Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

HOME | ABOUT PESTICIDES | PESTICIDE PREVENTION | TAKE ACTION | PESTICIDE FREE SUCCESS STORIES

October is Women's Cancer Awareness Month. Do you know the signs and symptoms of breast cancer? http://ow.ly/6IWBL about an hour ago

Share with friends on

Facts about pesticides

Scientific evidence linking pesticide exposure and cancer risk for adults and children is suggestive and growing.

Following a literature review on the evidence linking pesticides and cancer, the Ontario College of Family Physicians (2004) concluded that there is a statistically significant association between pesticide exposure and certain types of cancer. (www.ocfp.on.ca)

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and others have concluded that some substances in pesticides are known, probable or possible carcinogens.

The U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) has recognized that pesticides can be potentially cancer-causing for humans.

Individuals who do not work directly with pesticides can still be exposed to them by:

Pesticides that are sprayed can drift or runoff and mix with the air, soil, or a surrounding body of water. Pesticides can also collect on plants and objects that people can come in contact with.

Saskatchewan people are supportive as an opinion poll of 900 Saskatchewan residents showed that:

- 79% of residents believe that pesticides pose a threat to the environment
- 76% to children
- 72% to pets
- 69% to their own health
- Nearly 70% are supportive of phasing out the use of cosmetic pesticides 85% would consider alternatives to pesticides if they were given information

According to the same study, 2008 Ipsos Reid poll commissioned by the Canadian Cancer Society found that:

- 79% of Saskatchewan residents believe that pesticides pose a threat to the environment.
- 76% of Saskatchewan residents believe pesticides pose a threat to children.
- 72% Saskatchewan residents believe that pesticides are a threat to pets.
- 69% of Saskatchewan residents believe pesticides are a threat to their own health.
- 76% of Saskatchewan residents are aware there may be a link between exposure to pesticides and risk of cancer.
- 69% would support phasing out the cosmetic use of pesticides on public and private properties.
- 60% would support restricting the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides.

Pesticide-free bylaws are effective because:

Three years after implementation of a pesticide-free bylaw in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a public poll commissioned by the city shows that 93% of respondents reported that they no longer use pesticides.

No municipality who enacted a pesticide-free bylaw has rescinded it due to lack of effectiveness. The use of cosmetic pesticides has no countervailing health benefit and the potential for harm exists.

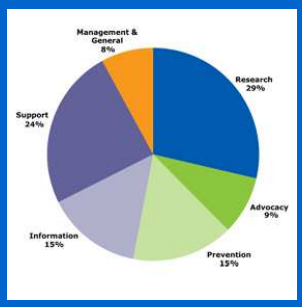
Currently, over 27 million Canadians are protected by some measure of a cosmetic pesticide bylaw ban.

A report of the standing committee on environment and sustainable development from Ottawa in May 2000 entitled *"Pesticides: making the right choice for the protection of health and the environment"* notes:

> ***"Children, for many reasons, make up the group that is the most vulnerable to pesticides, because of their developmental and physiological characteristics, their daily activities which are different from those of adults, and the fact that the fetus and the newborn are exposed to pollutants accumulated in the mother's body. Current research programs in Canada do not take these specificities into account and the information available to the general public is inadequate."***

More about pesticide facts

Where your money goes



Find us on Facebook

Get information

- What we do
- Where the money goes
- About cancer
- About prevention
- About our services
- Contact us

Social media

Sign up for our e-newsletter!

First name | Last name

E-mail address

Submit

Privacy | Contact us

2011 Canadian Cancer Society. All rights reserved.