

Excerpts from the article:

Pesticides Linked to Kids' Cancer Risk

by Agata Blaszczyk-Boxe, Contributing Writer | September 14, 2015 12:01am ET

Children who have been exposed to certain pesticides used in homes may have an increased risk of childhood cancers, according to a new analysis of previous studies.

In the analysis researchers looked at 16 studies examining the potential link between exposure to residential pesticides and childhood cancers. They found that children who had been exposed to indoor insecticides were 47 percent more likely to be diagnosed with childhood leukemia than those who had never been exposed. They were also 43 percent more likely to be diagnosed with childhood lymphoma.

"Remember that pesticides are designed and manufactured to kill organisms," said study author Chensheng Lu, of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. Parents should avoid using these chemicals in the vicinity of their kids, and in places where the kids spend a lot of time, Lu told Live Science.

In the new analysis, the researchers looked at the children's exposure to three types of pesticides: indoor insecticides, outdoor insecticides and herbicides.

The researchers did not find an association between the use of outdoor insecticides and childhood cancers, according to the analysis.

Previous research has suggested that the use of pesticides may affect children's health more than adults' health. Children may be particularly vulnerable because their immune systems are still developing, and therefore may provide less protection than adult immune systems.

"Every effort should be made to limit children's exposure to pesticides," the researchers noted.

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