Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

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Could you be exposed?

People can be exposed to pesticides at home or in the community by:

- absorption through the skin (passing into the body through the skin)
- inhalation (breathing into the lungs)
- eating residues on vegetables and fruit
- drinking contaminated water or touching contaminated hands to mouth
- spreading or applying to lawns turf or plants
- a collection of pesticides on plants and objects that you touch

There are different sources of pesticide exposure which include:

1. Residential exposure

- pesticide use on lawns or gardens
- insect repellents
  - for example, mosquitoes
- indoor pesticide use
  - ants, termites and cockroaches
- pesticides carried into the home from outdoors
  - e.g. people working with pesticides who bring residues on their clothing into the home

2. Bystander exposure

- pesticides carried in the air, water or soil contaminated by a nearby treated area
  - e.g. drift from a farm or a neighbor's lawn
- public health and safety use

- e.g. community spraying to control mosquitoes
- pesticide use in parks, recreational areas and other community settings

3. Dietary exposure (food and water)

- drinking water contaminated by pesticides
  - e.g. contamination of drinking water sources in the community from nearby use of pesticides

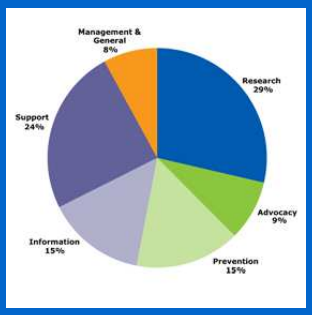
4. Occupational exposure

People may be exposed to pesticides in their workplace by:

- Pesticides used to protect growing crops, stored crops and livestock from damage on farms.
- Pesticides used to preserve foods for transport.
- Pesticides used in recreational or sporting green spaces (for example, on golf courses).

More information on how you can be exposed

Where your money goes



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