

IMPROVING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT



PEST MANAGEMENT FOR SAFER, HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

Pesticide Exposures Can Cause Problems in Schools

- From 1998-2002, 2,593 acute illnesses from pesticide exposures were reported in U.S. schools.¹
- An Indianapolis high school was evacuated and six people sent to the hospital because of inappropriate pesticide use in 2000.²

Children have higher health risks from pesticide exposure

- Children's bodies have 2 to 7 times higher levels of pesticides than adults living in the same space.³
- They are at higher risk because their bodies are still developing.
- Ill effects of acute exposure differ by chemical but can include nausea, vomiting, headaches, eye irritation and respiratory symptoms.⁴
- Some pesticides are neurotoxic,^{5,6} and some have been linked to childhood cancers.^{7,8}

Schools may reduce absences by reducing pests and pesticides

- Many pesticides are respiratory irritants. Both pests (cockroaches) and pesticides have been associated with asthma symptoms in children.⁹
- Asthma is a leading cause of school absence in the U.S. – more than 12 million asthma-related absences per year.¹⁰
- In the average Indiana class of 25 children, 3 have asthma.¹¹
- IPM reduces cockroaches, which are also an asthma trigger.

For More Information

- Integrated pest management involves pest prevention and proactive pest management. By keeping pests out and removing sources of food, water and shelter, fewer pests are encountered and pesticides are used only as a last resort.
- Learn more about integrated pest management on our website: www.ikecoalition.org.
- Join the Indiana IPM Schools Coalition to learn from others how to reduce both pests and pesticides in your school.
- Contact IKE at 317-677-4760 or 1111 E. 54th Street, Ste. 212, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

References

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- ¹⁰Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007, August). Featured data & statistics: Statistics on asthma-related absences. www.cdc.gov/datastatistics/archive/asthma-absences.html
- ¹¹Indiana State Department of Health (March 2008). *The Burden of Asthma in Indiana: Second Edition*