

# Victorian Poisons Information Centre

## Annual Report 2008

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## **Introduction**

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) commenced operation in 1962. It was located at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Melbourne from 1976 to 2008. In August 2008, the centre relocated to the Austin Hospital, to integrate with the Austin Hospital Clinical Toxicology Service. VPIC is directed administratively as part of the Austin Hospital Pharmacy Department.

VPIC provides members of the Victorian public with information about:

- first aid in the event of poisoning, suspected poisoning, bites and stings
- the need for medical assessment
- prevention of poisoning
- referral to other information sources.

VPIC provides health professionals with information about:

- the ingredients in products involved in poisoning or exposure
- assessment of the severity of a poisoning or exposure
- potential toxic effects from a poisoning or exposure
- treatment and management advice.

VPIC aims to prevent unnecessary visits to general practitioners and hospitals and to ensure patients who are poisoned receive the most effective treatment promptly.

The VPIC telephone number is 13 11 26. This number can be used Australia-wide for the cost of a local call (excluding mobile phones).

## **Hours of Operation**

VPIC operates Monday to Friday (0800 to 2130 hours), and Saturday and Sunday (0800 to 2100 hours). Outside these times, calls are diverted to the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre, which operates on a 24-hour basis. During 2008, VPIC continued to work some overnight shifts (12 midnight to 0600 hours), to assist the New South Wales and Western Australian Poisons Information Centres in taking calls from across Australia while other state Poisons Information Centres are closed.

## **Staff Members**

### **Director of Pharmacy and the VPIC**

Kent Garrett B. Pharm., Grad. Dip. Hosp. Pharm.

### **Manager, VPIC**

Jeff Robinson B. Pharm., F.S.H.P., Grad. Dip. Hosp. Pharm.

### **Poisons Information Specialists**

Janet Browning B. Pharm., Dip. Hosp. Pharm.

Mark Colbridge B. Sc (Hons)

Dawson MacLeod B. Pharm., Grad. Dip. Biotech.

Hamish McCracken B. Pharm., Grad. Dip. Psych.

Christine McKenzie B. Pharm., Grad. Cert. E-Health Comm.

Jeff Robinson B. Pharm., F.S.H.P., Grad. Dip. Hosp. Pharm.

VPIC has access to a range of consultants (toxicologists, emergency physicians, clinical pharmacologists, mycologists, botanists and toxinologists), who can provide specialist advice if needed. Relocation to the Austin Hospital has allowed a much closer day-to-day working relationship to develop between VPIC staff and the Austin Hospital Clinical Toxicology Service staff.

### **Review of Management Protocols**

- The following VPIC management protocols were reviewed during 2008: Ingestion of a Lead-containing Foreign Body; Bites and Stings in Victoria; Rodenticide Ingestion.
- The VPIC Information Sheets for members of the public were reviewed.

### **Poisoning Prevention Activities**

- In January, Jeff Robinson participated in the launch of the Department of Human Services' Snake Awareness Campaign held at Melbourne Zoo.
- The Poisoning Prevention section of the Royal Children's Hospital Child Safety Handbook (4th edition) was reviewed.
- Jeff Robinson wrote an article 'Medicine mishaps. How to prevent making mistakes with your medicines and what to do if an error occurs.' This was published in the newsletters produced by Parkinsons Australia, Alzheimers Australia, Arthritis Australia and Diabetes Australia.
- In August, the VPIC Poisoning Advice pamphlet was reviewed and updated.
- Printed material (pamphlets, telephone stickers, posters, information sheets) was supplied to child care centres, local councils, Maternal and Child Health Centres, GP surgeries etc throughout the year.

### **Research Activities and Publications**

- Data was provided to the Department of Human Services about exposure calls involving paraquat/diquat for the period 2005 to 2007 inclusive.
- Data was provided to the Victorian Coroner about Roundup products available in Australia.

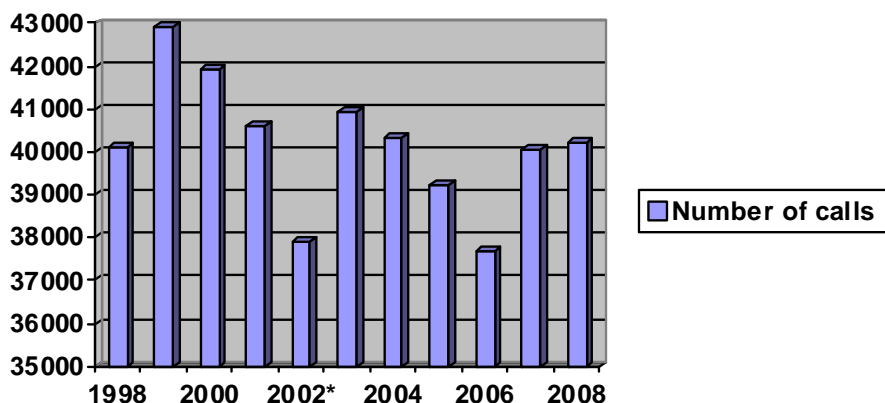
### **Other Activities**

The following additional activities were undertaken during 2008:

- Meetings of the RCH Clinical Toxicology Service were held monthly until June 2008.
- VPIC/Austin Hospital Toxicology Service Clinical Governance meetings commenced in October.
- VPIC staff attended four NSW Poisons Information Centre Clinical Meetings.
- VPIC staff attended a lecture on mushroom identification and poisoning presented by Dr. Tom May, Senior Mycologist, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.
- VPIC operations were demonstrated to visitors from interstate, the USA and Indonesia.
- After relocation to the Austin Hospital, VPIC's criteria and procedure for referring a caller to the Austin Hospital toxicology registrar or on-call toxicologist were reviewed.
- Jeff Robinson participated in a DHS-sponsored multiagency working party to address the issue of pre-hospital management and retrieval of patients with deliberate organophosphate ingestion.

## Calls to VPIC

The centre received a total of 40,230 calls during 2008, an average of 110 calls per day. This was very similar to 2007 (40,050 calls, average of 110 calls per day) and slightly higher than 2006 (37,668 calls, average of 103 calls per day). The 2008 total includes 876 calls that were answered by VPIC overnight. VPIC worked 22 overnight shifts during 2008.



\* In 2002, the number of calls received was lower than in previous years due to:

- February and March – reduced hours of operation due to staffing shortages.
- March to August – the telecommunications provider inappropriately diverted some Victorian calls to the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre.

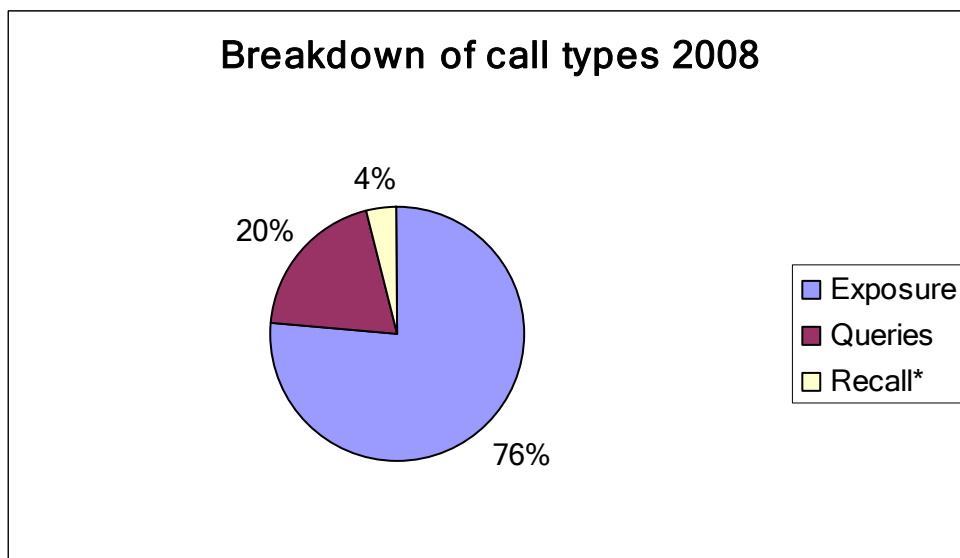
The 2008 total includes 876 calls answered by VPIC overnight (New South Wales 275, Victoria 176, Western Australia 162, Queensland 132, South Australia 81, Northern Territory 16, Tasmania 19, Australian Capital Territory 15)

### Call type

Most calls involved an exposure. One-fifth of calls were queries.

Call type	Number of calls	%
Exposure to a poison	30,696	76
Queries	7,953	20
Recall*	1,581	4
Total	40,230	100

- A recall is a second or subsequent call about a particular exposure.



\* A recall is a second or subsequent call about a particular exposure.

### Query type

The types of queries received are shown below.

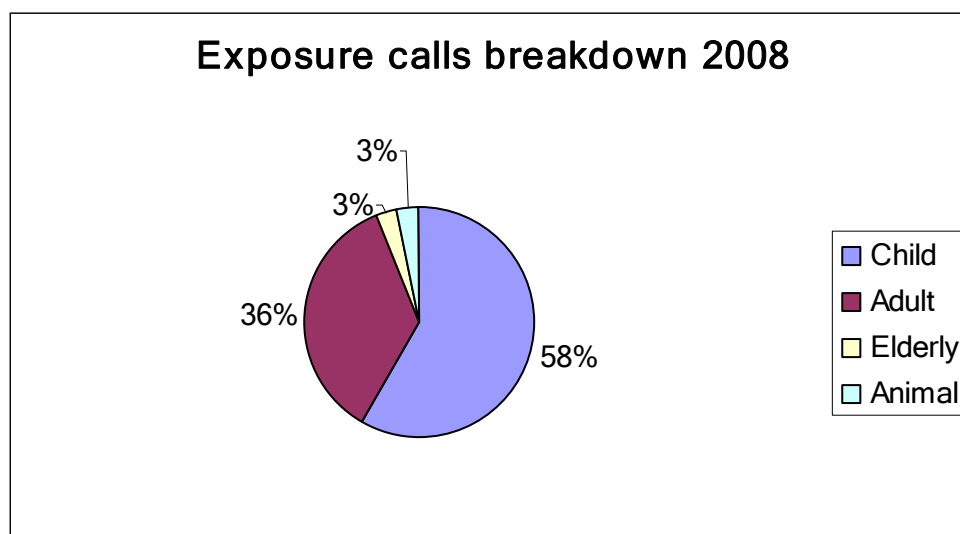
Query type	Number of calls	%
Poisons information	3,154	40
Drug information	2,874	36
Prevention of poisoning/safety	622	8
Medicines and pregnancy	381	5
Environmental	377	5
Medical	305	3
Medicines and breastfeeding	229	2
Occupational	11	<1
Total	7,953	100

### Person exposed

The majority of calls about exposure to a poison involved children.

Person exposed	Number of calls	%
Child (<16 years)	17,803	58
Adult (>16 years but <65 years)	11,048	36
Elderly (>65 years)	942	3
Animal*	903	3
Total	30,696	100

\* Callers phoning about an exposure involving an animal were referred to their vet



### Person calling (animal exposures excluded)

The majority of calls about exposure to a poison were received from members of the public.

Person calling	Number of calls	%
Family member	18,706	63
Self	4,957	17
Doctor	2,293	8
Nurse	1,378	5
Carer	873	3
Friend	681	2
Ambulance	384	1
Pharmacist	240	<1

Counselling service	137	<1
Other, eg police, teachers	83	<1
Other medical professional, eg psychologist, social worker	61	<1
Total	29,793	100

#### Type of exposure (animal exposures excluded)

The majority of calls about exposure to a poison involved accidental exposures.

Type of exposure	Number of calls	%
Accidental	22,944	77
Intentional	3,517	12
Therapeutic error	2,736	9
Workplace acute	560	2
Workplace chronic	28	<1
Environmental	5	<1
Other	3	<1
Total	29,793	100

#### Route of exposure (animal exposures excluded)

The majority of calls about exposure to a poison involved ingestion.

Route of exposure	Number of calls	%
Ingestion	23,645	79
Ocular	1,843	6
Dermal	1,661	5
Inhalation/nasal	1,262	4
Bite/sting	1,107	4
Parenteral	238	<1
Aural	19	<1
Vaginal	10	<1
Rectal	8	<1
Total	29,793	100

#### Handling calls - children

The majority of children exposed to a poison could be managed at home.

Handling calls - children	Number of calls	%
Stay at home	15,470	87
In hospital	911	5
Hospital refer	748	5
Other	235	1
At GP surgery	223	1
GP refer	216	1
Total	17,803	100

#### Handling calls - adults

The majority of adults exposed to a poison could be managed at home.

Handling calls - adults	Number of calls	%
Stay at home	5,751	52
In hospital	1,836	17
Hospital refer	1,784	16

GP refer	891	8
Other	465	4
At GP surgery	321	3
Total	11,048	100

### Handling calls - elderly

The majority of elderly people exposed to a poison could be managed at home.

Handling calls - elderly	Number of calls	%
Stay at home	678	72
In hospital	77	8
GP refer	76	8
Hospital refer	68	7.5
Other	29	3
At GP surgery	14	1.5
Total	942	100

### Symptom severity at the time of the call (animal exposures excluded)

The majority of human exposures were asymptomatic at the time of the call to VPIC.

Poisoning severity score*	Number of calls	%
None	21,320	72
Minor	8,027	27
Moderate	392	1
Severe	54	<1
Fatal	0	0
Total	29,793	100

\* Symptom severity scoring is based on the Poisoning Severity Score. Persson HE, Sjoberg GK, Haines JA, Pronczuk de Garbino J. Poisoning severity score. Clin Tox 1998; 36(3): 205-13.

### Ten substances that generated the most calls

The ten substances that generated the most calls to VPIC during 2008 are shown below.\*

Substance	Number of calls
Paracetamol	1,702
Benzodiazepines	996
Silica gel	821
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	611
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor antidepressants	589
Ibuprofen	546
Detergent: hand dish/sink	525
Cough and cold preparations (without paracetamol or aspirin)	510
Topical antiseptics	487
Spider bites (other than Redback, White-tailed spiders)	477

\*These are not necessarily the most toxic, but rather may be the most accessible.

## Exposures to non-medicine, non-drug products

Substance/product	Number of exposures
<b>HOME PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Adhesives, glues, cements, pastes</b>	
Cyanoacrylates	228
Epoxy resins	25
Model glues, cements	26
Non-toxic glues, pastes	52
Adhesive, glue, cement, paste: other/unknown	40
<b>Art, craft, hobby, writing products</b>	
Chalk	38
Correction fluid	39
Crayon	20
Paint: artists' paints, non-water colour	7
Paints: artists' paints, water colours	20
Paper/cardboard	25
Pencil	23
Pens/ink (including stamp pad ink, textas)	303
Printer ink/cartridge	7
Art, craft, writing products: other/unknown	20
<b>Batteries</b>	
Automotive	25
Disc/button battery	66
Penlight/dry cell	112
<b>Cleaners, bleaches, detergents etc</b>	
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	611
Bleach: other/unknown	6
Cleaner: all purpose/hard surface	436
Cleaner: ammonia based	19
Cleaner: baby bottle	15
Cleaner: bathroom/shower/tile	229
Cleaner: carpet	58
Cleaner: drain	64
Cleaner: floor	78
Cleaner: glass/window	92
Cleaner: industrial	132
Cleaner: leather/vinyl/upholstery	7
Cleaner: nappy	49
Cleaner: oven	184
Cleaner: other/unknown	173
Detergent: anionic/non-ionic (not hand dish type)	19
Detergent: automatic dishwasher liquids	15

Detergent: automatic dishwasher powders/tablets	288
Detergent: automatic dishwasher rinse agents	36
Detergent: cationic (not disinfectants)	5
Detergent: hand dish	525
Detergent: laundry	349
Disinfectant	470
Dry cleaning agent	3
Fabric softener	22
Ironing aid/starch	11
Laundry additive	16
Pre-wash stain remover	170
Rust remover: other/unknown	2
Sugar soap (sodium carbonate)	25
Tape head cleaner	4
Toilet bowl cleaner/deodoriser: cage type	211
Toilet bowl cleaner: powder/liquid	71
Vaporiser cleaning tablet	17
<b>Fire extinguishers</b>	
BCF/Halon	1
Dry powder	33
Foam	4
<b>Food products, food poisoning</b>	
Artificial sweeteners	2
Ciguatera	4
Food additives	168
Food allergy	44
Food poisoning	62
Food recall/scare	6
Food spoilage	246
<b>Garden products</b>	
Fertiliser: house plant food	28
Fertiliser: outdoor	72
Soil/potting mix	53
<b>Miscellaneous home products</b>	
Air fresheners	162
Blu-tack	30
Bubble blowing solution	165
Charcoal	6
Cigarettes and tobacco products	120
Coins	28
Cyalume light sticks/glow necklaces	249
Desiccants: other/unknown (not silica gel)	47

Dyes: fabric	21
Dyes: food	5
Dyes: other/unknown	16
Fire starters	64
Foreign body	193
Fragrant oil/pot pourri oil	98
Freezer/cold packs	43
Glass	22
Incense	8
Massage oil	20
Matches	28
Pet food	35
Plastic/polystyrene	64
Pot pourri	1
Room deodoriser	44
Silica gel	821
Thermometer: mercury	118
Thermometer: non-mercury	27
Toys	147
Household products: other/unknown	243
<b>Photographic products</b>	
Photographic chemicals	7
<b>Polishes and waxes</b>	
Polish/wax: car	4
Polish/wax: floor (including sealers)	2
Polish/wax: furniture	49
Polish/wax: metal	11
Polish/wax: shoe/boot	5
Polish/wax: other/unknown	1
<b>Swimming pool and aquarium products</b>	
Aquarium products	41
Pool chlorine	57
Pool test kits/solutions	3
Pool products: other/unknown	28
<b>BUILDING/HANDYMAN PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Building products</b>	
Asbestos	8
Asphalt/bitumen	2
Caulking compounds and construction putties	3
Cement/concrete/lime	54
Fibreglass	5
Insulation	5
Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide	5
Soldering flux	4

Building/handyman products: other/unknown	145
<b>Paints and paint strippers</b>	
Copper chrome arsenate (wood preservative)	22
Creosote (wood preservative)	11
Paints: anti-corrosive	3
Paints: oil-based	48
Paints: water-based house type	62
Paint strippers: methylene chloride based	6
Paint strippers: other/unknown	5
Paint thinner	41
Paints: other/unknown	89
Varnishes and lacquers	12
Wood stains	17
<b>CAR/BOAT PRODUCTS</b>	
Car products: antifreeze	15
Car products: brake fluid, transmission fluid etc	11
Car products: other/unknown	95
<b>CHEMICALS</b>	
<b>Alcohols</b>	
Alcohol ethanol (beverage)	312
Alcohol ethanol (non-beverage)	171
Alcohol: other/unknown	2
Isopropanol	35
Methanol	6
<b>Essential oils</b>	
Camphor	15
Clove oil	11
Eucalyptus oil	200
Tea tree oil	63
Essential oil: other/unknown	156
<b>Fumes, gases, vapours</b>	
Carbon dioxide	6
Carbon monoxide	28
Chlorine	23
Chlorine/chloramine gas (mixing household cleaning agents)	25
Helium	3
Hydrogen sulphide	2
Lacrimators (Mace spray, tear gas etc -not fumigants)	10
Methane and natural gas	51
Polymer fume fever	1

Propane and other simple asphyxiants	15
Smoke/toxic products of combustion	44
Fume/gas/vapour: other/unknown	57
<b>General chemicals</b>	
Acetone (not nail polish removers)	14
Acids: other/unknown	51
Alkalis (not cleaners)	53
Ammonia (not cleaners)	9
Borates (not insecticides)	14
Copper sulfate	19
Corrosives: other/unknown	15
Cyanide	4
Ethylene glycol and other glycols	37
Formaldehyde/formalin	25
Hydrochloric acid	36
Hydrofluoric acid	27
Hydrogen peroxide (non-medical)	37
Iodine (non-medical)	1
Isothiazolones (acticide, biocide, kathon, othilinone etc)	6
Methylene chloride (not paint strippers)	3
Nitrates and nitrites	18
Phenol and other phenolics	9
Potassium permanganate	5
Strychnine	2
Sulphur	5
Toluene diisocyanate	1
Chemicals: other/unknown	194
<b>Heavy metals</b>	
Aluminium	10
Cadmium	3
Chromium salts	4
Copper	17
Lead	31
Mercury (not thermometers)	17
Metal fume fever	13
Selenium	3
Heavy metals: other/unknown	7
<b>Hydrocarbons</b>	
Hydrocarbons: aliphatic	66
Hydrocarbons: aromatic	6
Hydrocarbons: halogenated	28
Hydrocarbons: other/unknown	5
Kerosene	20
Lamp oil	21

Lighter fluid	5
Oils: lubricating/engine/machine	94
Petrol	216
Shellite	4
Toluene/xylene	35
Turpentine, mineral	155
<b>BITES AND STINGS</b>	
<b>Insects</b>	
Ant	48
Bee	79
Caterpillar	8
Centipede/millipede	6
Mosquito	1
Scorpion	27
Tick	15
Wasp/hornet	97
Insect bites: other/unknown	107
<b>Mammals</b>	
Dog/cat bite	3
Animal bite: other/unknown	23
<b>Marine</b>	
Blue-ringed octopus	1
Fish stings: other/unknown	38
Jellyfish and other <i>Coelenterate</i> stings	20
Stingray	6
Marine bites/stings: other/unknown	8
<b>Reptiles and amphibians</b>	
Snake	60
<b>Spiders</b>	
Redback spider	201
White-tailed spider	126
Spider bite: other/unknown	477
<b>COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Cosmetics</b>	
Antiperspirants	28
Baby oil	69
Baby wipes	21
Bath oil/bubble bath/bath preparations	167
Cleanser: skin	3
Creams/lotions/make-up	202
Deodorants	107
Depilatories	51
Lipstick/lip balms	33

Perfume/cologne/aftershave	219
Soap	158
Sunscreen/suntan products	64
Talc and other external powders	77
Cosmetics: other/unknown	30
<b>Dental/oral care products</b>	
Denture cleaning agents	25
Mouthwash: ethanol containing	69
Mouthwash: non-ethanol containing	57
Mouthwash: other/unknown	1
Teething gels	72
Toothache drops	8
Toothpaste with fluoride	71
Toothpaste without fluoride	7
Dental care products: other/unknown	12
<b>Hair care products</b>	
Hair colours (not peroxide)	53
Hair colours (peroxide)	61
Hair conditioner	19
Hair gel/mousse	16
Hair rinses/perms	2
Hair spray	14
Shampoo antidandruff: selenium based	4
Shampoo antidandruff: zinc pyrithione	15
Shampoo antidandruff: other	5
Shampoo non-medicated	101
Hair care: other	36
<b>Nail products</b>	
Nail hardeners	4
Nail polish	139
Nail polish remover	159
Nail primer	7
Nail products: other/unknown	22
<b>VETERINARY PRODUCTS</b>	
Veterinary: animal vaccines	47
Veterinary: external medicines	125
Veterinary: flea collars/insecticidal washes	9
Veterinary: heart worm preparations	17
Veterinary: internal medicines	180
<b>PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES/FUNGICIDES</b>	
<b>Baits</b>	
1080/monofluoroacetate	2
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (warfarin type)	46
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (long-acting)	269

Rodenticides: other/unknown	67
Baits: other/unknown	7
<b>Carbamates</b>	
Carbamates	14
Carbamates in combination with other pesticides	20
<b>Chlorinated hydrocarbons</b>	
Chlorinated hydrocarbons	5
<b>Fumigants</b>	
Phosphine	4
Fumigants: other	7
<b>Fungicides</b>	
Carbamate type	4
Copper type	2
Fungicides: other/unknown (non-medical)	7
<b>Herbicides</b>	
Glyphosate	213
Herbicides: carbamate type	1
Herbicides: chlorphenoxy type (2,4 D; MCPA etc.)	40
Herbicides: triazine type	13
Paraquat/diquat	19
Herbicides: other/unknown	109
<b>Insecticides/pesticides</b>	
Borates/boric acid pesticides	123
Insect coils	3
Insect repellants containing DEET	134
Insect repellants not containing DEET	22
Pyrethrins/pyrethroids	400
Rotenone	1
Snail/slug bait: iron edetate	3
Snail/slug bait: metaldehyde	32
Snail/slug bait: methiocarb	8
Pesticides: other/unknown	68
<b>Moth repellents</b>	
Naphthalene moth repellants	53
Paradichlorobenzene moth repellants	1
<b>Organophosphates</b>	
Organophosphates	69
<b>PLANTS AND MUSHROOMS</b>	

Mushrooms	165
Plants: amaryllidaceae	29
Plants: amygdalin/cyanogenic glycosides	23
Plants: anticholinergic	17
Plants: cactus	11
Plants: capsaicin	30
Plants: cardiac glycosides	23
Plants: daphne	1
Plants: dermatitis	27
Plants: dieffenbachia	2
Plants: euphorbiaceae	26
Plants: gastrointestinal irritants	37
Plants: grayanotoxins	5
Plants: hallucinogenic	2
Plants: holly	2
Plants: lantana	4
Plants: non-toxic	83
Plants: oxalate	107
Plants: philodendron	1
Plants: solanine	40
Plants: toxicodendrol	1
Plants: other/unknown	131
<b>MISCELLANEOUS NON-MEDICINE, NON-DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Blue-green algae	1
Faeces/urine	60
Snail/slug	6

### Exposures to medicines and drugs

Medicine/drug	Number of exposures
<b>ANAESTHETICS</b>	
Anaesthetics: topical/local	27
Anaesthetics: other/unknown	2
Nitrous oxide	5
<b>ANALGESICS</b>	
Aspirin/narcotic combination analgesic	6
Aspirin/salicylates	133
Codeine	14
Dextropropoxyphene	3
Fentanyl	5
Morphine	36
Oxycodone	103
Paracetamol	1702
Paracetamol/narcotic combination	447

Pethidine	1
Tramadol	93
Analgesics: narcotic other/unknown	2
Analgesics: non-narcotic other/unknown	3
<b>ANTICHOLINERGICS</b>	
Atropine	11
Benztropine	15
Anticholinergic drugs: other/unknown	41
<b>ANTICOAGULANTS and BLOOD PRODUCTS</b>	
Heparin	3
Warfarin	100
Anticoagulants: other/unknown	1
Blood products: other/unknown	1
<b>ANTI-HISTAMINES</b>	
Cetirizine	46
Dexchlorpheniramine	41
Fexofenadine	37
Loratadine	53
Pheniramine	12
Promethazine	81
Antihistamines: other/unknown	35
<b>ANTIMICROBIALS</b>	
<b>Antibiotics</b>	
Antibiotic combinations (Augmentin, Bactrim etc.)	72
Cephalosporins	144
Macrolides	77
Penicillins	253
Quinolones	11
Sulphonamides	3
Tetracyclines	37
Antibiotics: other/unknown	26
<b>Antifungals</b>	
Antifungal drugs (ketoconazole, fluconazole etc)	21
<b>Antiparasitics/Anthelmintics</b>	
Anthelmintics	61
Antianaerobes (metronidazole, tinidazole etc)	14
Antimalarials (not quinine, chloroquine)	4
<b>Antituberculars</b>	
Antitubercular drugs	2

<b>Antivirals</b>	
Antiviral drugs	15
<b>ANTIMIGRAINE DRUGS</b>	
Ergot alkaloids	6
Migraine preparations: other/unknown	32
<b>ASTHMA/RESPIRATORY DRUGS</b>	
Bronchodilators	53
Leukotriene receptor antagonists (montelukast, zafirlukast etc)	35
Preventors	75
Theophylline and other xanthines	2
Asthma drugs: other/unknown	2
Respiratory drugs: other/unknown	22
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS</b>	
ACE inhibitor/diuretic combinations	25
ACE inhibitors	145
Adrenaline	63
Alpha blockers	9
Angina preparations	17
Angiotensin II antagonist/diuretic combinations	52
Angiotensin II antagonists	126
Antiarrhythmic agents	17
Antihypertensives: other (not diuretics)	20
Antiplatelet agents: other (clopidogrel, dipyridamole etc)	41
Beta blockers	208
Calcium antagonists	141
Cardiac glycosides	51
Diuretics	85
Diuretics: potassium sparing	15
HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins)	107
Lipid lowering agents: fibrates (gemfibrozil, fenofibrate etc)	2
Lipid lowering agents: other	3
Vasodilators	16
Cardiovascular drugs: other/unknown	6
<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS</b>	
<b>Antidepressants</b>	
Mianserin	2
Mirtazapine	111
Monoamine oxidase inhibitors	21
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine etc.)	589

Tricyclic antidepressants	105
Venlafaxine	182
Antidepressants: other/unknown	32
<b>Antiepileptics</b>	
Carbamazepine	121
Gabapentin	6
Phenytoin	24
Pregabalin	9
Sodium valproate	241
Antiepileptics: other/unknown	95
<b>Antipsychotics</b>	
Amisulpride	24
Aripiprazole	16
Clozapine	16
Olanzapine	118
Phenothiazines (chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine etc)	79
Quetiapine	215
Risperidone	90
Ziprasidone	12
Antipsychotics: other/unknown	18
<b>CNS depressants</b>	
Barbiturates	19
Benzodiazepines	996
Doxylamine	47
Sleep aids over-the-counter: other	6
Zolpidem	76
Sedative/hypnotic: other/unknown	33
<b>CNS stimulants</b>	
Amphetamines (for ADHD, not street drugs)	80
Caffeine	51
<b>CNS – miscellaneous</b>	
Antidementia agents (donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine)	18
Antiparkinsonian agents	40
Clonidine	52
Lithium	47
CNS drugs: other/unknown	1
<b>COUGH/COLD PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antitussives	28
Cough/cold preparations with paracetamol	162
Cough/cold preparations without paracetamol/aspirin	510

Dextromethorphan	23
Pseudoephedrine	18
Throat lozenges with local anaesthetic	7
Throat lozenges without local anaesthetic	14
<b>DRUGS USED IN ADDICTIVE DISORDERS</b>	
Buprenorphine	19
Bupropion	15
Disulfiram	1
Methadone	33
Naloxone	1
Naltrexone	13
Antismoking products: other (nicotine patches, gum etc)	65
<b>EAR PREPARATIONS</b>	
Ear drops	60
Ear ointments	3
Ear products: other/unknown	1
<b>EYE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Contact lens preparations	12
Eye drops: imidazoline-based	8
Eye drops: other/unknown	33
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antacids	108
Antidiarrhoeals: diphenoxylate/atropine	5
Antidiarrhoeals: loperamide	20
Antidiarrhoeals: other	3
Antiemetics	104
Antispasmodics	26
Barium, soluble salts	2
Histamine <sub>2</sub> - antagonists (cimetidine, ranitidine etc.)	40
Laxatives	117
Proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole, esomeprazole etc.)	160
Gastrointestinal preparations: other/unknown	70
<b>METABOLISM</b>	
<b>Electrolytes/minerals</b>	
Calcium salts	43
Fluoride	23
Iron (not multivitamins)	103
Potassium salts	26

<b>Vitamins</b>	
Folic acid	68
Vitamin A	2
Vitamin B group	29
Vitamin C	43
Vitamin D	67
Vitamins compound with iron	236
Vitamins compound without iron	48
Vitamins: other	73
<b>Other metabolic</b>	
Androgenic and anabolic agents	4
Antihormones (tamoxifen, cyproterone, flutamide etc.)	7
Antithyroid preparations	9
Bisphosphonates	12
Corticosteroids	183
Diet aids/anorectics – over-the-counter	4
Diet aids/anorectics – prescription	20
Hypoglycaemics, oral: alpha glucosidase inhibitors (acarbose etc)	1
Hypoglycaemics, oral: biguanides (metformin)	65
Hypoglycaemics, oral: glitazones	9
Hypoglycaemics, oral: sulphonylureas (glibenclamide, gliclazide etc)	59
Insulin	29
Oestrogens/progestagens (not oral contraceptives)	12
Oral contraceptives: oestrogen and progestogen	372
Oral contraceptives: progestogen only	47
Thyroxine	129
Thyroid preparations: other/unknown	12
Hormones: other/unknown	27
<b>NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS AND GOUT MEDICATIONS</b>	
Allopurinol	29
Celecoxib	26
Colchicine	15
Diclofenac	167
Ibuprofen	546
Ibuprofen plus codeine	117
Indomethacin	5
Mefenamic acid	12
Naproxen	40
NSAIDs: other/unknown	47

<b>NOSE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Nose drops/sprays: imidazoline-based	5
Nose drops/sprays: other/unknown	11
Nasal preparations: other/unknown	8
<b>STREET DRUGS</b>	
Amphetamine and related drugs	46
Amyl nitrite and other volatile nitrites	1
Cocaine	2
Ecstasy and other hallucinogenic amphetamines	24
Gamma hydroxybutyrate	4
Heroin	16
Inhalant abuse (chroming)	18
Marijuana	27
LSD	6
Street drugs: other/unknown	22
<b>TOPICAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Acne preparations	21
Antipruritics (calamine lotion etc)	22
Capsaicin	13
Chest rubs	104
Hydrogen peroxide	6
Lice/scabies preparations	105
Liniments	101
Lotions/creams/ointments: other/unknown	6
Nappy rash products	471
Topical antibiotics	7
Topical antifungals	119
Topical antiseptics	487
Topical antivirals	9
Topical corticosteroids	146
Wart/corn preparations	10
Topical preparations: other/unknown	94
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MEDICINE/DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Antineoplastics	13
Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine	8
Herbal preparations	113
Homeopathic preparations	67
Immunosuppressants	21
Methotrexate	26
Muscle relaxants	16
Quinine	4
Radiopharmaceuticals	1
Unknown tablets/capsules	39

Urinary alkalinisers/antiseptics	5
Vaccines/toxoids/antivenoms	19
Vaporiser fluids and inhalants	260
Other over-the-counter-medicines	90
Other prescription medicines	92