



Introduction

Bees support all forms of life because:

- “One of every three bites of food eaten worldwide depends on pollinators”¹
- Bees pollinate over 90 different types of plants, providing 80% of agricultural pollination²
- Bees contribute over 15 billion dollars to the US economy³



[6]

Problem

- 2014-2015 bee population declined by over 42%²
- Since the 1980’s, hives of honeybees have decreased²
- Stressors include larvae-eating mites, diseases, habitat loss, and pesticide exposure *(specifically neonicotinoids)²

Implementation



Conservation Program

- Focus: Worcester bumblebees
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program
- Banning the pesticide imidacloprid
- Surveying of bees and habitats
 - Volunteers check hives every 8 months
 - Test soil for imidacloprid concentrations
- Survey bees through “no kill” methods⁵
 - Handheld bee vacuum
 - Netting



[7]

Expansion

- Success in Worcester could mean the expansion of the program across adjacent cities.
- Potential to broaden the ban across additional neonicotinoids

Other current initiatives

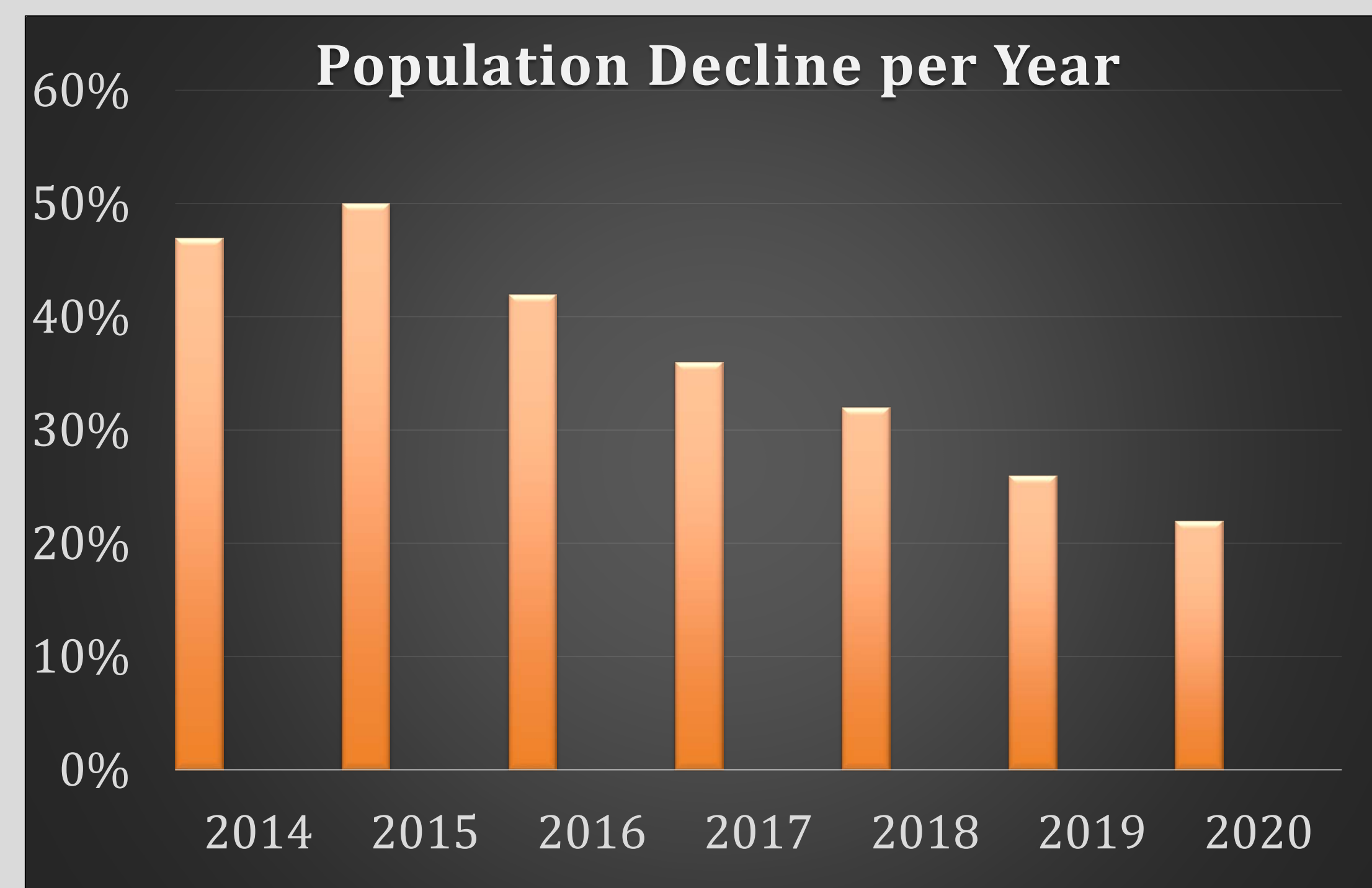
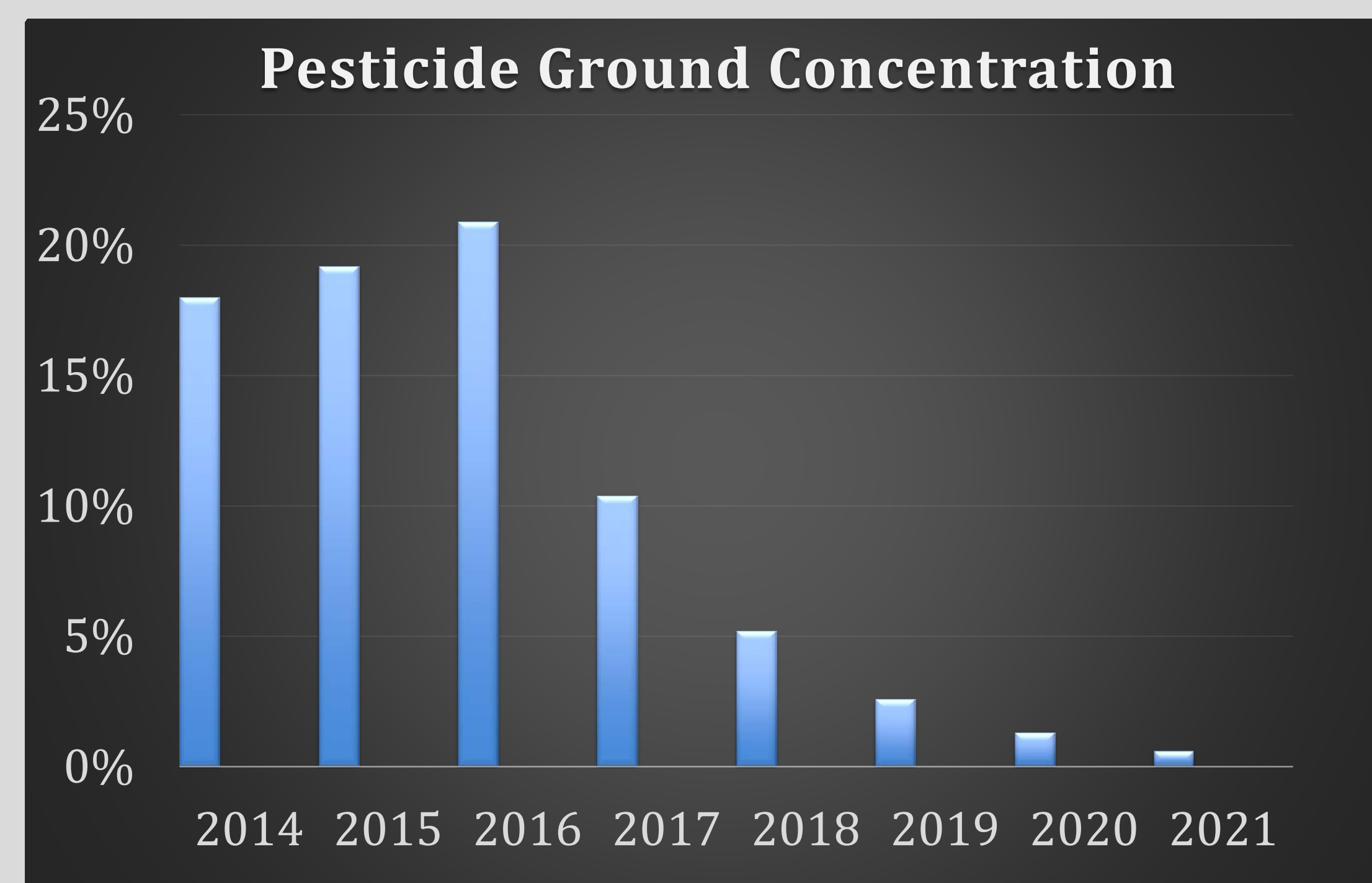
Xerces Society and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust preserve bee population by⁴:

- Creating bee friendly gardens
- Introducing bee friendly crops
- Raising awareness
- Rewarding financial stipends



[8]

Expected Results



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References

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