019. Overall, there was a 33.6% decrease in the number of reported glyphosate applications from 2018 to 2020. This decrease in glyphosate use predates the COVID-19 pandemic and appears to be the result of school districts choosing different herbicides and adopting alternative management techniques.

