2019

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL & CHILD CARE PESTICIDE USE REPORT SUMMARY

California Environmental Protection Agency
dpr Department of Pesticide Regulation

THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

Legal Reference and Intent

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

Lead Agency for Compliance Assistance

California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Branch

School and Child Care IPM Programs
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dpr Department of Pesticide Regulation

School and Child Care IPM Programs

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation is the lead state agency charged with supporting Healthy Schools Act (HSA) compliance. It is the goal of the Department's School and Child Care Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programs to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides and to facilitate the adoption of least-toxic pest management practices at California public K - 12 schools and child care centers.

Our Programs combine outreach, education, and data analysis to develop resources that help California schoolsites meet their pest management goals and follow the Healthy Schools Act requirements.

This year's report provides an overview of the pesticide use patterns seen in the 2019 pesticide use data for California schools and child cares and demonstrates how our Programs addressed rising concerns over herbicide use.

Sincerely,

Lisa Estridge

Steam weeding demo

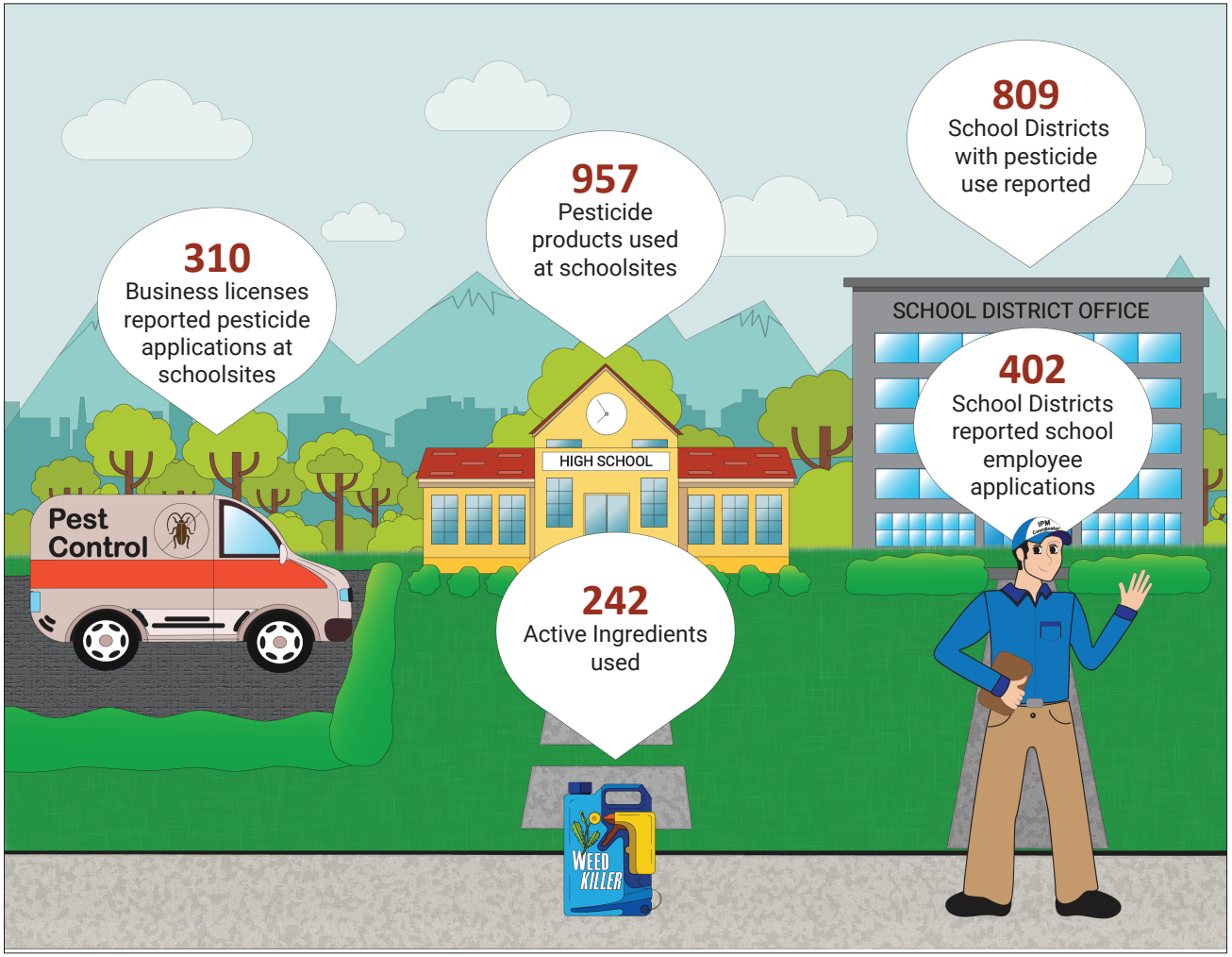
Herbicide trials

Weed identification workshop

2019 By the Numbers

The Healthy Schools Act requires California public K-12 schools and most child care centers to report pesticide applications to the Department of Pesticide Regulation. In 2019, pesticide applications were reported at **6,863 schools** and **1,579 child care centers** in California.

The School and Child Care IPM Programs gather the reporting data and perform detailed analyses of pesticide use trends and patterns. These findings allow our programs to make data-driven decisions that inform our outreach and training efforts.

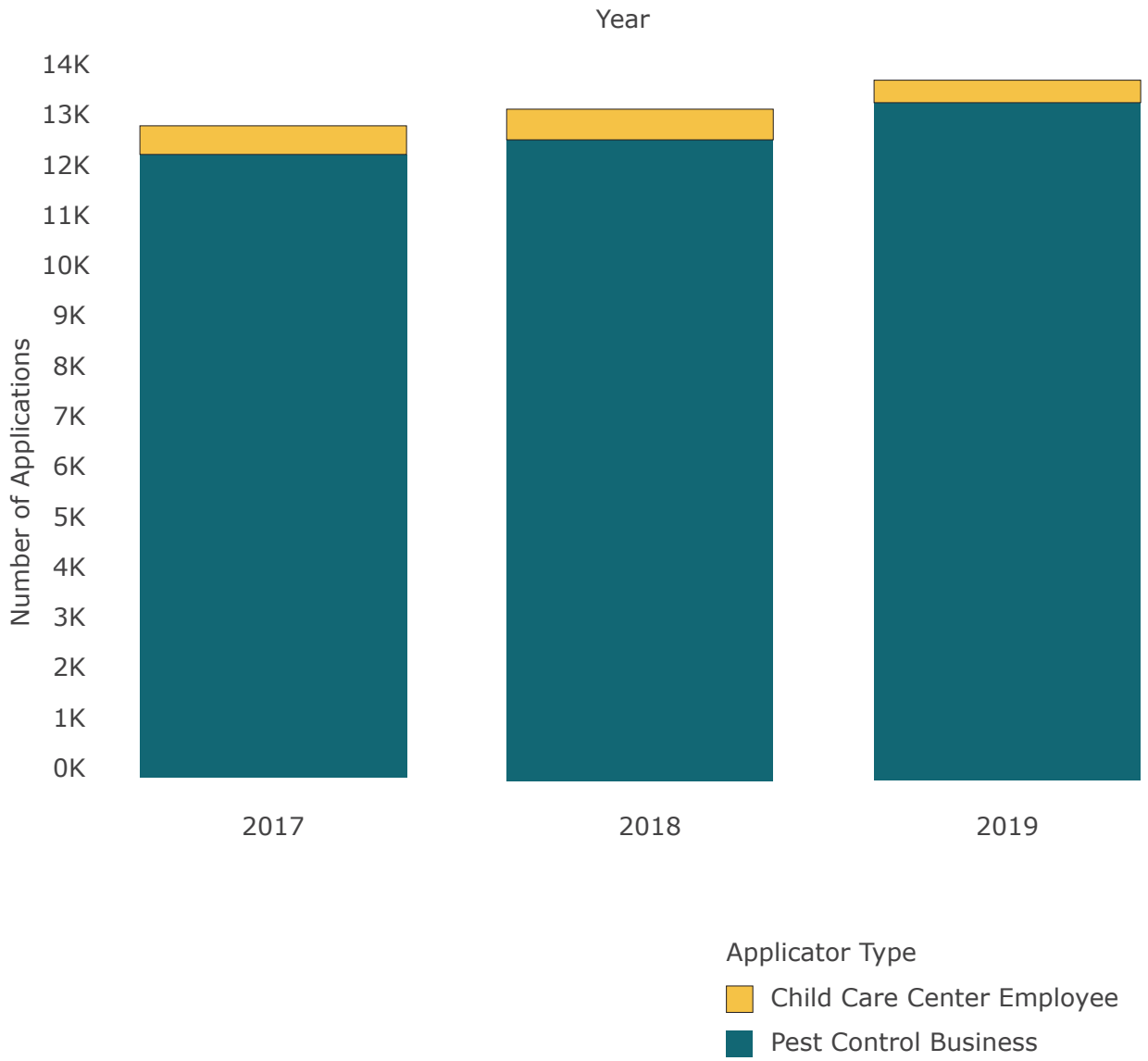


California's Child Care Centers

Pesticide applications at child care centers are predominantly done by pest control businesses. As a result, like in previous years, approximately 95% of the Pesticide Use Reports received in 2019 for applications at child care centers were submitted by pest control businesses.

Throughout 2018 and 2019, Child Care IPM Program staff focused their efforts on making Healthy Schools Act and IPM resources more accessible to a wider audience. Fact sheets were updated to be more visually appealing and were translated into Spanish. Staff presented and exhibited at child care conferences and published articles in child care newsletters.

The number of pesticide applications performed by pest control businesses at child care centers remained steady in 2017 and 2018, but showed a slight increase in 2019. However, fewer pesticide applications were reported as being performed by child care employees in 2019.

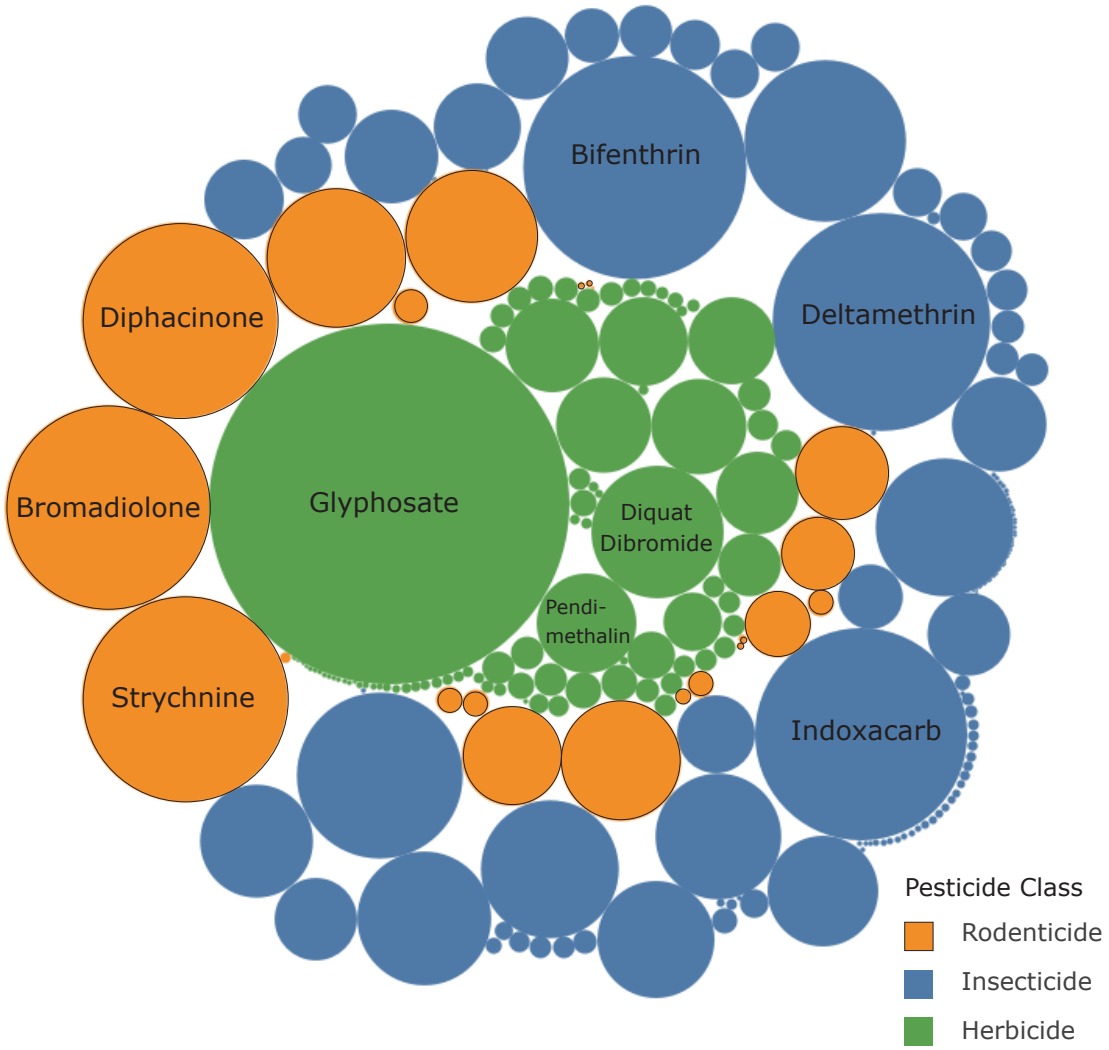


Top Active Ingredients

This graphic illustrates the insecticide, rodenticide and herbicide active ingredients reported at California schools and child care centers. Each circle represents an active ingredient, is sized by the reported number of applications, and is colored by the pesticide class of insecticide, rodenticide, or herbicide.

Insecticides continue to be the most reported class of pesticide applied at California schools and child care centers in 2019. Rodenticide applications patterns remain consistent with past years, however single-feed gopher targeting rodenticides decreased. The School IPM Program identified some districts that stopped reporting single-feed rodenticides and reached out to those districts to learn more about the change in practice reflected in the data. The districts contacted explained that carbon monoxide devices were adopted as a more effective and reduced-risk alternative to single-feed rodenticide products.

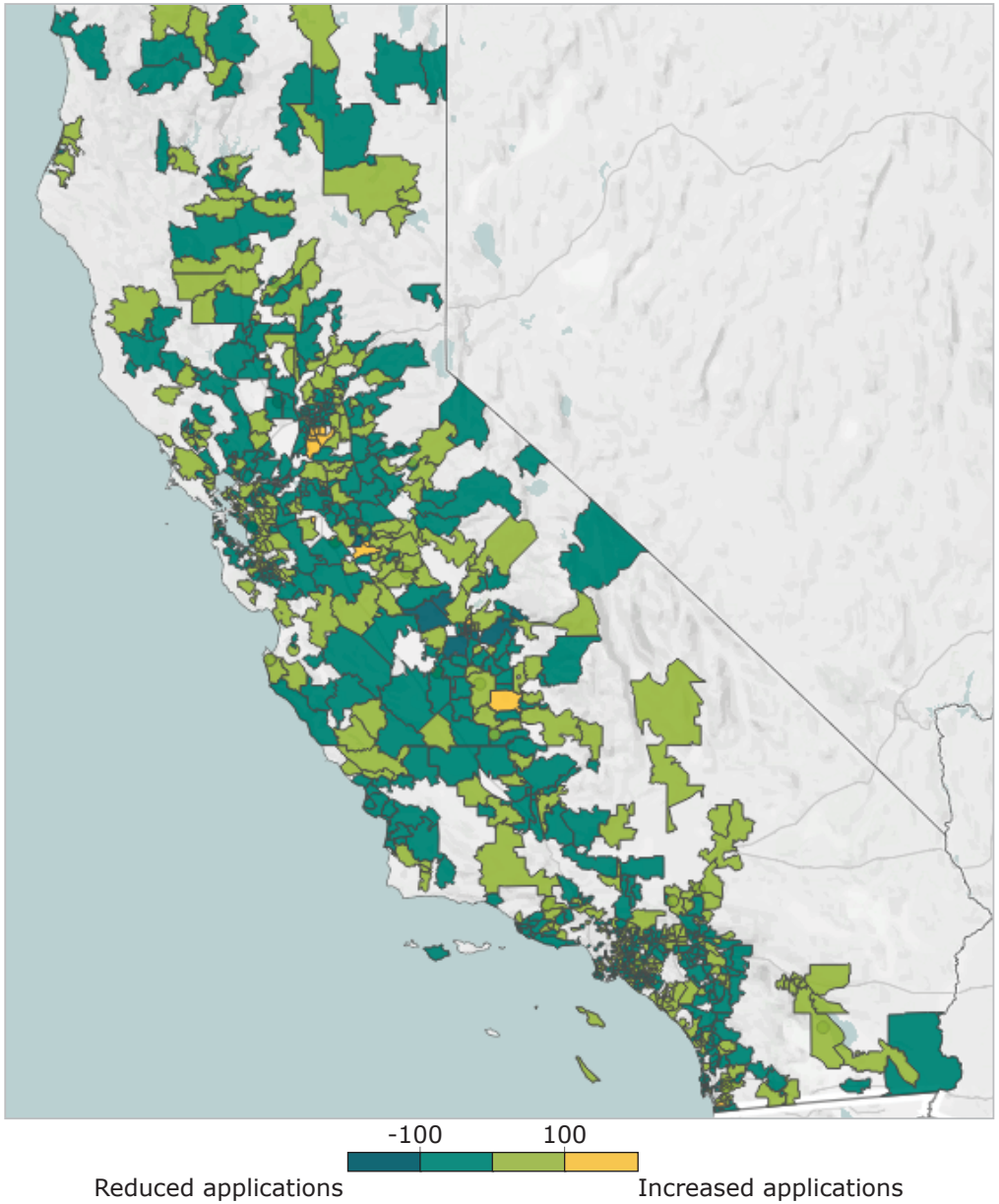
Glyphosate continues to be the most applied herbicide active ingredient. However, in 2019, the number of glyphosate applications reported decreased by 34% from 2018. This was the first significant decrease in glyphosate applications reported since 2015, when school employee pesticide use records were first collected.



Herbicide Use Patterns Shift at California Schoolsites

In 2019, pesticide applications were reported at schoolsites in 1,274 ZIP Codes representing 56 counties. Overall, fewer herbicide applications were reported at schoolsites in 2019 across nearly 60% of ZIP Codes.

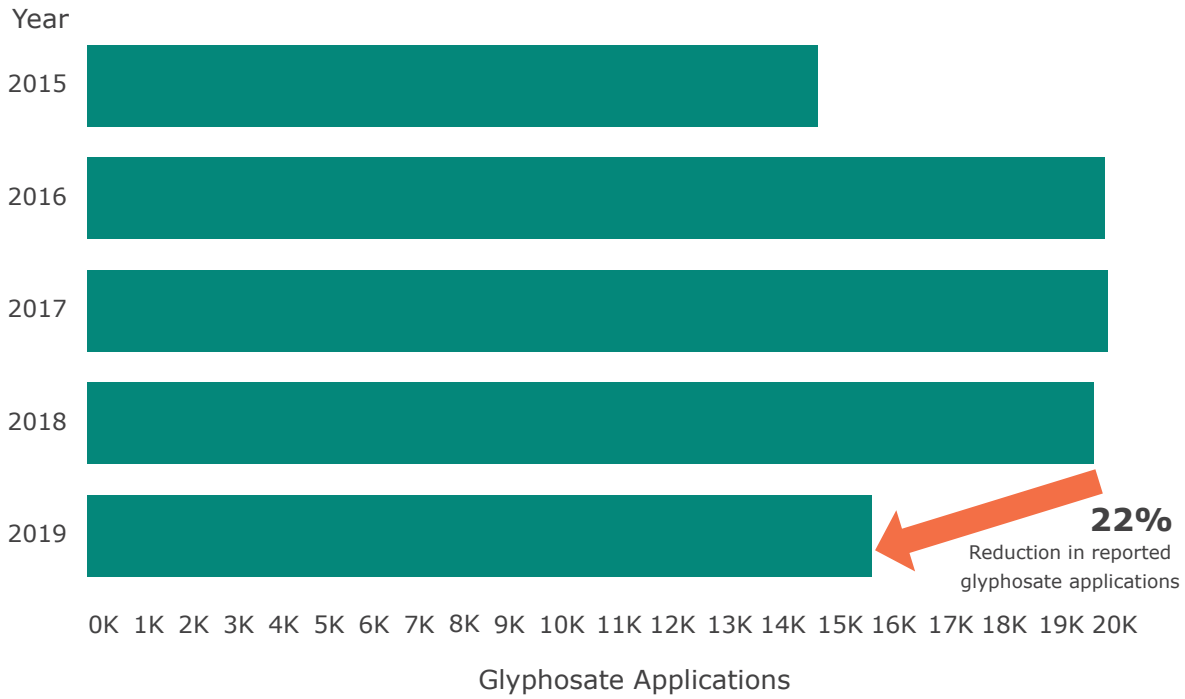
This map illustrates the change in the number of herbicide applications reported from 2018 to 2019. Dark colors indicate ZIP codes that reduced the number of herbicide applications, while light colors represent areas that increased the number of applications. The shade of each color represents how much of an increase or decrease occurred. ZIP Codes showing the most significant reductions in herbicide applications were seen in the Central Valley.



Decreasing Glyphosate Use

In 2019, following widely publicized glyphosate litigation and the addition of glyphosate to the Proposition 65 list, the School IPM Program received an influx of inquiries from school staff, parents, news media and the public about non-chemical weed management methods and alternative chemicals to glyphosate. DPR worked closely with all stakeholders to answer questions about glyphosate use alternatives, provide accurate information, and promote IPM.

The number of reported applications of the herbicide glyphosate noticeably decreased for the first time in 2019. Fewer applications were reported in 2015, the first year that school employees were required to report pesticide applications, due to lower awareness of the new reporting requirement. Reporting compliance stabilized in 2016, as did the number of glyphosate applications reported. The measurable decrease in 2019 demonstrates that many schools chose to reduce or discontinue making glyphosate applications.



Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Districts reporting Glyphosate use	385	423	434	435	384

Glyphosate Focused Outreach

Many school districts were looking for ways to manage weeds without the use of glyphosate. Program staff published weed management infographics on the Department's website in late 2018, in anticipation of an increase in inquiries heading into 2019.

In 2019, our team performed presentations on weed management for school staff throughout California, such as the Resilient Landscaping event organized by the US Green Building Council and UCANR. Staff also spoke at workshops hosted by California's Coalition for Adequate School Housing—presented at the California Weed Science Society—and spoke at a seminar organized by the California Association of Pest Control Advisors, focusing on landscape IPM.

Additionally, the School IPM Program provided customized presentations at two local school districts on ways to reduce herbicide use. Staff presented approaches each school district could use to more effectively manage weeds based on their unique pesticide use reporting data.

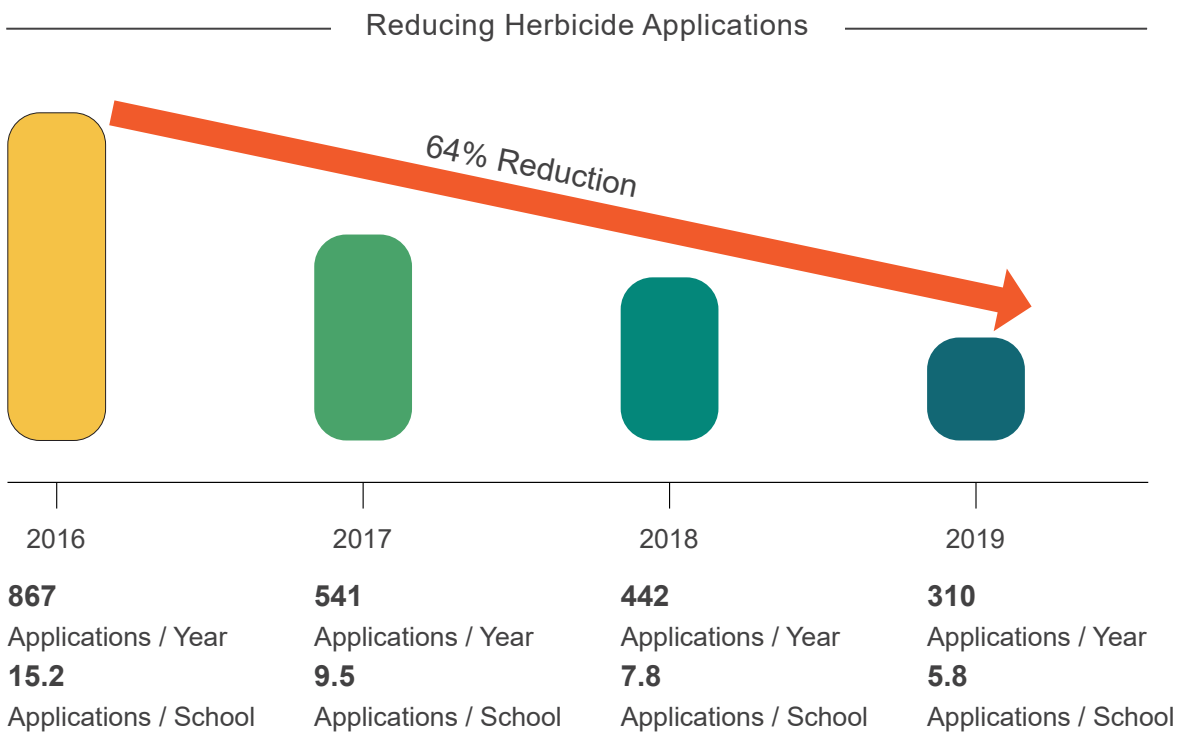
DPR co-hosted an event with a southern California school district to demonstrate effective non-chemical alternatives for managing weeds that the district's employees had implemented.

School District Success

While analyzing the school pesticide use data, School IPM Program staff identified a southern California school district that had decreased its glyphosate applications by **64%** from 2016 to 2019. Staff reached out to learn more about the district's efforts, and during these conversations, the district shared multiple strategies used to reduce herbicide use. In 2017, the new IPM Coordinator began posting warning signs before each herbicide application. Parents and teachers saw the warning signs, which resulted in an influx of complaints to the district regarding the pesticide applications.

The district identified solutions that included rescheduling applications for when children were not present on campus and limiting the number of applications overall. More recently, the district teamed up with the School IPM Program to receive customized data analysis to further assist in the district's IPM decisions.

For more detailed information about the strategies they used to reduce pesticide use, you can watch our "School District Success" video feature.



"We are here to serve the parents and community so we try to find solutions that work for everyone."
– IPM Coordinator

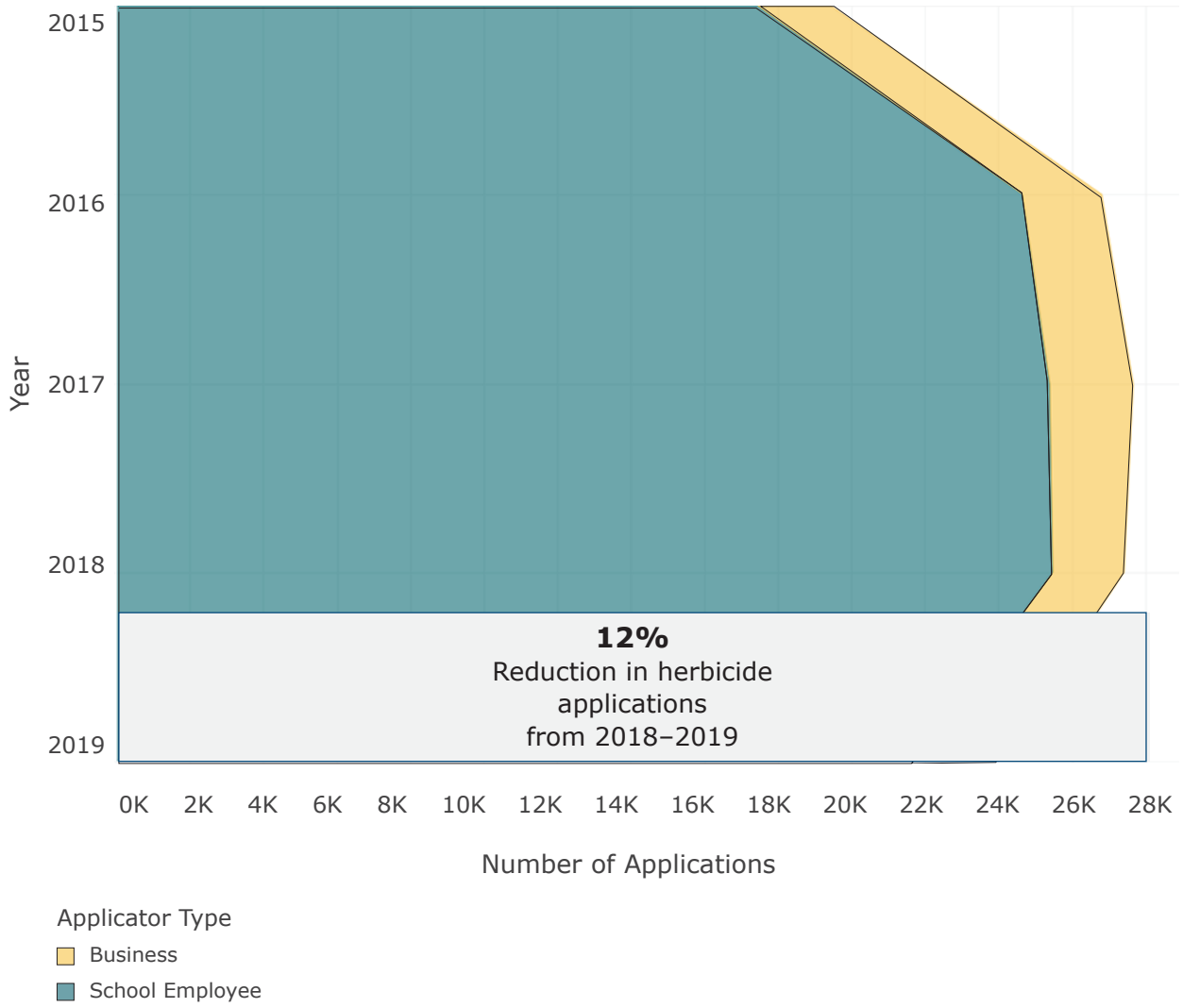
Valued Stakeholder Collaborations Power Results

In 2019, concerns about the use of herbicides at California schoolsites affected many of our stakeholders. Our Programs were readily available to work with parents, school staff, pest control businesses, organizations and the general public to answer questions, perform presentations, and promote IPM strategies.

Our outreach in 2019 adapted to address the needs of our stakeholders. We produced outreach materials and performed presentations throughout California that focused on promoting IPM and non-chemical weed management strategies. Our Programs worked closely with many schoolsites as they adapted their pest management approaches to address concerns over herbicide use.

The School and Child Care IPM Programs are committed to supporting our stakeholders with their pest management goals and continuing to facilitate safer, sustainable reduced-risk pest management at California schoolsites.

Herbicide Applicator Type by Year: School Employees, who are the primary applicators of herbicides, increased reporting compliance in 2016, which resulted in an increase in reported herbicide applications. From 2018-19, herbicide applications noticeably decreased.



Department of Pesticide Regulation

www.cdpr.ca.gov

Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management.