

Toronto's Pesticide Bylaw

Alberta Health Services Webinar

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- 1998 - Toronto City Council made a commitment to phase out pesticide use on public green spaces
 - Education, implementation and exploration of policy options by City departments (Parks, Public Health and Water)
 - Integrated Pest Management approach
- 2000 - Toronto Environmental Plan goal to eliminate pesticide use on city and private lands
- Bylaw came into force on April 1, 2004 - Restricted cosmetic use of pesticides (weed and bug killers) on private property with some exceptions

- Discussion document “Playing it Safe: Healthy Choices about Lawn Care Pesticides”
- Online comments; Public Opinion Surveys; Stakeholder and Community Workshops
- Consulted on elements of a pesticide strategy
 - Education
 - Voluntary initiatives by industry (retailers, manufactures and horticultural industry)
 - A municipal by-law
- Options were presented – only Public Education; Industry-led initiatives (voluntary); by-law for vulnerable populations or by-law for all properties

Results: A Change in Lawn Care Practices



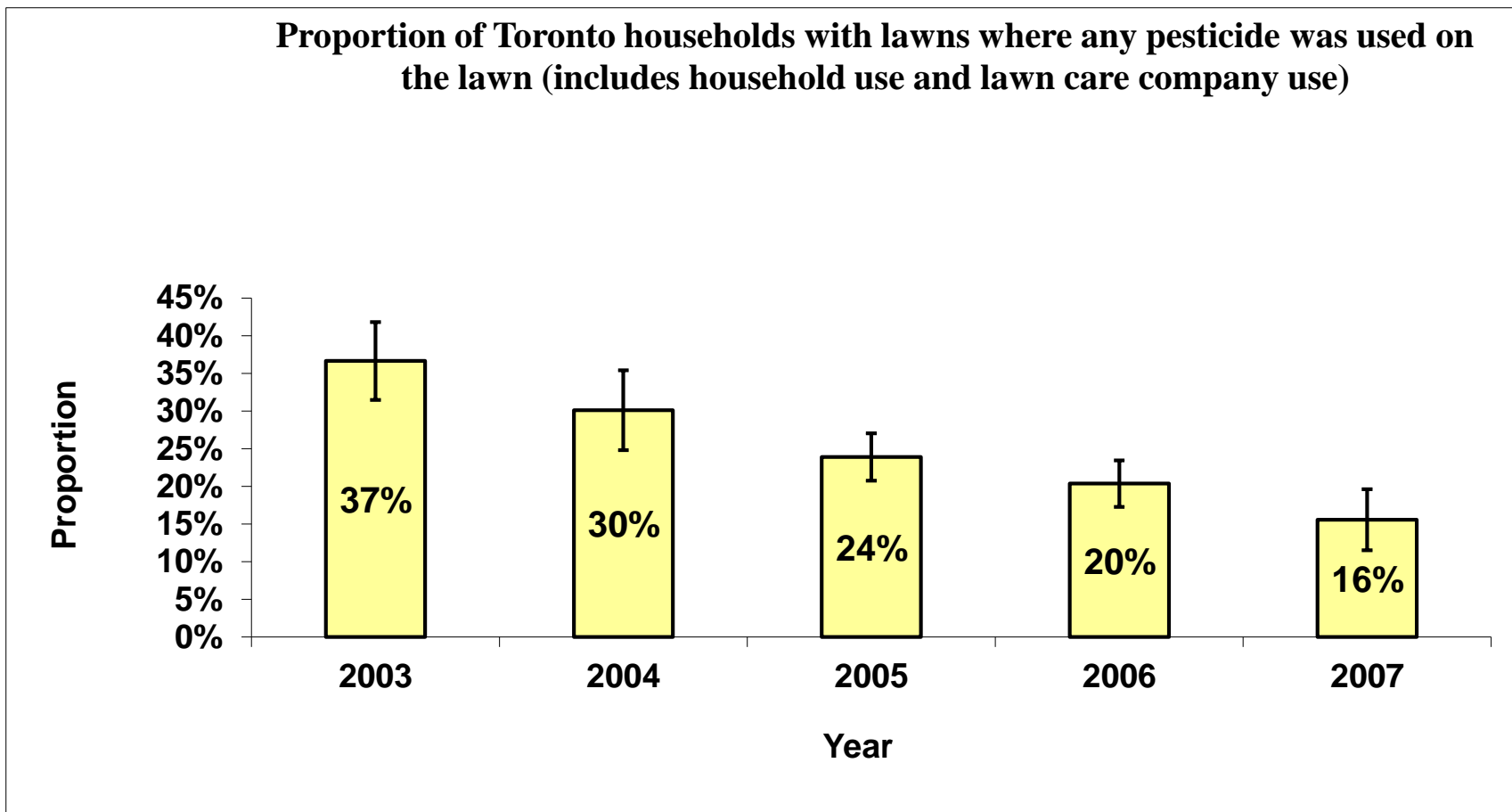
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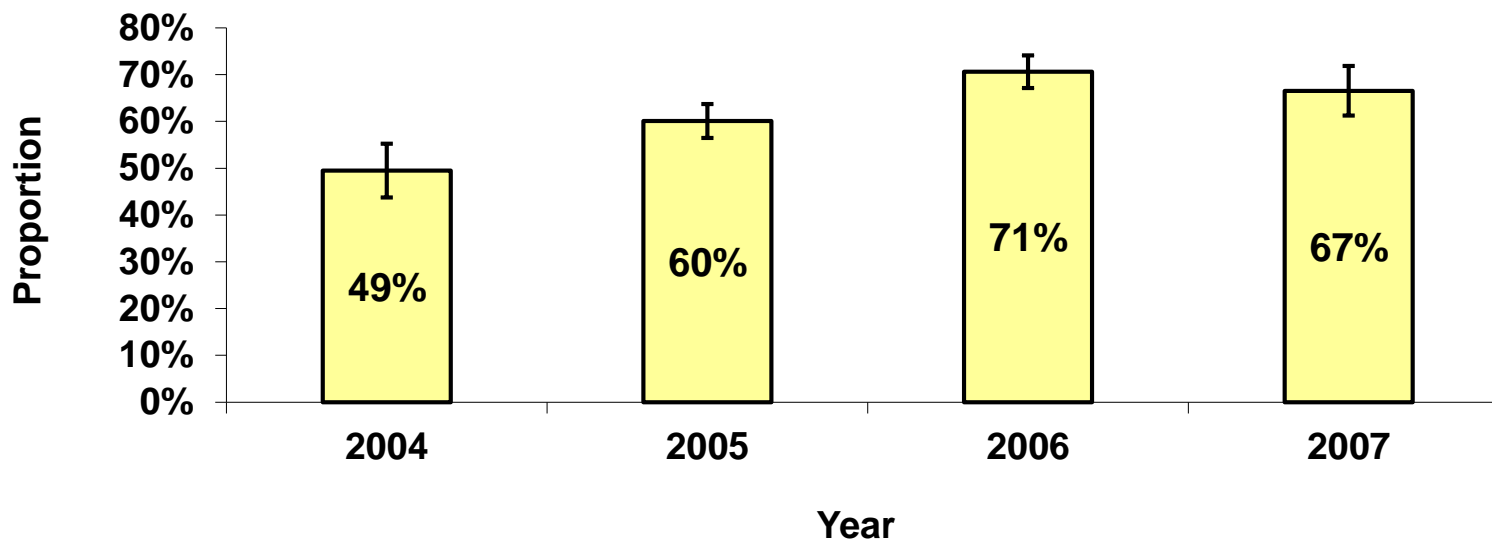
Results: Fewer households reported using pesticides



Source: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-21099.pdf>

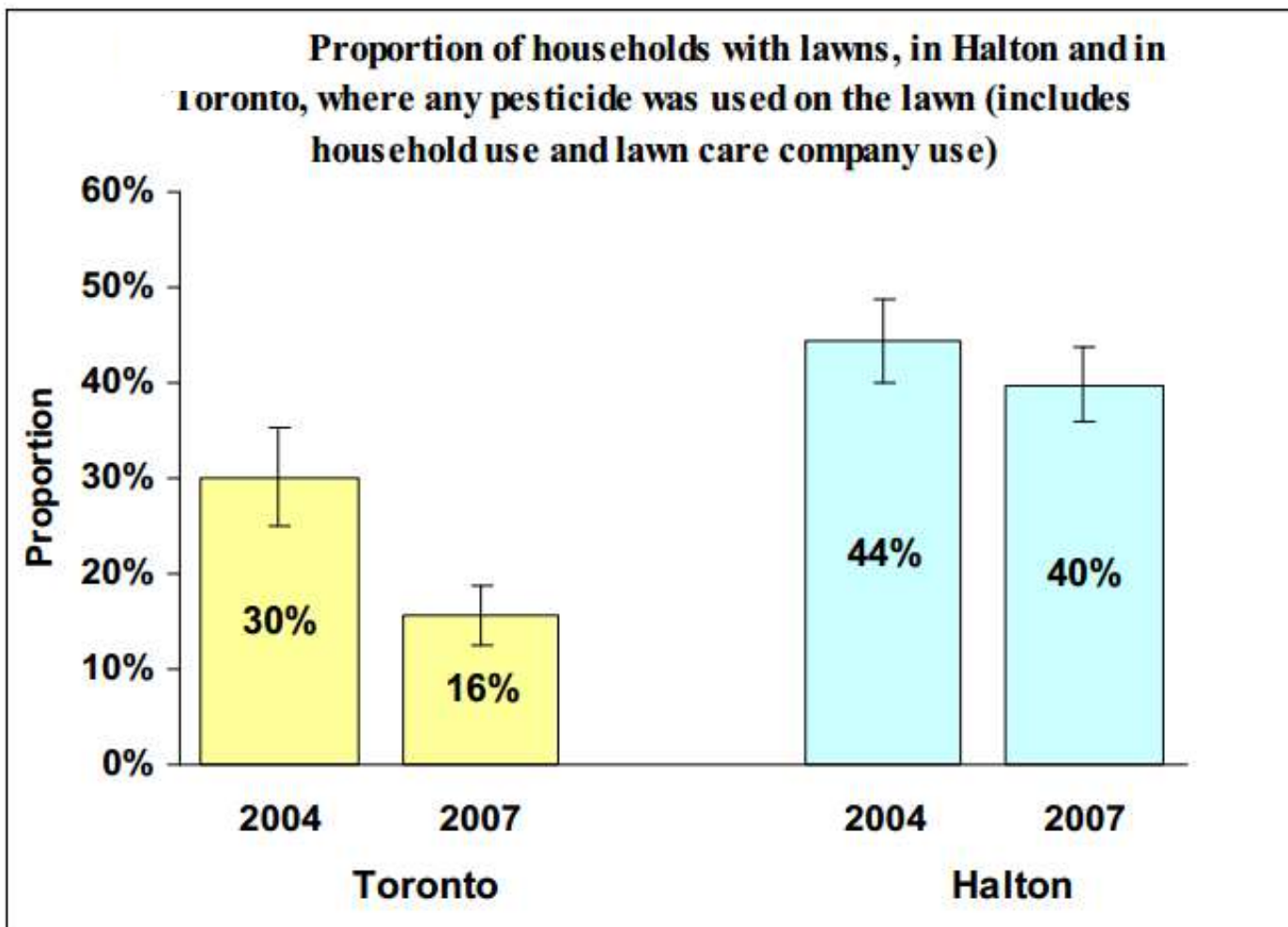
Results: More households reported using natural alternatives

Proportion of Toronto households with lawns reporting that natural (pesticide-free) methods were used on the lawn, either by the householder(s) or their hired lawn care company



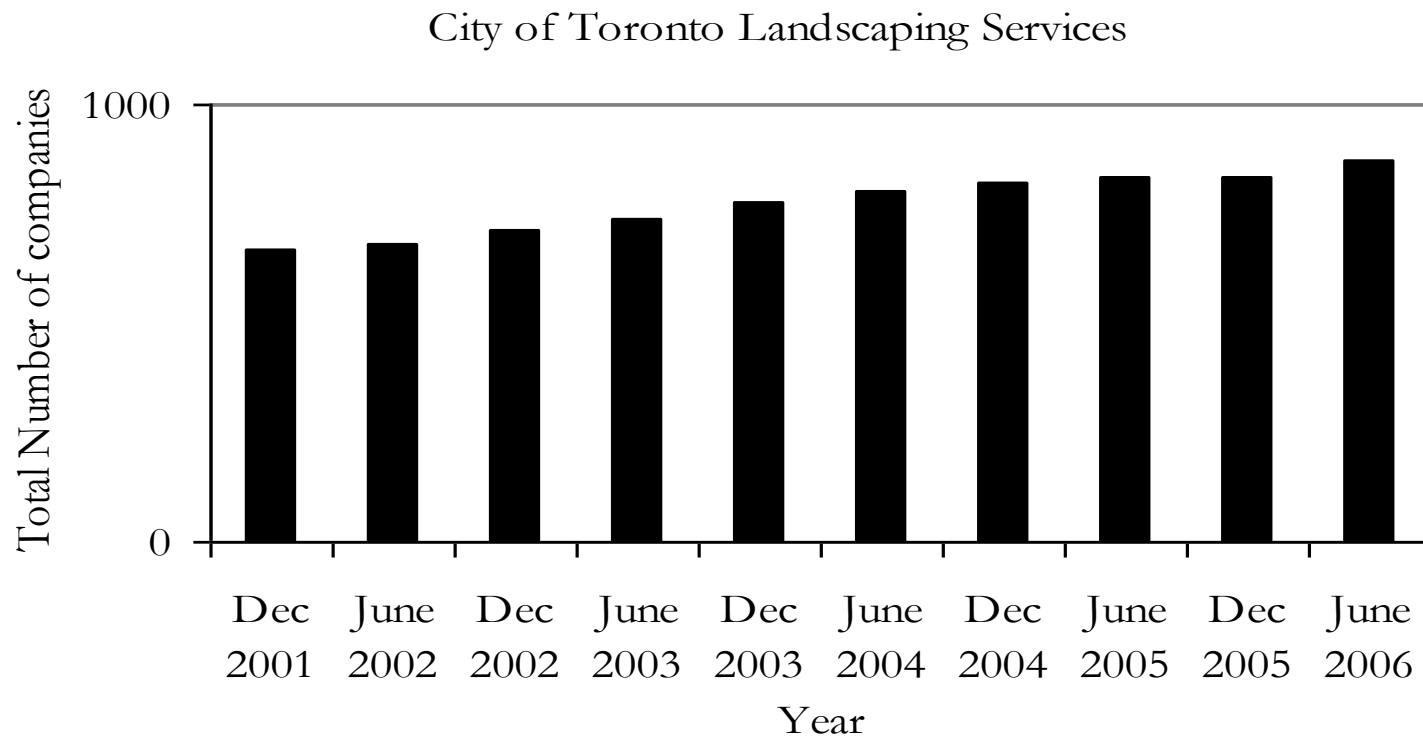
Source: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-21099.pdf>

Comparison: Bylaw had more effect than education alone



Source: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-21099.pdf>

Results: Public continue to rely on lawn care companies



Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Business Patterns 2001-2006

- By 2009, an estimated 154 Ontario municipalities adopted pesticide bylaws
- All bylaws replaced by Ontario Regulation (under the Ontario Pesticides Act) on April 22, 2009.
 - Restrictions on sale and use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides for cosmetic purposes on lawns and gardens

Toronto's Pesticide Bylaw Evaluation report in *Environmental Health*, 2011 10:74

<http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/74>

Ontario Pesticide Regulations

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/pesticides-home-lawns-and-gardens>



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