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ABSTRACT

This report presents a statewide assessment of pesticides used in California's school system. Of the 46 school districts responding to the statewide survey, 40 claimed using one or more of 27 particularly hazardous pesticides that can cause cancer, affect the reproductive system, mimic the endocrine system, or act as nerve toxins. Forty-three school districts reported routinely using pesticides. The report suggests that not only have California school districts not embraced opportunities for using least-toxic methods to combat pests, but that the state also has no law requiring notification of parents or teachers before applying pesticides in schools. The report recommends: that state policymakers eliminate the use of pesticides that cause cancer; that school managers take the initiative from state agencies to implement reforms; and that teachers, parents, and students request information about pesticides used in and around schools and participate in school pest management decision-making to ensure that least-toxic pest management is practiced. Appendices provide survey methodology, the survey response information by school district, a list of active ingredients found in surveyed schools, a list of resources for further information, and descriptions of the top five pesticides used by the surveyed schools. (Contains 41 references.) (GR)

Failing Health

Pesticide Use In California Schools

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One in a series of reports by Californians for Pesticide Reform

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The CALPIRG Charitable Trust is the 501(c)(3) sister organization of the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), a non-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization working on behalf of consumers and the environment. With over 70,000 members and 14 offices statewide, CALPIRG is the largest consumer group in California.

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Californians for Pesticide Reform

Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR) is a coalition of public interest organizations committed to protecting public health and the environment from pesticide proliferation. CPR's mission is to: 1) educate Californians about environmental and health risks posed by pesticides; 2) eliminate the use of the most dangerous pesticides in California and reduce overall pesticide use; and 3) hold government agencies accountable to protecting public health and Californians' right to know about pesticide use and exposure.

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Pesticides are *not* “safe.” They are produced specifically because they are toxic to something.

—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Citizen’s Guide to Pesticides, 1987

Executive Summary

Twenty five years ago, the California Parent Teacher Association passed a resolution calling for the reduced use of pesticides in schools, calling on policymakers to consider all possible alternatives before using any pesticides and to use pesticides only as an emergency measure. Since then, the National Parent Teacher Association, the National Education Association and a wide array of public interest organizations across the nation have announced support for reducing pesticide use in schools.

Meanwhile, the overall incidence of childhood cancer increased 10% between 1974 and 1991, the most recent statistics available, making cancer the leading cause of childhood death from disease. Approximately 4.8 million children in the U.S. under the age of 18 have asthma, the most common chronic illness in children and one which is on the rise. Numerous scientific studies have linked both diseases to pesticide exposure.

Unfortunately, neither public interest advocates nor ominous health trends have convinced authorities to remove toxic pesticides from California schools. In an attempt to characterize the current use of pesticides in our schools, researchers at the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Charitable Trust recently requested pesticide use information from 54 California school districts statewide, representing urban, suburban and rural areas. This research effort was hindered by the absence of state pesticide use reporting and notification requirements for schools. Reluctance on the part of school staff, lack of pesticide record keeping by schools and limited school resources all made it difficult to obtain pesticide-related records. CALPIRG Charitable Trust eventually resorted to legal counsel to obtain this information. Because of incomplete, illegible and missing pesticide use information, it was not possible to assess the overall

quantity of pesticides used in the school districts surveyed—some may have applied pesticides listed in this report infrequently or in small amounts while others may have applied large quantities.

However, by scrutinizing the pesticide use records and school invoices for pesticide purchases and contracted services for 46 responding school districts—representing approximately one in four of all children enrolled in California's public schools grades K-12—this report is able to provide the first-ever statewide assessment of pesticides used in our school systems.

We found that:

1. Highly toxic pesticides are used in California school districts.

Of the 46 school districts responding to our request for information, 87% (40) reported using one or more of 27 particularly hazardous pesticides that can cause cancer, affect the reproductive system, mimic the hormone (endocrine) system or act as nerve toxins. The percentage of surveyed school districts using each of these most-hazardous pesticides is provided in Table A below.

The use of highly toxic chemicals in schools is of significant concern. According to the National Academy of Sciences, children are

Table A: Use of toxic pesticides in surveyed California schools.

Health Effect(s)	Percentage & (number) of Responding School Districts Reporting Pesticide Use
"Probable" or "known" human carcinogens	20% (9)
"Possible" human carcinogens	70% (32)
Developmental and reproductive toxins	52% (24)
Hormone mimicking pesticides	50% (23)
EPA Category I Nerve Toxins	26% (12)
EPA Category II Nerve Toxins	41% (19)

highly susceptible to the effects of toxic chemicals and may not be protected from pesticides under current regulations. Not simply "little adults," children are in the midst of highly complex, and vulnerable, developmental processes that regulate tissue growth and organ development. They may also receive greater pesticide exposures than adults—both because of their physiology and because childhood behaviors may increase contact with surfaces sprayed with pesticides.

2. In California schools, pesticides are the rule, not the exception.

Ninety-three percent (43) of the responding school districts reported using pesticides. Combined, these school districts reported using over 70 different pesticide active ingredients in over 170 pesticide product formulations.

At least 30% (14) of the surveyed school districts contracted with commercial exterminators who applied pesticides on a regular monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly basis—in some cases even when no pests were present. So-called "calendar spraying" may also have occurred in any of another 28 surveyed school districts which submitted more ambiguous records. According to data collected by the Department of Pesticide Regulation in late 1993, only 2% of the 556 responding California school districts were able to document plans or programs for practicing least-toxic pest control or Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

3. Least-toxic pest management is proven to be effective.

The above findings suggest that California school districts have not embraced opportunities for using least-toxic methods to combat pests. Combinations of techniques, such as improved sanitation, mechanical exclusions (screens, caulking), inspections and traps can eliminate the need for applying highly toxic chemicals. Three of the surveyed school districts are already managing pest problems without toxic chemicals. In addition, a recent survey of 21 Pennsylvania school districts that have adopted IPM programs found that these programs are effective, of equal or lower

cost than using hazardous pesticides, and may even reduce school absenteeism.

4. Parents, policymakers and the public are prevented from getting basic information about pesticide use in schools.

Unlike several other states, including Arizona, Texas and Michigan, California has no law requiring notification of parents or teachers before applying pesticides in schools. Without notification, parents and teachers are unable to take precautionary measures or participate in pest management decision-making.

Similarly, there is no requirement for schools to report their own overall pesticide use. When school districts contract with commercial applicators, the applicator reports pesticide use to the Department of Pesticide Regulation. However, unlike agricultural pesticide use reports, this information is not coded in a way to identify the location (name of school) where the pesticides were used. In effect, pesticide use is better documented for an acre of cabbage than for a California classroom. As a result, finding information about pesticide use in schools is next to impossible. It is therefore extremely difficult for school managers, state regulators and the public to obtain the most basic information necessary to ensure that our children's health is protected.

Recommendations

When it comes to protecting our children's health from the use of pesticides in California schools, Governor Wilson and the California legislature get a failing grade. Under the Wilson Administration, the Department of Pesticide Regulation has continued to permit the use of highly toxic pesticides in our classrooms while keeping parents and teachers in the dark about school pesticide use. Opportunities for using least-toxic alternative methods of pest management have been all but ignored. In 1992, State Senator Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland) introduced legislation that would have banned the use of highly toxic pesticides in California schools. Unfortunately, his bill was weakened in the legislature and finally vetoed by Governor Wilson.

The CALPIRG Charitable Trust, together with the statewide coalition Californians for Pesticide Reform, urges swift action to protect our children from the unnecessary risks posed by using dangerous pesticides in schools.

- Policymakers should eliminate the school use of pesticides which cause cancer, adverse reproductive and developmental effects, disrupt hormones or harm the nervous system; provide training, incentives, materials and quantifiable reduction goals to promote the reduction of pesticides in schools; ensure that school pesticide use is

identifiably reported under the state pesticide use reporting system; and require prior-notification to parents and school staff before the application of pesticides.

- School managers should not wait for leadership from state agencies to implement these reforms.
- Teachers, parents and students should request information about pesticides used in and around schools and participate in school pest management decision-making to ensure that least-toxic pest management is practiced.

I. Introduction

In 1972, the California State Parent Teacher Association passed a resolution calling for the reduced use of pesticides in schools, asking policymakers to consider all possible alternatives before using any pesticides and to use pesticides only as an emergency measure.¹ Since then, the National Parent Teacher Association, the National Education Association and a wide array of public interest organizations across the nation have announced support for reducing pesticide use in schools.

Never-the-less, pesticides continue to be used in a number of school settings including classrooms, cafeterias, athletic fields and even school buses. The use of pesticides in our children's environment is of particular concern because children are uniquely vulnerable to toxic chemicals. According to the National Academy of Sciences, children are more susceptible to the effects of toxic chemicals than adults and may not be protected from pesticides under current regulations.² Not simply "little adults," children's bodies are in the midst of highly complex, and vulnerable developmental processes that regulate tissue growth and organ development. They may also receive relatively greater pesticide exposures than adults—both because of their physiology and because of childhood behaviors which increase contact with surfaces sprayed with pesticides.

In a first-ever attempt to characterize the use of pesticides in California's public schools, researchers at the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Charitable Trust recently requested pesticide use information from 54 randomly selected California school districts, representing urban, suburban and rural areas. Forty-six school districts responded, representing approximately one in four of all children enrolled in California's public schools grades K-12.

The survey results indicate that pesticide use is the rule and not the exception when it comes to pest management in our public school system. Of the responding school districts surveyed for this report, 93% (or 43

school districts) reported using one or more of 73 different pesticides to control pests. Eighty seven percent (40) reported using one or more of 27 highly toxic pesticides—chemicals that can cause cancer, reproductive disorders, hormone disruption, neurological toxicity and acute (single dose) poisonings.

Fortunately, we do not have to perpetuate an ongoing experiment with the health of our children—least-toxic pest management programs are already practiced in California and by schools around the nation.

Three schools responding to the survey (Arcata Unified School District, Mendocino Unified School District and Placer Hills Unified School District) reported using no pesticides at all. This strongly suggests that the vast majority of school pesticide use is unnecessary.

Changing the pest management practices of school districts away from toxic pesticides will require leadership by state officials and school managers. To date, Governor Wilson's administration and the California legislature get failing grades for permitting the use of highly toxic pesticides in schools and not providing schools with adequate information, training and incentives for using least-toxic pest management strategies.

At a time when childhood cancer rates are increasing, and cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among non-infant children under the age of 15, our need to protect children's health is greater than ever.³ It's time that we use common sense and move toward least-toxic methods of managing pests.

Our children are waiting.

At a time when childhood cancer rates are increasing, and cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among non-infant children under the age of 15, our need to protect children's health is greater than ever.

II. Highly Toxic Pesticides Are Used in California Schools

Of the 46 California school districts responding to our survey, we found that 87% (40) used one or more of 27 highly toxic pesticides—chemicals that health authorities believe can cause cancer, reproductive harm, mimic hormones or are acutely toxic to the nervous system.

Eighty-seven percent of surveyed California schools use one or more of 27 highly toxic pesticides.

Specifically, we found that 20% (9) of the responding school districts used one or more of three "known" or "probable" human carcinogens; 70% (32) used one or more of ten "possible" human carcinogens; 52% (24) used one or more of ten developmental and reproductive toxins; 50% (23) used one or more of four pesticides suspected of mimicking human hormones and disrupting the endocrine system; 26% (12) used one or more of four highly acutely toxic nerve poisons, ranked in Category I, U.S. EPA's highest acute toxicity rating; and 41% (19) used one or more of two EPA Category II organophosphate and carbamate nerve toxins. The pesticides found in each of these categories and the percentage of school districts using them is presented in Table 1. Summary information for each school district, including a district-specific list of reported pesticides used, is provided in Appendix B: Survey Response Information by School District.

Note that because of incomplete, illegible and missing pesticide use information, it was not possible to assess the overall quantity of pesticides used in the school districts surveyed—some may have applied pesticides listed in this report infrequently or in small amounts while others may have applied large quantities frequently.

Possible, probable and known carcinogens in California schools

The surveyed California school districts reported using 12 pesticides identified as pos-

sible, probable and known carcinogens. This is of particular concern as childhood cancer is now the leading cause of death due to disease among non-infant children in the U.S. under the age of 15,⁴ with about 8,000 children under the age of 15 developing cancer each year.⁵ Between 1974 and 1991, the overall incidence of childhood cancer increased 10%,⁶ and the rate is increasing approximately one percent on average per year.⁷

Scientific studies suggest that pesticide use in and around homes may increase risk of childhood cancer.⁸ For example, a 1987 study of children ten years and younger in Los Angeles County linked usage of pesticides in the home to increased likelihood of leukemia.⁹ Similarly, a 1995 study correlated home exterminations and the use of pest strips with childhood cancer, finding increased risk of childhood lymphomas with increased household extermination. The authors of the study also found an association between soft tissue sarcomas and yard treatment with herbicides.

Reproductive and developmental toxins

Of the 46 responding school districts, 52% (24) reported using one or more pesticides identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the State of California as a reproductive or developmental toxin. Exposure to these chemicals may jeopardize a child's physical and mental development, increasing risk of behavioral and neurological disorders, immune system suppression and damage to the reproductive system. Unborn children carried by pregnant teachers may also face increased risk of a variety of physical and mental birth defects.¹⁰ Other effects included spontaneous abortion or miscarriage in humans, low birth weight and sterility or infertility.¹¹

Hormone-mimicking pesticides

Fifty percent of the school districts surveyed reported using pesticides suspected

continues on page 3

Table 1. Highly Toxic Pesticides Used in Surveyed California School Districts

Health Effect	Pesticide (Active Ingredients)	Percent of responding school districts using one or more of these pesticides	Responding school districts using one or more of these pesticides
"Known" or "probable" carcinogens (a)	fenoxycarb propoxur oxadiazon TOTAL: 3	20%	Imperial, Irvine, Lompoc, Los Angeles, Madera, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, Stockton (9)
"Possible" human carcinogens (b)	acephate cypermethrin hydramethylnon isoxaben oryzalin pendimethalin permethrin piperonyl butoxide Simazine tetramethrin TOTAL: 10	70%	Alameda, Alhambra, Chico, Conejo Valley, Downey, Esparto, Fremont, Fresno, Glendale, Imperial, Irvine, Jurupa, Linden, Lompoc, Los Angeles, Madera, Manteca, Mojave, Monterey, Napa, River Delta, Rowland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, San Marino, Santa Monica-Malibu, Shasta, Siskiyou, Southern Humboldt, Stockton, Vista (32)
Developmental and reproductive toxins (c)	diazinon dicamba diuron EPTC fenoxycarb methyl bromide hydramethylnon oxadiazon simazine tebuthiuron TOTAL: 10	52%	Alameda, Conejo Valley, Downey, Fresno, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Madera, Manteca, Modoc, Mojave, Monterey, Napa, New Haven, River Delta, Rowland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica-Malibu, Shasta, Stockton, Vista, Woodland, (24)
Hormone mimicking pesticides (d) (endocrine disruptors)	cypermethrin 2,4-D esfenvalerate permethrin TOTAL: 4	50%	Alhambra, Chico, Conejo Valley, Downey, Fresno, Glendale, Linden, Lompoc, Los Angeles, Madera, Manteca, Modoc, Mojave, Monterey, New Haven, Rowland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, Santa Monica-Malibu, Siskiyou, Southern Humboldt, Ventura (23)
U.S. EPA Category I Extremely High Acute Toxicity/ Systemic Pesticides Labeled "Danger/Poison" (e)	aluminum phosphide chloropicrin strychnine sulfuryl fluoride TOTAL: 4	26%	Conejo Valley, Downey, Fremont, Irvine, Jurupa, Madera, Manteca, Monterey, Rowland, San Jose, Santa Monica, Ventura (12)
Category II organophosphate or carbamate nerve toxins (f)	chlorpyrifos propetamphos TOTAL: 2	41%	Chico, Conejo Valley, Downey, Fresno, Glendale, Inglewood, Jurupa, Los Angeles, Madera, Manteca, Modoc, Mojave, Monterey, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, San Marino, Ventura, Woodland (19)

Sources:

- a. "Known to the State of California to cause cancer" (oxadiazinon): California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity*, May 1, 1997. "Probable human carcinogens" (fenoxycarb, propoxur): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential*, February 19, 1997.
- b. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential*, February 19, 1997.
- c. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Federal Register*, Vol. 59, No. 229, 61436, November 30, 1994 and California Environmental Protection Agency, *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity*, May 1, 1997 (methyl bromide).
- d. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, *IEPA's Endocrine Disruptor Strategy: Preliminary List of Chemicals Associated with Endocrine System Effects in Animals and Humans or In Vitro*, February 1997. We have included "possible" and "probable" endocrine disruptors from this list.
- e. Meister, *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1997, DPR online Product/Label Data Base: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/database.html. Only Category I pesticides bearing the label "Danger/Poison," the designation reserved for highly toxic systemic (toxic through ingestion, absorption or inhalation) toxins, were included. The same active ingredient may have several different classifications. Only those active ingredients used in products designated with a "Danger/Poison" label are included in this table.
- f. Meister, *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1997. EPA Category II pesticides must carry the "Warning" label. Several school districts reported using the same active ingredients which are listed above as requiring a "Warning" label, but because the chemical is formulated into a weaker concentration, it does not require such a listing and as such is not included here. Only those products designated with a "Warning" label are included in this table.

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Pesticide Illnesses in California Schools: The Tip of the Iceberg

There have been numerous complaints about illnesses stemming from pesticide use in California schools in recent years. Among them:

- The San Bernardino County Agriculture Commissioner is currently investigating the potential misuse of pesticides at Southridge Middle School after complaints last October by both students and teachers of allergic reactions, illnesses and the death of one student who suffered severe seizures at the school. The school had been using four different pesticides in classrooms, cafeterias and kitchens, even spraying one pesticide from an automatic dispenser into classrooms.¹
- Last April, six families with children at Jurupa Hills Elementary filed suit against Stanley Pest Control alleging that their children became ill from the use of pesticides in the school between 1994 and 1995.²
- In December of 1992, Theresa Tye's son was having problems with chronic fatigue, frequent urination and headaches. Her investigation of pesticide use at Mitchell Elementary in the Sulphur Springs School District in Canyon Country showed that the school routinely treated with Dursban (chlorpyrifos). This same product had caused similar health effects when used at home previously.³
- In September of 1992, a pesticide which was not registered for use in California was sprayed into the ventilation system of a San Francisco elementary school, forcing the evacuation of more than 450 school children and staff. Several of the staff and students sought

medical attention with symptoms including eye, nose and throat irritation; coughing; skin rash on exposed areas of the face, lips and arms; nausea and upset stomachs.⁴

In terms of actual pesticide-related health impacts, these stories most likely represent the tip of the iceberg. Illnesses resulting from acute (short term) pesticide exposure are only partially tracked by national and state agencies. The EPA found that at least 2,766 pesticide poisoning incidents occurred in schools nationally from 1985 to 1992, according to data collected from Poison Control Centers around the nation.⁵ Similarly, the California Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program, that requires doctors to report any illnesses that may be caused by exposure to pesticides, reports 58 poisonings of workers, teachers, students and even a school principal in California schools between 1992 and 1994, the most recent data available.⁶

Both reporting systems are likely to under-report actual poisonings for a variety of reasons, including inadequate training of doctors in identification and diagnosis of pesticide illnesses.⁷ Under the California reporting program, few doctors report non-worker pesticide illnesses (such as those incurred by children in schools) because most physician reports are administered through workers' compensation programs which reimburse doctors preparing reports of work-related injuries.⁸

Most importantly, government reporting programs do not even attempt to capture pesticide-related illnesses that have unmeasurable effects, such as learning disorders,

or that may not be manifested until years after exposure, such as cancer, reproductive and developmental effects.

1 Anderson, T. "Death Fuels Pesticide Probe." *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, October 22, 1997; Frazier, J., "Parents Complain about Pesticide Spray: Fontana School Officials Say Rooms at Southridge Middle School Do Not Pose Health Risks to Children," *The Press-Enterprise*, October 25, 1997.

2 Ibid.

3 Goldsmith, S., "Bugged by Pesticide Spraying," *The Signal and Saugus Enterprise*, January 7, 1993.

4 Sestine, D., et al., Irritative and Systemic Symptoms following Exposure to Microban Disinfectant through a School Ventilation System. *Archives of Environmental Health*, November/December Vol. 49, No. 6, 1994, pp. 439-444 and Health and Safety Code, Chapter 3 Pesticide Poisoning, Section 105200: Reports by Physicians and local health officers; treatment deemed first aid; violations.

5 Personal Communication with Dr. Jerome Blondell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), October 31, 1997. The Agency is not able to explain significant details about the incidents, such as which pesticide caused the problem, which symptoms were reported, how the situation was remedied or even in which school the poisoning took place. New data covering 1993 through 1996 will be available in March 1998 and will be fully searchable electronically.

6 Health and Safety Code, Chapter 3 Pesticide Poisoning, Section 105200: Reports by Physicians and local health officers; treatment deemed first aid; violations and Mehler, L. *Case Reports Received by the California Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program in Which Health Effects were Attributed to Pesticide Exposure Identified by the Word "School" in the Narrative Summary or by SIC Code 8211 and Including all Cases that Reference Cases so Identified: 1992-1994*, California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, November 14, 1997.

7 Robinson, J., et al., "Pesticides in the Home and Community," *California Policy Seminar*, Berkeley, CA, 1994; Personal Communication with Dr. Bill Pease, Environmental Defense Fund, Berkeley, CA, November 1997.

8 Personal Communication with Dr. Louise Mehler, Department of Pesticide Regulations, November 13, 1997.

of disrupting hormonal processes in humans. Four pesticides used by the school districts, cypermethrin, 2,4-D, esfenvalerate and permethrin, may block, mimic or otherwise interfere with the human hormone system.¹² Hormones act as chemical messengers in the human body, triggering a wide array of highly complex and sensitive biological processes. As such, they are responsible for a range of important functions, including determination of height and weight, gender differentiation, development of reproductive organs, energy levels, skin health and other biological processes. Because hormones can "switch" on and off biological processes at extremely low levels, hormone mimicking pesticides may be harmful at very low levels of exposure.¹³

Nervous system toxins

Of the 46 surveyed school districts, 54% (25) used pesticides identified by U.S. EPA as Category I or Category II poisons—the Agency's highest and second highest ranking for acutely toxic nerve poisons. These pesticides are designed to disrupt the cholinesterase enzymes that control the nervous system of insects. Because humans have these same enzymes, these pesticides pose a priority health concern.¹⁴

Ironically, use of these toxins in schools may impair the learning process itself. Low levels of neurotoxic pesticide exposure to the developing brain may adversely affect memory, intelligence, judgment and even personality and behavior.¹⁵ For example, in a study of 56 men exposed to organophosphates, scientists reported disturbed memory and difficulty in maintaining alertness and focus.¹⁶ Unfortunately, few pesticides have been evaluated for their ability to cause permanent damage to children's developing central nervous systems, though several researchers suggest that harmful effects should be expected.¹⁷

An estimated 5% to 10% of school-age children suffer from symptoms of hyperactivity and attention deficit, making it difficult for them to pay attention and learn. In addition, many others experience learning problems ranging from difficulties with memory to impaired fine motor skills such as learning to hold a pen and write.¹⁸

Low levels of neurotoxic pesticide exposure to the developing brain may adversely affect memory, intelligence, judgment and even personality and behavior.

"Inert" Ingredients: Packaging Poison with Poison

Pesticide products are actually formulations made up of a mixture of "active ingredients"—chemicals which are intended to kill the pest—and "inert" ingredients—chemicals which make the product more potent or easier to use. Inert ingredients often make up the bulk of an applied pesticide. It is not uncommon, for example, for a pesticide to be 99% "inert" ingredients and one percent "active" ingredients.

Ironically, "inert" ingredients are often toxic as well—in a few cases they are more toxic than the active ingredient. Moreover, many inert ingredients may be used by themselves as pesticides; at least 382 chemicals on the U.S. EPA list of pesticide inert ingredients are currently, or once were, registered as pesticide active ingredients.¹

Eight inert ingredients are considered by the U.S. EPA to be "of toxicological concern" and another 75 are "potentially toxic." Because of concerns about toxicity, the U.S. EPA "strongly encourages registrants to substitute or remove" these products from pesticide products.²

Because manufacturers claim that the formulation of these mixtures is "confidential business information," it is difficult or impossible for the public to identify inert ingredients. Thus, we were not able to characterize the use of "inert" pesticidal ingredients in California schools as part of this report.

1 Knight, H., "Hidden Toxic 'Inerts': A Tragedy of Errors." *Journal of Pesticide Reform*, Vol. 17, No. 2, 1997, pp. 10-11.

2 Meister Publishing, "Inerts." *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1996, pp. D27-D28.

Special Problems of Pesticide Exposure for Children

Children are less tolerant to toxic chemicals.

Children are not simply little adults. Early developmental stages of their organs, nervous systems, and immune systems, greater rates of cell division, and their lower body weight increase their susceptibility to pesticide exposure. Immature organs and other developing biological systems are particularly vulnerable to toxic contaminants. Furthermore, pesticides may become more concentrated in the fatty tissues of young children because their fat as a percentage of total body weight is lower than for adults.¹

A 1993 report by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences has shown that children are more susceptible than adults to the health effects from low-level exposures to pesticides over the long term.² Animal studies also suggest that the young are more susceptible to the effects of toxic chemicals. A review of 269 drugs and toxic substances, including a number of pesticides, found that the lethal dose was lower in newborn rodents than in adult rodents in 86% of the cases.³

Children receive relatively greater exposure.

In addition to being more vulnerable to pesticide toxicity, children's behavior and physiology make them more likely to receive greater pesticide exposures, relative to adults. For example, significant exposure to pesticides occurs through the skin—the largest organ in the human body—and children have much more skin surface for their size than adults.⁴ Similarly, children have a higher respiratory rate, enabling them to inhale airborne pesticides at a rate faster than adults.⁵ Children's increased contact with floors, lawns and playgrounds also increases exposure. Very young children who put fingers and other objects in their mouths may face even greater exposure. Finally, the breathing zone for children is usually closer to the floor where pesticides are re-suspended into the air after floor surfaces are disturbed.⁶

Children are exposed to pesticide residues in dust and carpets.

Although pesticides contaminate air, soil, water and surfaces, studies designed

to examine children's exposure to pesticides indicate that the largest number of chemicals and the highest concentrations are often found in household dust.⁷

Carpets act as long-term reservoirs for pesticides that are sprayed indoors.⁸ A study assessing pesticide exposure from carpet dust in homes found that the average number of pesticides found in the carpet dust samples was 12, compared to 7.5 in air samples collected in the same residences. Moreover, in all residences sampled, 13 pesticides were found in carpet dust that were not detected in the air. Diazinon, a neurotoxic insecticide, was detected in nine of 11 carpets tested.⁹ In our survey, diazinon was used in 34% (16) of the surveyed school districts.

Exposure may be further exacerbated when carpets are cleaned, allowing pesticides to become airborne again and available for inhalation.¹⁰

Not all of the residues in dust stem from the indoor use of pesticides. One study showed residues of 2,4-D and dicamba, herbicides used by 15% (7) of the surveyed California schools, can be tracked in from outside on shoes. Even areas which were not treated, including lawn area and carpets, showed levels of 2,4-D after the spraying—most likely the result of spray drift during application. Researchers estimated that residues of 2,4-D can persist in household carpet dust for as long as one year.¹¹

Children are exposed to pesticides through ventilation systems.

A building's ventilation system may also contribute to greater pesticide exposure. Some pesticides can become airborne and spread throughout heat and air conditioning systems, potentially causing a repeating source of exposure.

In 1994, the insecticide propoxur was evidently distributed through a California school via the building's air conditioning system. A teacher's aide entered the building immediately after application and became ill with nausea, headache, nose and eye irritation and breathing difficulty.¹²

- 1 Wargo, J., *Our Children's Toxic Legacy: How Science and Law Fail to Protect Us from Pesticides*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1996.
- 2 National Research Council, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1993.
- 3 Wyatt, R., "Intolerable Risk: The Physiological Susceptibility of Children to Pesticides." *Journal of Pesticide Reform*, Fall 1989.
- 4 Mott, L., *Our Children at Risk: The Five Worst Environmental Threats to Their Health*. Natural Resources Defense Council, November 1997, p. 5 citing Principles for Evaluating Health Risks from Chemicals during Infancy and Early Childhood. (no author or date provided) . p. 56; see also Schettler, T., op cit., p. 50.
- 5 Mott, L., op. cit.
- 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, *Questions and Answers: Chlorpyrifos*, February 1997.
- 7 Schettler, T., *Generations at Risk: How Environmental Toxins May Affect Reproductive Health in Massachusetts*, Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and MASSPIRG, Boston, MA 1996, p. 51, citing Whitmore, R. et al., "Non-occupational exposures to pesticides for residents of two U.S. cities," *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, Vol. 26, pp.1-13, 1993. See also, Roberts, W. et al., "Development and Field Testing of a High Volume Sampler for Pesticides and Toxics in Dust," *Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1991.
- 8 Simcox, N., et al., "Pesticides in Household Dust and Soil Exposure Pathways for Children of Agricultural Families," *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Vol. 103, No. 12, December 1995, pp. 1126-1134.
- 9 Whitmore, R. W., et al., Non-Occupational Exposure to Pesticides. *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, Vol. 26, 1994, pp. 47-59.
- 10 Esteban, E., et al., "Association Between Indoor Residential Contamination with Methyl Parathion and Urinary Para-Nitrophenol." *Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology*, 1996, p. 384.
- 11 Nishioka, M. et al., "Measuring Transport of Lawn-Applied Herbicide Acids from Turf to Home. Correlation of Dislodgeable 2,4-D Turf Residues with Carpet Dust and Carpet Surface Residues." *Environmental Science and Technology*, Vol. 30, No. 11, 1996.
- 12 Mehler, L., *Case Reports Received by the California Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program in Which Health Effects were Attributed to Pesticide Exposure Identified by the Word "School" in the Narrative Summary or by SIC Code 8211 and Including all Cases that Reference Cases so Identified: 1992-1994*. California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, November 14, 1997. DPR staff would not disclose the name of the school.



Least-Toxic Pest Management Strategies are Effective but Not Used in California Schools

Least-toxic pest management is a decision-making process for managing pests that uses monitoring to determine pest damage levels and combines biological, physical and chemical tools to minimize health, environmental and financial risks.¹⁹ The method uses extensive knowledge about pests, such as infestation thresholds, pest life histories, environmental considerations and natural enemies to complement and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests. Improved sanitation, mechanical exclusions, inspections, traps and baits, and natural substances, beneficial organisms, freezing and flame treatments, among others, are all examples of least-toxic pest control strategies. Pesticides not identified as carcinogens, reproductive toxins, endocrine disruptors or cholinesterase inhibiting nerve toxins are used only as a last resort and then only in serious, pre-defined conditions. Least-toxic pest management is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM) though some IPM programs do not fully embrace these methods.

Laws and ordinances encouraging IPM in schools have sprouted up across the country, both locally and through state implementation. Texas, Michigan and Florida have adopted policies mandating schools to adopt IPM programs designed to reduce pesticide use. Montana now requires that school pest control applicators pass an IPM certification course.²⁰

Unfortunately, the Wilson Administration has not moved California schools in the direction of least-toxic pest management. In late 1993, the Department of Pesticide Regulation surveyed all 1,002 school districts in California by mail to determine the extent to which California schools have adopted IPM. The Department requested each school district to provide its pest management plan or policy, if available. Of the 556 school districts that responded to the state survey, only

2% (12) submitted plans or policies which the Department identified as meeting IPM criteria.²¹ 62% of the responding school districts had no pest management plan or program.²²

The picture does not look much brighter in 1997. Of the school districts surveyed for this report, 93% (43) reported using toxic pesticides; only three school districts reported "no pesticide" policies, with exceptions for extreme situations. Invoices and record keeping provided by surveyed school districts also indicate that 30% (14) apply pesticides on a regular monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly basis. So-called "calendar spraying" practices are incompatible with least-toxic pest management programs in which pesticide spraying should be a measure of last resort, and used only under certain carefully evaluated contingencies. Because 60% (28) of the surveyed school districts provided records which do not indicate the presence, or absence, of calendar spraying, the actual number applying pesticides on a calendar basis may be much higher.

Calendar spraying may result in the application of toxic pesticides even when pests aren't present. For example, invoices of Terminix visits to Alameda Unified School District show that the company sprayed two to three quarts of the nerve toxin insecticide Tempo[®] (cyfluthrin) despite the noted absence of any pest. Calendar spraying with no pest present was also documented in records provided by Alhambra School District and Modoc Joint Unified School District. All three school districts employ commercial applicators for calendar service visits.

Schools that contract with commercial applicators are unlikely to receive least-toxic pest management. Neither federal nor state law

Of 556 school districts that responded to a state survey in 1993, only 2% demonstrated model IPM plans or programs.

requires commercial applicators to be trained in IPM or least-toxic methods of pest management. In fact, neither state nor federal agencies have ever formally developed a definition of Integrated Pest Management, despite publicized support for the concept.

Least-toxic pest management is proven to be effective

The efficacy of least-toxic alternatives for urban pest management has already been proven in California and around the nation.

Three of the school districts surveyed for this report are currently managing pest problems without toxic chemicals. Placer Hills Union School District in Meadow Vista "has a pesticide use committee and policy which favors prevention measures to eliminate the use of pesticides."²³ Mendocino Unified school district's Board policy states "sanitary measures shall be enforced and buildings regularly cleaned and repaired in order to prevent infestations, minimize the use of pesticides and eliminate routine spraying." The school district is

required to try every other method available to manage pests, "even to the point of no action," and has found other methods to be successful.²⁴ Arcata School District's policy bans the use of pesticides, unless authorized by the school board; none were reported sprayed during the survey period.²⁵

California school districts practicing pesticide reduction are not alone. A recent survey of 21 Pennsylvania school districts that have adopted IPM finds that alternatives are effective, less than or equal to the cost of using pesticides and may even reduce school absenteeism.²⁶ School district staff report that IPM methods deal with pest problems in a "more permanent way." Most (86%) districts in the Pennsylvania survey were able to control pests with little or no spraying. The majority of districts reported little or no change in the cost of the pest management program; nearly a quarter reported decreased costs.

State and national education advocacy organizations support least-toxic alternatives

Several key children's educational associations have issued resolutions over the years in support of reducing children's exposure to pesticides used in schools.

Twenty-five years ago, the California PTA issued a resolution urging members to "develop an awareness and respect for the dangers inherent in pesticides and promote the use of alternate methods of pest control."

Pesticide residues are highly persistent indoors

Many school districts frequently attempt to reduce exposure risk by applying pesticides after hours while students are not present.¹ However, numerous studies indicate that pesticides may persist indoors for long periods of time, and may be sources of exposure days, weeks or even months after application.

Because sunlight, rain, and soil microbes are unable to break indoor pesticides down or carry them away, pesticide residues persist much longer indoors than outdoors.² Some pesticides can persist in the indoor environment for months or even years after application; indoor air concentrations of several kinds of pesticides may be more than 10 to 100 times higher than outdoor concentrations.³ Even non-persistent pesticides last much longer indoors where they are not susceptible to degradation from environmental factors.⁴

1 Responses to CALPIRG phone/fax survey, Summer, 1997. Several school districts, including Fresno, Irvine, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Southern Humboldt reported applying pesticides early in the morning before students arrive, in the evenings or over the weekend in an attempt to avoid student exposure. See Appendix A: Methodology.

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4 Baker, S. R. and Wilkinson, C.F., *The Effects of Pesticides on Human Health*, Princeton Scientific Publishing Co., Princeton, NJ, 1990, p. 33.

Twenty five years ago, the California Parent Teacher Association (PTA) issued a resolution urging the members of the California PTA to "develop an awareness and respect for the dangers inherent in pesticides and promote the use of alternate methods of pest control." They also urged that after determining the identity and toxicity of pesticides used on school property, that the school district should "consider all possible alternatives before using any pesticides; use pesticides only as an emergency measure or when a health hazard has been determined by the public health department; have pesticides applied only by personnel trained in their use; and give appropriate notice when pesticide applications are to be made."²⁷

More recently, in 1991, the National Education Association endorsed a statement directing the association to "inform state and local affiliates about Integrated Pest Management policies, which are designed to eliminate or substantially reduce the exposure of students and school personnel to toxic pesticides in the school."²⁸

The next year, the National Parent Teacher Association developed a policy supporting

Integrated Pest Management and pesticide use reduction in and around schools and child care centers, noting "Pesticides are, by nature, poisons, and exposure— even at low levels—may cause serious adverse effects.... The National PTA is particularly concerned about the use of pesticides in and around schools and day care centers because children are there for much of their young lives."²⁹

As a result of lobbying by the community organizations Pesticide Watch and the Bay Area Beyond Pesticide Coalition in San Francisco, city officials there are phasing out use of pesticides in all municipal buildings and parks as part of a tough municipal pesticide reduction program. In the last year, San Francisco has managed to virtually eliminate its use of pesticides that can cause cancer or reproductive effects, and reduced its use of all pesticides by two-thirds with the goal of eliminating use of all pesticides by the year 2000.³⁰

Lack of IPM definition invites "greenwashing"

Many regulators at the federal, state and local level espouse the merits of Integrated Pest Management. However, there is currently no

Examples of least-toxic pest management

Ants

Ants invade classrooms and cafeterias for food and water. Good sanitation removes food attractants. Caulking up cracks and crevices reduces entry points. Some classrooms store student lunches in sealed containers to prevent attracting ants. To stop ants from trailing into a room some schools have provided teachers a bottle of water and dish soap to wipe up ant trails and destroy the scent trail until the attractant can be removed.

Cockroaches

Cockroaches invade rooms for food as well. Prevent entry by repairing, caulking, and sealing points of entry such as cracks and crevices. Remove sources of food and water by cleaning up food waste immediately. Boric acid baits and gels can be used to kill roaches in areas inaccessible to children and pets. Sticky traps can be

used selectively to trap roaches and determine where problem areas are.

Weeds

The first question is what defines a weed problem? One dandelion? Establishing tolerance levels for weeds eliminates the need for some action. Healthy lawns can also out compete weeds—this requires proper grass types, soil aeration and balanced watering and mowing schedules. For areas that need to be weed-free methods include: mulching, competitive interplanting of flowers to conceal weeds, manual and mechanical pulling of weeds; flaming (killing young weeds by searing the tops of the plant with a torch) and soil solarization (covering the soil with clear plastic to raise soil temperatures which kills soil pathogens and annual weeds).

law at either the federal or state level that defines IPM or sets standards that would have to be met to prove IPM is being practiced. Many IPM programs lack firm provisions stating pesticide use reduction goals, limitations on the types and toxicity of pesticides used or even a declaration that pesticides are to be used only as a last resort. Because there are no "bright line" criteria defining IPM programs, any person or institution can claim to be practicing IPM while using highly toxic pesticides.

Several school districts surveyed for this report have won "IPM Innovator Awards" from the Department of Pesticide Regulation while using numerous highly toxic pesticides.

For example, several school districts surveyed for this report have won "IPM Innovator Awards" from the Department of Pesticide Regulation while using numerous highly toxic pesticides. DPR has granted Fremont Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District, New Haven Unified School District and San Diego Unified School District awards since 1994 for practicing and promoting IPM.

These schools should be commended for demonstrating leadership in moving toward more sensible pest management programs.³¹ However, according to documents provided in response to our survey, these school districts used a surprising assortment of possible and probable human carcinogens, reproductive toxins, hormone mimicking pesticides and acute nerve toxins (See Appendix B: Survey Response Information by School District for District-Specific Pesticide Use).

These findings suggest that some IPM programs may not actually include a system of *least-toxic* pest management and further un-

derscores the need for state officials to define and implement a comprehensive least-toxic IPM program for California schools.

Commercial pesticide applicators are not trained in least-toxic pest management

Several of the pesticides found in the school districts surveyed for this report are "restricted" by state and federal agencies and may only be applied by a certified applicator or someone under a certified applicator's direct supervision. To get certified, applicators must pass a state-run program mandated by the federal pesticide law, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Ironically, FIFRA actually *prohibits* testing applicators on the subject of least-toxic pest management as part of the certification program, missing an opportunity to spread vital information that would ostensibly result in pesticide use reduction. The statute says that applicator certification and training programs, which are conducted by the states, must include provisions for "making instructional materials concerning Integrated Pest Management techniques available to individuals at their request...but such plans may *not* require that any individual receive instruction concerning such techniques or be shown to be competent with respect to the use of such techniques."³²

Analysis of the California Structural Pest Control Board's applicator examination topics shows merely that applicators must have "sufficient knowledge in pesticide equipment, pesticide mixing and formulation, pesticide application procedures and pesticide label directions."³³

IV. Parents, Teachers, Students and Public Are Kept in the Dark About Pesticide Use in Schools

California schools are not required to inform parents or teachers before applying pesticides

California law does not require adequate public notification prior to applying pesticides in schools.³⁴ Support for prior notification is based on the basic premise that parents and teachers have a right to know about the use of toxic chemicals which may jeopardize their health or the health of their children and enables them to take precautionary measures. Without prior notification, parents, teachers and other community members are prevented from participating in pest management decision-making in their schools.

While no comprehensive information is available indicating the percentage of California school districts that have policies requiring prior notification, a preliminary telephone survey conducted for this report provides some anecdotal information.³⁵ Esparto Unified School District merely notifies the school staff "as needed." Fresno Unified School District reports providing "verbal notice to the Principal." Glendale Unified provides verbal notification of contracted spraying to the administration. Southern Humboldt Unified, Napa Valley Unified, River Delta Unified and Walnut Creek School Districts provide no prior notification.³⁶ After a number of meetings with concerned parents and staff of the Environmental Health Coalition, a public interest organization based in San Diego, San Diego Unified School District now sends written warnings to both parents and teachers 48 hours prior to a scheduled application.³⁷

While there are no statewide requirements for prior notification, limited regulations exist which require posting of an area after spraying. Commercial applicators are required under California law to post warning signs after applying pesticides only when using highly toxic pesticides for which the state has established a 24 hour re-entry interval.³⁸ While such notification is useful in the case of protect-

ing the public from exposure to some products, the vast majority of pesticides used in schools do not have re-entry intervals at all. As such, little posting is required by the regulation.

Monitoring and reporting of school pesticide use is inadequate

California law does not require school districts to systematically monitor and report the use of pesticides in their schools. As discussed in Appendix A: Methodology, school districts that do not have to monitor pesticide use often do not, making it virtually impossible to obtain useful information about school pesticide use. Without this information, parents, teachers and policymakers cannot begin to characterize potential health risks, identify problem school districts or chart progress made by schools practicing least-toxic alternatives.

Commercial applicators, who are required to report pesticide use to the state, including pesticides used in schools, are not required to report where they apply these chemicals except within broad categories such as "structural pest control" or "landscape maintenance." Thus even when a school contracts with professional exterminators, pesticides sprayed in and around the school are not identifiably reported to the state. In contrast, agricultural pesticide use must be reported by crop and location, down to square mile. This means that, under existing California law, we know more about which pesticides are sprayed on an acre of cabbage than the pesticides used in our classrooms.

State agencies in California, including the Department of Pesticide Regulation, do not know which pesticides are used in schools and have not tried to find out. In surveying all 1,002 California school districts about IPM programs and plans in 1993, DPR did not ask schools which pesticides were being used.³⁹

Under existing California law, we know more about which pesticides are sprayed on an acre of cabbage than the pesticides used in our classrooms.

V. State Officials Have Failed to Address Pesticide Use in Schools

Both the Governor and the California legislature have demonstrated little willingness to address the problem of pesticides in schools. Under the Wilson Administration, the Department of Pesticide Regulation has contin-

ued to permit the use of highly toxic pesticides in our classrooms. Hundreds of different pesticide formulations are available for school use. Many are used throughout schools, in classrooms, cafeterias, playgrounds, fields and even school buses.

Meanwhile, inadequate or absent regulation has kept parents and teachers in the dark about school pesticide use and ignored or neglected opportunities for promot-

ing least-toxic alternative methods of pest management.

In 1992, State Senator Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland) introduced legislation that would have banned the use of highly toxic pesticides in California schools but his bill was weakened in the legislature to require only that DPR gather a list of the names of pesticides used in schools that can cause cancer and reproductive effects and mail that information to the schools. Despite the overwhelming support for the bill from institutions such as the California Parent Teacher Association, the March of Dimes and a wide array of environmental organizations, Governor Wilson vetoed the measure, stating it was "needlessly burdensome on business."¹⁰

Hundreds of different pesticide formulations are permitted for school use.

Many are used throughout schools, in classrooms, cafeterias, playgrounds, fields and even school buses.

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VI. Conclusion and Recommendations

It is time that regulators, elected officials and school managers renew their commitment to protecting our children from the unnecessary risks of using pesticides in schools. While state officials are responsible for addressing pesticide use in schools through comprehensive statewide policy, school managers need not wait for state leadership to implement least-toxic pest management plans. Parents and teachers also have an important role to play in reforming school pesticide use. We urge all of these constituencies to take action:

State policymakers:

- Eliminate the use of pesticides in schools that cause cancer, adverse reproductive and developmental effects, hormone disruption and high nervous system toxicity.
- Develop and provide training, incentives and materials to promote pest prevention and least-toxic pest management.
- Require schools to develop a program for notifying parents, teachers and the public before and after applying pesticides.
- Ensure that school pesticide use is identifiably reported under the state pesticide use reporting system.
- Earmark funds to implement these programs effectively.

School managers:

- Adopt a policy which prohibits the use of pesticides in schools which cause cancer, adverse reproductive and developmental effects, hormone disruption and high nervous system toxicity.

- Develop a least-toxic Integrated Pest Management Program that prioritizes pest prevention and non-toxic methods of pest control.
- Halt routine “calendar” pesticide applications.
- Ensure only trained personnel are allowed to apply pesticides on school grounds.
- Keep records of all pest management activities, including any pesticide use; make this information readily available to the public.
- Develop a program for notifying parents, teachers and the public before and after applying pesticides.
- Work toward establishing a more naturalized school landscape that minimizes the need for weed control.

Parents, teachers and students:

- Request information about pesticide use and toxicity in school.
- Monitor school pest management decision-making processes.
- Insist on receiving prior notification before pesticides are sprayed in school.
- Advocate for a district-wide pesticide use reduction program.
- Urge school managers to eliminate the use of highly toxic pesticides and adopt least-toxic pest management strategies.

Endnotes

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- 5 Cushman, J., "U.S. Reshaping Cancer Strategy as Incidence in Children Rises," *New York Times*, September 29, 1997.
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- 8 The scientific literature assessing health risks in schools is extremely meager. In the absence of school-specific epidemiological studies, the authors reviewed several studies focusing on children and pesticides in and around the home since factors such as spray applications and length of time spent in each place are so similar.
- 9 Lowengart, P., et al., "Childhood Leukemia and Parents' Occupational and Home Exposures," *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Vol. 79, No. 1, pp. 39-45, 1995.
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- 32 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Section 11(c), Washington, DC.
- 33 California Code of Regulations, Section 8564.5.5, Examination for Unlicensed Employees of Registered Companies, p. 66.
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- 36 Responses from listed school districts, Summer 1997.
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Appendix A

Methodology: Assessing Pesticide Use in the Face of Inadequate Use Reporting

In the summer of 1997, the CALPIRG Charitable Trust conducted a survey to characterize the use of pesticides in California schools. We identified 54 school districts from around the state, randomly selected within three categories to ensure representation from urban, suburban and rural school districts.¹ Survey data provided by DPR was used to determine the appropriate category for each school district. Schools were randomly selected from the California Public School Directory and the selected school's district was added to our survey list until each category was filled.² Because the directory lists schools individually, larger school districts had a greater chance of being selected.

We initially attempted to contact school district staff directly by telephone to assess pesticide use, pest control decision making processes and to discuss obstacles and opportunities related to the implementation of least-toxic alternatives. Unfortunately, this effort proved ineffective and was abandoned after surveying approximately 12 school districts. Obstacles included: reluctance of school staff to discuss potentially controversial issues; lack of knowledge by school staff about the types, locations, amounts and frequency of pesticide applications; multiple pest management decision-makers within school districts and the lack of centralized pest management programs within school districts.

Our survey effort then resorted to a request under the California Public Records Act for pesticide invoices and purchase receipts for each of the 54 school districts for the first five months of 1997. Unfortunately, few school districts responded to this request even though a response was legally required within ten days. The CALPIRG Charitable Trust then consulted with an attorney who issued a second request under the Public Records Act, informing the selected school districts that

legal action could be taken to obtain the requested materials. Over a period of approximately four months, the CALPIRG Charitable Trust received 46 responses.

Even after this extraordinary effort, the information received was by no means adequate. Several responding school districts provided only photocopies of Material Safety Data Sheets, purchase invoices or simply wrote out a list of pesticide products used. For the purposes of this analysis, we assumed that these pesticides were actually used by the submitting school district. Obviously, these documents do not permit any analysis of the quantity, frequency or location of the pesticides used.

Other school districts provided invoices from the visits of commercial applicators or use logs maintained by school staff. In many instances, these too were inadequate for assessing the amounts and locations of pesticides used—or if pests were actually present. Such records might indicate the use of one “box” of a particular product, with no way to determine the size, weight or concentration of the box or product. Even for those schools that provided records bearing the pesticide name and amount used, a quantitative analysis was all but impossible because of inconsistent units (reported by weight, volume, pellet, “can,” etc.) and unreported concentrations. All of these problems highlight the need to apply existing pesticide use reporting requirements to school pesticide use.

1 The San Diego and Los Angeles Unified school districts were deliberately included because they have been identified by DPR as “IPM Innovators” and because they represent the two largest school districts in the state according to the California Department of Education, *Enrollment in California Public School Districts Ranked by Highest Enrollment*. October 1996.

2 California Department of Education, *California Public School Directory*, Bureau of Publications, Sacramento, CA, 1992.

Appendix B

Survey Response Information by School District

Data Matrix Key

U/R/S:

- U = Urban School District
S = Suburban School District
R = Rural School District

Class:

- I = Insecticide
H = Herbicide
R = Rodenticide
M = Molluscicide
F = Fungicide
Fm = Fumigant
IF = Insecticidal fumigant

Toxicity:

- a = "Known" or "probable" carcinogens
b = "Possible" human carcinogens
c = Developmental and reproductive toxins
d = Hormone mimicking pesticides (endocrine disruptors)
e = U.S. EPA Category I Extremely High Acute Toxicity/Systemic Pesticides Labeled "Danger/Poison"
f = Category II organophosphate or carbamate nerve toxins

Sources:

- "Known to the State of California to cause cancer" (oxadiazinon): California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity*, May 1, 1997. "Probable human carcinogens" (fenoxycarb, propoxur): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential*, February 19, 1997.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential*, February 19, 1997.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Federal Register*, Vol. 59, No. 229, 61436, November 30, 1994 and California Environmental Protection Agency, *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity*, May 1, 1997 (methyl bromide).
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, *IEPA's Endocrine Disruptor Strategy: Preliminary List of Chemicals Associated with Endocrine System Effects in Animals and Humans or In Vitro*, February 1997. We have included "possible" and "probable" endocrine disruptors from this list.
- Meister, *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1997, DPR online Product/Label Data Base: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/database.html. Only Category I pesticides bearing the label "Danger/Poison," the designation reserved for highly toxic systemic (toxic through ingestion, absorption or inhalation) toxins, were included. The same active ingredient may have several different classifications. Only those active ingredients used in products designated with a "Danger/Poison" label are included in this table.
- Meister, *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1997. EPA Category II pesticides must carry the "Warning" label. Several school districts reported using the same active ingredients which are listed above as requiring a "Warning" label, but because the chemical is formulated into a weaker concentration, it does not require such a listing and as such is not included here. Only those products designated with a "Warning" label are included in this table.

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Alameda</u>	Alameda	U	15	10,055

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Glue boards			
Glue traps			
Maxforce Ant killer bait	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
Maxforce roach bait	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
Mice tray			
Snap Traps			
Talon G	brodifacoum		R
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Alhambra</u>	Los Angeles	S	13	10,782

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
BP-100	piperonyl		I
BP-100	pyrethrins and		I
Demon	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Dursban Pro	chlorpyrifos		I
"Dursban, Empire 20"	chlorpyrifos		I
Empire 20	chlorpyrifos		I
Enforcer	brodifacoum		R
Hot shot fogger	tetramethrin	b	I
Real Kill	chlorpyrifos		I
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Arcata</u>	Humboldt	R	3	995

No pesticides used

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Big Valley</u>	Lassen	R	4	368

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
RoundUp	glyphosate		H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Cajon Valley</u>	San Diego	S	24	18,373

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
?			

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Chico</u>	Butte	S	19	13,447

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Catalyst	propetamphos	f	I
Demon	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Empire 20	chlorpyrifos		I
Genrol	hydroprene		I
Round Up Plus	glyphosate		H
Round Up Pro	glyphosate		H

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**
Conejo Valley Ventura S 26 17,587

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
5481-91	metaldehyde		M
7173-188	bromadiolone		R
Demon TC	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Drione	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Drione	pyrethrins and		I
Drione	silica gel		I
Fumitoxin	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
Fusilade II	fluaizifop-P-butyl		H
Genrol	hydroprene		I
PCQ	diphacinone		R
Round Up	glyphosate		H
Rozol	chlorophacinone		R
Safrotin	propetamphos	f	I
Simazine-y-I	simazine	b, c	H
Surrian	oryzalin	b	H
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I
Trimec	"2,4-D multi AI"	d	H
Trimec	dicamba and	c	H
Trimec	mecoprop multi AI		H

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**

Davis
 Did not respond

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**
Downey Los Angeles S 18 17,160

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
chloropicrin	chloropicrin	e	I
Cynoff	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I
Drione	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Drione	pyrethrins and		I
Drione	silica gel		I
Eptam	EPTC	c	H
Florel	ethephon		I
Fumitoxin	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
Fusilade II	fluaizifop-P-butyl		H
Grotard II	diethanolamine		?
Grotard II	mefluidide		
Makr	methyl bromide	c	I
Manage	halosulfuron-methyl		H
Merit	imidacloprid		I
Pendulum	pendimethalin	b	H
PT 270	chlorpyrifos and	f	I
Rodeo	glyphosate		H
Round up	glyphosate		H
Strychnine	strychnine		R
Subdue	metalaxyl		F
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Timbor	disodium octaborate tetrahydrate		H
Turflon	triclopyr		H
Vikane	sulfuryl fluoride	e	Fm
Weed hoe	MSMA		H

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**
Esparto Yolo R 3 876

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Ant & Roach Spray			
CGK 89	calcium acid methanearsenate		H
Ferrate	ferrous sulfate heptahydrate		

Glue Board				
Misty Fog It	piperonyl butoxide	b		I
Misty Fog It	pyrethrins and			I
No Crab	calcium propanearsonate			H
Rat-Tat-Tat	bromadiolone			R
Roundup	glyphosate			H
Swat II Insect Bomb	pyrethrins			I
Wasp & hornet Spray				

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**

Fort Sage Lassen
 Did not respond

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**
Fremont Alameda S 39 28,928

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Ant Kill	?		
Boric Powder	boric acid		I
C638	?		
Fumitoxin	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
No Foam	?		
Pendulum	pendimethalin	b	H
Rat traps	?		
Round Up Pro	glyphosate		H
Round Up Pro	glyphosate		H
RoundUp	glyphosate		H
Rozol	chlorophacinone		R
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I

District **County** **U/R/S** **# Schools** **# Students**
Fresno Fresno U 81 76,200

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Borid	boric acid		I
BP-100	piperonyl		I
BP-100	pyrethrins and		I
Catalyst	propetamphos	f	I
Cynoff EC	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Cynoff W5B	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Dragnet FT	permethrin	b, d	I
Drax Gel	boric acid		I
Drione	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Drione	pyrethrins and		I
Drione	silica gel		I
Dual Choice	sulfuramid		
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I
Dursban 2.5G	chlorpyrifos		I
Genrol IGR Conc	hydroprene		I
Glue board			
Inspection only			
Kicker	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Kicker	pyrethrins and		I
Maxforce Ant Killer G Bait	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
Mice Tray			
Promot Plus	fermentation of trichoderma		I
PT 230	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
PT 230	pyrethrins and		I
PT 230	silica gel		I
PT 240	boric acid		I
PT 565	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
PT 565	pyrethrins and		I
Rat Tray	?		
Roundup	glyphosate		H
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Tempo 20 WP (power-pack)	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Glendale</u>	Los Angeles	U	27	28,637
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Catalyst	propramphos	f	I	
Cynoff	cypermethrin	b, d	I	
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I	
Glue Board				
RoundUp	glyphosate		H	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Imperial</u>	Imperial	R	5	1,870
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
CB 405 Insect Fogger			I	
MistyAnt Roach	piperonyl butoxide	b	I	
MistyAnt Roach	propoxur	a	I	
MistyAnt Roach	pyrethrins and		I	
Roach Flush	piperonyl butoxide	b	I	
Roach Flush	pyrethrins		I	
Talon	brodifacoum		R	
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I	
Waxie Bug-Off Ant and Roach Killer	propoxur	a	I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Inglewood</u>	Los Angeles	U	18	16,379
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Catalyst	propramphos	f	I	
Empire	chlorpyrifos		I	
Glue Traps				
Knoxout	diazinon	c	I	
Roundup	glyphosate		H	
Strikeforce	chlorpyrifos		I	
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Irvine</u>	Orange		29	21,519
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Bait Blocks	diphacinone		R	
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I	
Fusilade	fluazifop-p- butyl		H	
HS 167	mecoprop		H	
Montar	cacodylic acid		H	
Orthene	acephate	b	I	
Ramik	diphacinone		R	
Round-Up	glyphosate		H	
Scythe	pelargonic acid		H	
Subdue 2E	metalaxyl		F	
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I	
Vikane	sulfuryl fluoride	e	Fm	
Waxie Bug-Off Ant and Roach Killer	propoxur	a	I	
XL 2G	benefin and		H	
XL 2G	oryzalin	b	H	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Jurupa</u>	Riverside	S	15	16,514
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Dursban 50	chlorpyrifos	f	I	
Fumitoxin Killer	aluminum phosphide	e	IF	
Roundup	magnesium chloride		I	
Surflan	glyphosate		H	
Tempo 20WP	oryzalin	b	H	
Waxie Bug- Off	cyfluthrin		I	
	chlorpyrifos		I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Kerman</u>	Fresno	R	6	3,206

Did not respond

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Linden</u>	San Joaquin	R	5	2,165
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
DemonCup	cypermethrin	b, d	I	
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Lompoc</u>	Sta. Barbara	R	15	10,756
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Aqua A	?			
Blitzem (assumes not Blitzem II)	piperonyl butoxide	b		
Blitzem (assumes not Blitzem II)	propoxur	a		
Blitzem (assumes not Blitzem II)	pyrethrins and			
Dead Sure	d-trans allethrin and permethrin		I	
Dead Sure		b, d	I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Los Angeles</u>	Los Angeles	U	607	635,163

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
?	pyrethrins		I	
Avert	avermectin		I	
Conquer	esfenvalerate	d	H	
Conrac	bromadiolone		R	
Demize	linalool		I	
Demize	piperonyl butoxide and	b		
Diphacinone	diphacinone		R	
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I	
Drax Ant Bait	boric acid		I	
Drione	piperonyl butoxide	b	I	
Drione	pyrethrins and		I	
Drione	silica gel		I	
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I	
Empire Lo	chlorpyrifos		I	
Epoleon/Epolian				
Ficam	bendiocarb		I	
Genrol	hydroprene		I	
Knox Out	diazinon	c	I	
MAGB/DAGB?	?			
Maintain	maleic hydrazide		H(PCR)	
Max Force	hydramethylnon	b, c	I	
Niban	boric acid		I	
Orthene	acephate	b	I	
PT 270	chlorpyrifos	f	I	
PT 515 Wasp Freeze	d-trans allethrin and		I	
PT 515 Wasp Freeze	phenothrin		I	
PT 565 XLO	d-trans allethrin and		I	
PT 565 XLO	piperonyl butoxide	b	I	
PT 565 XLO	pyrethrins		I	
Safrotin	propramphos	f	I	
Talon	brodifacoum		R	
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I	
Baygon	propoxur	a	I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Madera</u>	Madera	R	15	14,899

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Conrac	bromadiolone		R	
Dursban 50% W	chlorpyrifos	f	I	
Eaton Mouse/Rat Trap	?			
Glue Trap				
Princep DF	simazine	b, c	H	
Ronstar	oxadiazon	a, b, c	H	
Round Up	glyphosate		H	

Surflan	oryzalin	b	H
Tox II	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Tox II	propoxur	a	I
Tox II	pyrethrins and		I
Trimec	2,4-D (multi AI)	d	H
Trimec	dicamba and	c	H
Trimec	mecoprop (multi AI)		H
Victor T	boric acid		I
Victor TL	boric acid		I
Weed B-Gon			
Weed Hoe 108	MSMA		H
Wilco Gopher Getter I	strychnine	e	R
Wilco Gopher Squirrel Bait	strychnine		R
Dursban Pro	chlorpyrifos		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Manteca</u>	San Joaquin	S	16	14,290

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
BP-300	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
BP-300	pyrethrins and		I
Conrac	bromadiolone		R
Cynoff	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I
Fumitoxin	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
Genrol	hydroprene		I
Kicker	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Kicker	pyrethrins and		I
Knox out 2FM	diazinon	c	I
Maxforce	hydamethylnon	b, c	I
Pathfinder	triclopyr		H
Precor	methoprene		I
PT 3-6-10	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
PT 3-6-10	pyrethrins and		I
PT-270	chlorpyrifos	f	I
PT-565 Plus	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
PT-565 Plus	pyrethrins		I
Round Up	glyphosate		H
Tempo WP	cyfluthrin		I
Trimec	"2,4-D (multi AI)"	d	H
Trimec	dicamba and	c	H
Trimec	mecoprop (multi AI)		H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Mendocino</u>	Mendocino	R	6	1,011

No pesticides used

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Modoc</u>	Modoc	R	7	1,208

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Conquer	esfenvalerate	d	H
Dursban 2E	chlorpyrifos	f	I
Dursban G	chlorpyrifos		I
Dursban Pro	chlorpyrifos		I
Enforcer	brodifacoum		R
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I
TKO	diazinon	c	I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Mojave</u>	Kern	R	7	3,037

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Borid	boric acid		I
BP-300 (ULD)	n-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboxamide		I
BP-300 (ULD)	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
BP-300 (ULD)	pyrethrins and		I
Cynoff WSB	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Cynoff WSB	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Dursban 2.32C	chlorpyrifos		I

Dursban 50W	chlorpyrifos	f	I
Kicker	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Kicker	pyrethrins and		I
Maxforce	hydamethylnon	b, c	I
Maxforce ant killer granules bait	hydamethylnon	b, c	I
PT 3-6-10 aerocide	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
PT 3-6-10 aerocide	pyrethrins and		I
PT 515 Wasp Freeeze	d-trans allethrin and		I
PT 515 Wasp Freeeze	phenothrin		I
Safrotin	propramphos	f	I
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Monterey</u>	Monterey	U	20	12,163

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Aluminum Phosphide	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
Borid	boric acid		I
Catalyst	propramphos	f	I
Dragnet FT	permethrin	b, d	I
Drione	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Drione	pyrethrins and		I
Drione	silica gel		I
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I
KnoxOut	diazinon	c	I
Maxforce	hydamethylnon	b, c	I
Precor IGG Concentrate	propramphos	f	I
PT 515	d-trans allethrin and		I
PT 515	phenothrin (multi AI)		I
Strychnine (non-restricted)	strychnine		R
Talon	brodifacoum		R
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Napa</u>	Napa	S	26	14,886

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Direx 4L	diuron	c	H
Gallery	isoxaben	b	H
RoundUp	glyphosate		H
Scythe	pelargonic acid		H
Surflan	oryzalin	b	H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>New Haven</u>	Alameda	S	11	12,941

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
RoundUp	glyphosate		H
Trimec	"2,4-D (multi AI)"	d	H
Trimec	dicamba and	c	H
Trimec	mecoprop (multi)		H
Turflon	triclopyr		H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Oakland</u>	Alameda	U	85	51,532

Did not respond

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Pajaro</u>	Santa Cruz	S	24	17,187

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
bait traps			
Roundup	glyphosate		H
Roundup	glyphosate		H
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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Placer Hills
No pesticides used

Placer R 2 1,597

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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River Delta

Sacramento R 9 2,405

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Drione Dust	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Drione Dust	pyrethrins and		I
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I
Tempo WP	cyfluthrin		I
TKO	diazinon	c	I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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Riverside

Riverside U 38 33,607

Did not respond

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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Rowland

Los Angeles S 21 18,659

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Cynoff EC	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Cynoff WP	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Dursban Pro	chlorpyrifos		I
Gopher Getter (3602-1)	strychnine	e	R
RoundupPro	glyphosate		H
Squirrel Bait (6128-W-L-1)	chlorophacinone		R
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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Sacramento

Sacramento U 73 49,997

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
BP-100 *ULD)	piperonyl		I
BP-100 *ULD)	pyrethrins and		I
Dexol	diquat dibromide		H
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Drax	boric acid		I
Drione	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Drione	pyrethrins and		I
Drione	silica gel		I
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I
Holiday Fogger (475-286)	n-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboxamide	inactive?	I
Holiday Fogger (475-286)	permethrin and	b, d	I
Holiday Fogger (475-286)	pyrethrins and	inactive?	I
Knox Out	diazinon	c	I
Lo Ban	chlorpyrifos	f	I
Maxforce	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
Mop-Up	disodium of octaborate tetrahydrate		I
PT 400	chlorpyrifos and		I
PT 400	fenoxycarb	a, c	I
R & C Spray	phenothrin		I
Talon G	brodifacoum		R
Vikor	cypermethrin and	b, d	I
Vikor	esbiothrin (multi)		I
Vikor	piperonyl butoxide and	b	I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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San Diego

San Diego S 151 127,087

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Ant Kill Gel			
Baygon	propoxur	a	I
Borid	boric acid		I

BP 300 (ULD)	n-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboxamide		I
BP 300 (ULD)	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
BP 300 (ULD)	pyrethrins and		I
Dexol Weed and grass	diquat dibromide		H
Dipel 2x	bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki		I
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I
Floral	ethephon		I
Fusilade II	fluzifop-P-butyl		H
Granular Bait			
Knoxout	diazinon	c	I
m-pede	mecoprop (MCP)		H
Maxforce roachkiller baitgel	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
Mecomec	mecoprop		H
National Deadline	metalddehyde		M
Ornamec	fluzifop-p-butyl		H
Orthene	acephate	b	I
Ortho Supreme Spray			
Princep 80W	EPTC and	c	H
Princep 80W	simazine	b, c	H
PT 170A	pyrethrins		I
PT 240	boric acid		I
Rose Defense	neem		I
Roundup	glyphosate		H
Simazine 80W	simazine	b, c	H
Spike	tebuthiuron	c	H
Surflan	oryzalin	b	H
Trimec	"2,4-D and"	d	H
Trimec	dicamba and	c	H
Trimec	mecoprop (multi)		H
XL2G	benefin and		H
XL2G	oryzalin	b	H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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San Francisco

S. Francisco U 105 61,631

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
"Baits (Avert Gel/PT 320, Avert/PT, Drax Gel, Dual Choice)"	avermectin		I
Borid	boric acid		I
Empire	chlorpyrifos		I
Knox-Out 2FM	diazinon	c	I
Precor IGR Concentrate	propetamphos	f	I
PT 240	boric acid		I
PT 265A	diazinon	c	I
PT 515	d-trans allethrin and		I
PT 515	phenothrin		I
Tempo 20 WP	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
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San Jose

Santa Clara U 41 30,905

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Ant Bait	?		
Bait Box	?		
Baygon 2% Bait	propoxur	a	I
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Diazinon	diazinon	c	I
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I
DRI-DIE	silica aerogel/ammonium fluosilicate to 3%		
flourine			
Dursban TC	chlorpyrifos	f	I
Fumitoxin tablets	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
General	hydroprene		I
KnoxOut	diazinon	c	I
Large Glue Board			
Maxforce	hydramethylnon	b	I
Mouse Bait station			
Mouse trap (snap)			
Mouse/rat sticky board			
Pioneer Bee Spray			
Pioneer Lice Killer [EPA 33176-19-151]	piperonyl butoxide	b	I

Pioneer Lice Killer [EPA 33176-19-151]	pyrethrins and ?		I
Rat trap	?		
Roach Bait	?		
Roundup	glyphosate		H
Roundup Plus	glyphosate		H
Surflan	oryzalin	b	H
Talon	brodifacoum		R
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I
Trimec	"2,4-D and"	d	H
Trimec	dicamba and	c	H
Trimec	mecoprop (multi)		H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>San Marino</u>	Los Angeles	S	4	2,827

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Catalyst	propramphos	f	I
Dursban Pro Insecticide	chlorpyrifos		I
RoundUp	glyphosate		H
Surflan	oryzalin	b	H
Tempo 20WP	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>San Mateo</u>	San Mateo	U	17	9,915

Did not respond

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>San Rafael</u>	Marin	S	7	2948

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
RoundUp	glyphosate		H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Santa Monica</u>				

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>-Malibu</u>	Los Angeles	S	13	9,997

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Cynoff	cypermethrin	b, d	I
Dragnet	permethrin	b, d	I
Drax Ant Bait Gel	boric acid		I
Fumitoxin	aluminum phosphide	e	IF
Knoxout	diazinon	c	I
PCQ	diphacinone		R
Roach & Bait	?		
Strychnine	strychnine		R
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Zinc Phosphide	zinc phosphide		R

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Shasta</u>	Shasta	R	3	4,495

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Blitz waterborn residual	diazinon and	c	I
Blitz waterborn residual	piperonyl butoxide	b	I
Blitz waterborn residual	pyrethrins		I
Bolt Ant Spray	?		
Mor- Act	Foaming Adjuvant		
Remedy	triclopyr		H
Round-Up	glyphosate		H
Surflan	oryzalin	b	H
Tempo 20 WP	cyfluthrin		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Siskiyou</u>	Siskiyou	R	4	890

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
FT Termiticide	permethrin	b, d	I
RoundUp	glyphosate		H

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Sonoma</u>	Sonoma	R	7	4,942

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Pyrethrum Contact Insecticide	pyrethrins		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Southern</u>				

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Humboldt</u>	Humboldt	R	9	1,603

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Ace Anti roach killer	tralomethrin		I
Ant Traps	?		
Hornet & Wasp killer	?		
Hornet Killer	?		
Jacket Trap			
Mouse traps			
Raid Ant	permethrin and	b, d	I
Raid Ant	pyrethrins		I

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Stockton</u>	San Joaquin	U	37	34,251

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Bivert	petroleum distillate		
BP 100 Insecticide	piperonyl		I
BP 100 Insecticide	pyrethrins and		I
Hi-Light Liquid	?		
HS 167	mecoprop		H
IC 232	pyrethrins		I
Knox Out	diazinon	c	I
MaxForce	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
Maxforce Bait Stations	hydramethylnon	b, c	I
No Retreat			
ProControl IV Aerosol			
Ronstar Granular	oxadiazon	a, b, c	H
Roundup	glyphosate		H
Surflan	oryzalin	b	H
Tri-Power Herbicide	dicamba and	c	H
Tri-Power Herbicide	MCPA (multi AI)		H
Tri-Power Herbicide	mecoprop (multi AI)		H
Wasp Freeze II	sulfluramid		

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Vallejo</u>	Solano	U	24	19,818

Did not respond

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Ventura</u>	Ventura	S	23	15,409

Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class
Dexol hornet killer	diquat dibromide		H
PCQ Rodent Cake	diphacinone		R
PT-270	chlorpyrifos	f	I
Round Up	glyphosate		H
Talon-G	brodifacoum		R
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I
Weed-Be-Gone	"2,4-D and"	d	H
Wilco Gopher Getter I	strychnine	e	R

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Vista</u>	San Diego	S	18	21,851
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Maxforce	hydramethylnon	b, c	I	
Round up	glyphosate		H	
Rozol	chlorophacinone		R	
squirrel bait	?			
type 2 gopher bait	?			
XL	benefin and oryzalin (inactive)			

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Walnut Creek</u>	C'tra Costa	U	6	2,930
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Dursban	chlorpyrifos		I	
Roundup	glyphosate		H	
Rozol Gopher Bait	chlorophacinone		R	
Tempo	cyfluthrin		I	
Turflon	triclopyr		H	
unidentified over-the-counter insecticides			I	

District	County	U/R/S	# Schools	# Students
<u>Woodland</u>	Yolo	S	15	8,725
Product	Active Ingredient	Toxicity	Class	
Catalyst	propetamphos	f	I	
Knox out	diazinon	c	I	
Safrotin	propetamphos	f	I	
Tempo WP	cyfluthrin		I	

Appendix C

Active Ingredients Found in Surveyed California School Districts

(Total: 73 active ingredients)

Active Ingredient	Toxicity Category
2,4-D	d
acephate	b
aluminum phosphide	e
avermectin	
bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki	
bendiocarb	
benefin	
boric acid	
brodifacoum	
bromadiolone	
cacodylic acid	
calcium acid methanearsenate	
calcium propanearsonate	
chlorophacinone	
chloropicrin	e
chlorpyrifos	f
cyfluthrin	
cypermethrin	b, d
d-trans allethrin	
diazinon	c
dicamba	c
diethanolamine	
diphacinone	
diquat dibromide	
disodium octaborate tetrahydrate	
diuron	c
EPTC	c
esfenvalerate	d
ethephon	
fenoxycarb	a, c
fermentation of trichoderma	
ferrous sulfate heptahydrate	
fluazifop-butyl	
glyphosate	
halosulfuron-methyl	
hydramethylnon	b, c
hydroprene	
imidacloprid	
soxaben	b
linalool	
magnesium chloride	
maleic hydrazide	
MCPA	
mecoprop	
methfluidide	
metalaxyl	
metaldehyde	
methoprene	
methyl bromide	c
MSMA	
n-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboximide	
neem	
orthoboric acid	
oryzalin	b

Active Ingredient	Toxicity Category
ioxadiazon	a, b, c
pelargonic acid	
pendimethalin	b
permethrin	b
phenothrin (multi AI)	
piperonyl butoxideb	
potassium salts of fatty acids	
propetamphos	f
propoxur	a
pyrethrins	
silica aerogel	
simazine	b, c
strychnine	e
sulfuramid	
sulfuryl fluoride	e
tebuthiuron	c
tetramethrin	b
tralomethrin	
trichloro 2-pyridyl phosphorothiaote	
triclopyr	
zinc phosphide	

Toxicity:

- a = "Known" or "probable" carcinogens
- b = "Possible" human carcinogens
- c = Developmental and reproductive toxins
- d = Hormone mimicking pesticides (endocrine disruptors)
- e = U.S. EPA Category I Extremely High Acute Toxicity/Systemic Pesticides Labeled "Danger/Poison"
- f = Category II organophosphate or carbamate nerve toxins

Sources:

- a. "Known to the State of California to cause cancer" (oxadiazinon): California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity*, May 1, 1997. "Probable human carcinogens" (fenoxycarb, propoxur): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential*, February 19, 1997.
- b. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *List of Chemicals Evaluated for Carcinogenic Potential*, February 19, 1997.
- c. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Federal Register*, Vol. 59, No. 229, 61436, November 30, 1994 and California Environmental Protection Agency, *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity*, May 1, 1997 (methyl bromide).
- d. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, *IEPA's Endocrine Disruptor Strategy: Preliminary List of Chemicals Associated with Endocrine System Effects in Animals and Humans or In Vitro*, February 1997. We have included "possible" and "probable" endocrine disruptors from this list.
- e. Meister, *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1997, DPR online Product/Label Data Base: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/database.html. Only Category I pesticides bearing the label "Danger/Poison," the designation reserved for highly toxic systemic (toxic through ingestion, absorption or inhalation) toxins, were included. The same active ingredient may have several different classifications. Only those active ingredients used in products designated with a "Danger/Poison" label are included in this table.
- f. Meister, *Farm Chemicals Handbook*, 1997. EPA Category II pesticides must carry the "Warning" label. Several school districts reported using the same active ingredients which are listed above as requiring a "Warning" label, but because the chemical is formulated into a weaker concentration, it does not require such a listing and as such is not included here. Only those products designated with a "Warning" label are included in this table.

Appendix D Resources for Further Information

For further information on ordering this report or for other pesticide-related information, contact:

California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Charitable Trust

450 Geary Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
tel: (415) 292-1487 fax: (415) 292-1497
email: jkaplan@igc.org

The CALPIRG Charitable Trust is the 501(c)(3) sister organization of the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), a non-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization working on behalf of consumers and the environment. With over 70,000 members and 14 offices statewide, CALPIRG is the largest consumer group in California.

Californians for Pesticide Reform

116 New Montgomery, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: (415) 495-1149 or (888) CPR-4880
fax: (415) 495-1141
email: pests@igc.org
website: www.igc.apc.org/cpr/

CPR is a coalition of public interest organizations committed to protecting public health and the environment from the proliferation of pesticides. CPR provides information on pesticides, reports on pesticide use in the state and resources on how individuals can work to eliminate pesticide use. CPR also publishes the quarterly newsletter "CPRResources."

Other organizations to contact: Children's Health and Pesticides

Children's Environmental Health Network

5900 Hollis Street, Suite E
Emeryville, CA 94608
tel: (510) 450-3818 x 117 fax: (510) 450-3773
email: cehn@aimnet.com
website: www.cehn.org.

CEHN has a wide variety of information on the effects of toxic chemicals on children. The organization recently published the first national resource guide on children and environmental health.

Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet

870 Market Street, Suite 654
San Francisco, CA 94102
tel: (415) 433-0850 fax: (415) 433-0859
or call the New York headquarters (888) ECO-INFO
email: mothers@igc.org
website: www.mothers.org/mothers

Mothers & Others publishes "the Green Guide" newsletter on such issues as childhood asthma and pesticides in schools.

Information on Pesticides and Alternatives

Bio-Integral Resource Center

P.O. Box 7414
Berkeley, CA 94707 tel: (510) 524-2567
fax: (510) 524-1758
website: www.igc.apc.org/birc/

BIRC publishes two journals: *The IPM Practitioner* and *Common Sense Pesticide Control Quarterly*. The organization also publishes the *Annual Directory of Least-Toxic Pest Control Products* and recently wrote *IPM in Schools: A How-to Manual*, available for \$45 plus \$5 postage/handling from BIRC. BIRC is available for consultation and training in IPM.

National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

701 E Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
tel: (202) 543-5450 fax: (202) 543-4791
email: ncamp@ncamp.org
website: www.ncamp.org

NCAMP has information on individual pesticides, pesticide policy and alternative methods of pest management. The organization publishes the quarterly "Pesticides and You" journal and the monthly "Technical Report" newsletter and hosts an annual organizing conference. NCAMP also offers "Pesticides and Schools: A Collection of Policies and Articles" (\$15).

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

P. O. Box 1393
Eugene, OR 97440
tel: (541) 344-5044 fax: (541) 344-6923
email: info@pesticide.org
website: www.efn.org/~ncap

NCAP provides information on pesticides and pest management alternatives, including information on risks of pesticides used in school settings, and strategies for reducing their use. Specific publications include "Getting Pesticides Out of Our Schools," (\$5 ppd.). Their website includes such school related documents as a list of school pesticide incidents, a model school pest management policy, the "Safer School Pest Control Pledge," "School Pesticide Use Questionnaire," "Steps Parents and Teachers can Take to Reduce School Pesticide Use" and "Interview Questions." NCAP also publishes the quarterly *Journal of Pesticide Reform*.

Pesticide Action Network

116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 810
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: (415) 541-9140 fax: (415) 541-9253
email: panna@panna.org
website: www.panna.org/panna

PAN publishes the quarterly journal *Global Pesticide Campaigner* and "PANUPS," a weekly online news service highlighting pesticides and sustainable agriculture. Their website has over 100 links to other useful sites as well as up-to-date information on PAN's campaigns and information resources. PAN most recently published the report *Rising Toxic Tide* which documents the dramatic increase in pesticide use in California between 1991 and 1995 (\$5 ppd. or available online).

Pesticide Education Center

Dr. Marion Moses
P.O. Box 420870
San Francisco, CA 94142-0870
tel: (415) 391-8511
email: pec@igc.org

The PEC offers the book *Designer Poisons: How to Protect Your Health and Home from Toxic Products*. The organization also makes presentations, develops curricular materials, and provides other services targeted to the need of average citizens and workers concerned about health risks of pesticide exposure.

Pesticide Watch Education Fund

450 Geary Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
tel: (415) 292-1488 fax: (415) 292-1497
email: pestiwatch@igc.org

Pesticide Watch works with individuals and community groups to assist in local efforts to reduce the use of pesticides and promote safer methods of pest management. The group provides educational materials, organizing skills trainings, strategy consultation, technical referrals and networking opportunities so groups do not have to reinvent the wheel. They have prepared several organizing kits including: *Parks are for People, Not Poisons*; *Reducing Pesticide Use in Schools*; and *A Pesticide Drift Kit*.

School Organizations

California Parent Teacher Association

930 Georgia Street
P.O. Box 15015
Los Angeles, CA 90015-0100
tel: (213) 620-1100
fax: (213) 620-1411
website: www.capta.org

California State PTA announced its support for reducing the use of pesticides in schools and prior notification of any treatments 25 years ago.

National Parent Teacher Association

700 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2571
tel: (312) 787-0977
fax: (312) 787-8342
website: www.pta.org

In 1992, the National PTA announced its support for Integrated Pest Management to lower children's exposure to pesticides in schools.

National Education Association/Health Information Network

Suite 521
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3290
tel: (800) 718-8387
fax: (202) 822-7775
website: www.nea.org/hin

The Health Information Network arm of NEA disseminates information on indoor air quality (IAQ) as well as other health issues. HIN has a packet "IAQ and You" with information on various indoor air contaminants and pollutants, including pesticides. For a copy of the Healthy School Handbook, contact the NEA Professional Library (800) 229-4200 or write P.O. Box 509, West Haven, CT, 06516 (21.95 plus 2.50 shipping and handling).

State and Federal Agencies

California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5624
tel: (916) 445-4300
website: www.cdpr.ca.gov

DPR regulates the use of pesticides in California. In 1996, DPR published "Pesticides in Schools," and annually grants "IPM Innovator" awards to institutions in both urban and agricultural settings. DPR's website provides access to information on all the formulations of pesticides registered for use in the U.S.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Pesticide Programs
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460
website: www.epa.gov

Provides information on individual pesticides. Copies of *Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting Integrated Pest Management*. (EPA 735-F-93-012) are available by calling (800) 490-9198, EPA's National Center for Environmental Publications and Information.

Appendix E

The Top Five Pesticides Used in Surveyed School Districts

Of the 46 school districts responding to our survey, the most frequently reported pesticides were chlorpyrifos, cyfluthrin, diazinon, glyphosate and pyrethrins. Only two of the five pesticides, chlorpyrifos and diazinon, were given toxicity categories in our tables and charts (see Appendix B) since they appear on the state and federal lists that we consulted to determine such categories. However, there are numerous studies in the scientific literature addressing concerns with the remaining three pesticides which suggests that these chemicals may also pose health risks when used around children.

Active Ingredient: chlorpyrifos
Products(s): Dursban, Empire, PT 270, Strikeforce, Waxie Bug-Off, others
Surveyed School Districts Using: 43%
Use: insecticide

Toxicity Information: Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate nerve toxin that inhibits cholinesterase, an enzyme critical to nervous system function. Several chlorpyrifos formulations found in responding school districts records are considered Category II pesticides, EPA's second highest ranking for acute toxicity. Chlorpyrifos can cause headaches, dizziness, mental confusion and inability to concentrate, blurred vision, vomiting, stomach cramps, uncontrolled urination, diarrhea, seizures,¹ birth defects and multiple chemical sensitivities.² This insecticide has also been associated with peripheral neuropathy, a nervous system disorder resulting in burning and tingling in the limbs, muscle weakness and decreased coordination.³ In 1994, chlorpyrifos ranked third for highest number of poisoning-related incidents reported to the state.⁴

Chlorpyrifos is easily absorbed via inhalation, ingestion or through the skin⁵ though symptoms may not be evident for as long as one to four weeks after exposure.⁶ It is frequently detected

in indoor air, and levels have actually been found to increase over time.⁷ The estimated half-life (the period by which half of the product is expected to have broken down) of chlorpyrifos is 30 days,⁸ but studies have shown the insecticide can persist up to eight years after application.⁹

In 1995, EPA fined manufacturer DowElanco \$876,000 for failing to report to EPA more than 250 incidents involving chlorpyrifos. In January 1997, EPA and DowElanco agreed that the chemical would no longer be allowed for many uses including indoor fogging. Final Agency review of chlorpyrifos is not scheduled until 1998.¹⁰

Active Ingredient: cyfluthrin
Products(s): Tempo
Surveyed School Districts Using: 58%
Use: insecticide

Toxicity Information: Cyfluthrin can harm the human nervous system causing coordination loss, muscle trembling, jerky movements, behavioral changes and convulsions.¹¹ It can also cause irritation of the nose, throat and upper respiratory tract¹² leading manufacturer Mobay Corp. to state that "Persons with a history of asthma, emphysema, or hyperactive airways disease may be more susceptible to exposure."¹³ Testing in laboratory animals suggests reproductive toxicity including miscarriages.¹⁴ There is also concern that cyfluthrin can bind with receptors in the testes potentially affecting the action of hormones.¹⁵ Between 5% and 100% of cyfluthrin residues are not removed by machine washing, presenting an exposure threat to applicators.¹⁶

Cyfluthrin breaks down into 4-fluoro-3-phenoxybenzoic acid which is more acutely toxic than the parent compound.¹⁷ In the formulation Tempo WP, cyfluthrin is also mixed with

piperonyl butoxide, a possible human carcinogen (liver cancer).¹⁸

Active Ingredient: diazinon
Products(s): KnoxOut, TKO, Diazinon, PT 265

Surveyed School Districts Using: 37%
Use: insecticide

Toxicity Information: Diazinon is an organophosphate nerve toxin and inhibits the action of cholinesterase, an enzyme critical to nervous system function. Acute symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, weakness, blurred vision, vomiting, wheezing, coughing and pulmonary edema (swelling in the lung).¹⁹ Diazinon ranked eleventh in the number of poisoning-related incidents reported to the state.²⁰

Diazinon also poses long-term effects. Tests show diazinon can cause reproductive effects in laboratory animals²¹ and use of diazinon by farmers in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska has been linked to increased risk of one type of cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.²² An epidemiological study of workers at a diazinon production facility found that chromosome aberrations (genetic damage) were more common than in a group of non-exposed workers.²³ Two EPA surveys found diazinon to be the sixth most frequent cause of both accidental death due to pesticides and pesticide-related illnesses.²⁴ In one study, residues of diazinon were found in the urine of pest control operators workers who had sprayed diazinon, despite their use of protective clothing.²⁵ Another study, monitoring a crack and crevice treatment in a school dormitory, showed that diazinon can persist indoors for as long as 42 days after application.²⁶

Diazinon has proven to be highly toxic to birds feeding on lawns, sod farms,

and golf courses which mistake diazinon granules for seeds. After reports of several massive bird-kills, US. EPA forced manufacturer Ciba Geigy to halt the use of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms, yet the Agency continues to permit its use on lawns and turf.²⁷

Active Ingredient: glyphosate

Products(s): Roundup

Surveyed School Districts Using: 58%

Use: herbicide

Toxicity Information: Glyphosate can cause acute symptoms including eye and skin irritation, cardiac depression, gastrointestinal pain, vomiting and accumulation of excess fluid in the lungs.²⁸ California statistics show that in 1994, glyphosate ranked tenth in the state for numbers of reported poisoning incidents.²⁹

Glyphosate can also drift off-site during ground applications, potentially exposing children in classrooms far from the point of application. Studies show that from 14%-78% of glyphosate can drift off-site³⁰ as far as 1300 feet downwind.³¹ Once on the ground, glyphosate can persist in soils from three days to a year.³²

The surfactant used in Roundup, polyethoxylated tallowamines, or

POEA, is more acutely toxic than glyphosate itself and the combination of the two is even more toxic. POEA is irritating to eyes and skin and causes gastrointestinal irritation, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.³³ Another chemical, isopropylamine is also added to Roundup despite the fact that it is "extremely destructive to tissue of the mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract," with inhalation able to cause fatal spasms, chemical pneumonia, and excess fluids in the lungs. In addition, isopropylamine exposure can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea and burns.³⁴

Misleading advertising has led many applicators to consider glyphosate nearly non-toxic. In 1996, the New York State Attorney General won an injunction against the chemical's manufacturer, Monsanto, for falsely claiming that the pesticide is as safe as table salt.³⁵

Active Ingredient: pyrethrins

Products(s): Blitz, BP-100, Drione, PT-565, others

Surveyed School Districts Using: 41%

Use: insecticide

Toxicity Information: Pyrethrins are derived from dried chrysanthemum flowers. They have a rapid action

designed to quickly paralyze the pest and contain allergens that cross-react with ragweed and other pollens. Pyrethrins are absorbed most easily through ingestion or inhalation.³⁶ People with asthma can have severe reactions to pyrethrins.³⁷

Pyrethrins can also cause male reproductive effects by binding with the androgen (a male sex hormone) receptors, disrupting the normal function of the hormone.³⁸

Because pyrethrins degrade quickly, they are often used with other pesticides which may be more toxic. Examples include piperonyl butoxide, a possible human carcinogen, n-octylbicycloheptene dicarboximide (MGK 264), a possible human carcinogen³⁹ and chemical capable of causing reproductive damage,⁴⁰ and chlorpyrifos (see above). One product discovered in a surveyed school district combined pyrethrin with propoxur, a probable human carcinogen.⁴¹

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