

# Victorian Poisons Information Centre

## Annual Report 2006

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## **Introduction**

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) is located at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Melbourne. VPIC commenced operation in 1962; it has been at RCH since 1976. VPIC is directed administratively as part of the RCH 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.

## **Staff Members**

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

Brian Lilley B. Pharm., Grad. Dip. Hosp. Pharm., M.B.A.

### **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) (from September 2006)

Stephen Gibbins B. Pharm., B. Sc., M.P.H. (until April 2006)

Fabian Kong B. Pharm. (from February 2006)

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

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

Christine McKenzie B. Pharm., Grad. Cert. E-Health Comm. (from May 2006)

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.

## **Review of Management Protocols**

- The following VPIC management protocols were reviewed during 2006: 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 February and August, Jeff Robinson was interviewed on radio stations 3WBC and 3AW respectively about the role of VPIC, types of calls received, poisoning prevention strategies etc.
- 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.
- In July, Jeff Robinson participated in a poisoning prevention campaign with the RCH Safety Centre, aimed at non-English-speaking communities.
- The Poisoning Prevention section of the Royal Children's Hospital Child Safety Handbook (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) was reviewed.
- Jeff Robinson had extensive input into the Department of Human Services-funded 'Remove the risk. Put poisons away. Straight away' paediatric poisoning prevention campaign, which was launched at RCH in October.

## **Research Activities and Publications**

- Taylor DMcD, Robinson J, MacLeod D, Braitberg G. Therapeutic errors reported to the Victorian Poisons Information Centre – pilot study. *J Pharm Pract Res* 2006; 36(2):96–8.
- Robinson J, Cranswick N. Medicinal mishap. Dosing errors with Donnalix Infant Drops. *Aust Prescr* 2006; 29(3):83.
- Robinson J, MacLeod D, Taylor D, Lebel T, May T. The safety of edible fungi purchased at Melbourne markets. *Aust NZ J Public Health* 2006; 30(3):279–80.
- Sherrard J, Sweidan M, Robinson J, Killian J, Brennan C, Ozanne-Smith J. Barriers to Child Poisoning Prevention. Why does Child-Resistant Packaging Fail? Melbourne: Monash University Accident Research Centre and the Royal Children's Hospital. Report released September 2006.
- In January, VPIC commenced patient enrolments for the study: Nature and Outcomes of Therapeutic Errors reported to the Victorian Poisons Information Centre.

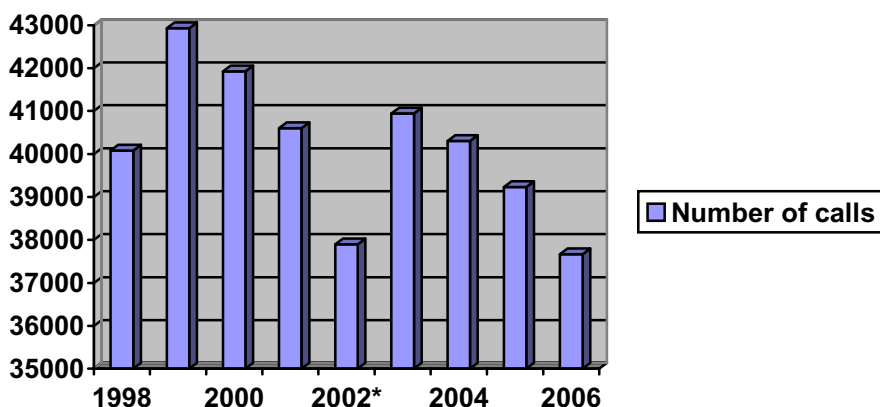
## **Other Activities**

The following additional activities were undertaken during 2006:

- Meetings of the RCH Clinical Toxicology Service were held monthly.
- VPIC staff attended two of the NSW Poisons Information Centre Clinical Meetings.
- Dr. Ken Winkel and staff from the Australian Venom Research Unit presented an update on bites and stings to VPIC staff.
- Janet Browning delivered a lecture on Paediatric Poisoning at the Murray Plains Division of General Practice paediatric seminar.
- Articles about poisoning in children, problems with child-resistant closures, poisoning prevention and the role of VPIC appeared in *The Age*, *Herald Sun* and *Sunday Herald Sun* newspapers in August and October.
- VPIC operations were demonstrated to visitors from the USA, Norway, Japan and China.

## Calls to VPIC

The centre received 37,668 calls during 2006, an average of 103 calls per day. This was slightly lower than 2005 (39,230 calls, average of 107 calls per day).



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

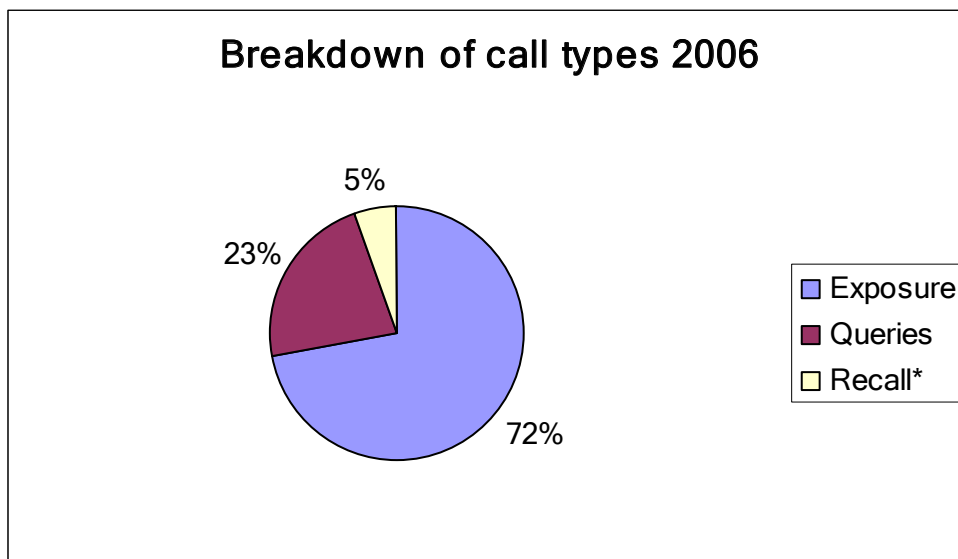
- February and March – reduced hours of operation due to staffing shortages.
- March to August – the telecommunications provider inappropriately diverted some Victorian calls to the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre.

### Call type

Most calls involved an exposure. Just below a quarter of calls were queries.

Call type	Number of calls	%
Exposure to a poison	27121	72
Queries	8565	23
Recall*	1982	5
Total	37668	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	3723	43
Drug information	2676	31
Prevention of poisoning/safety	798	9

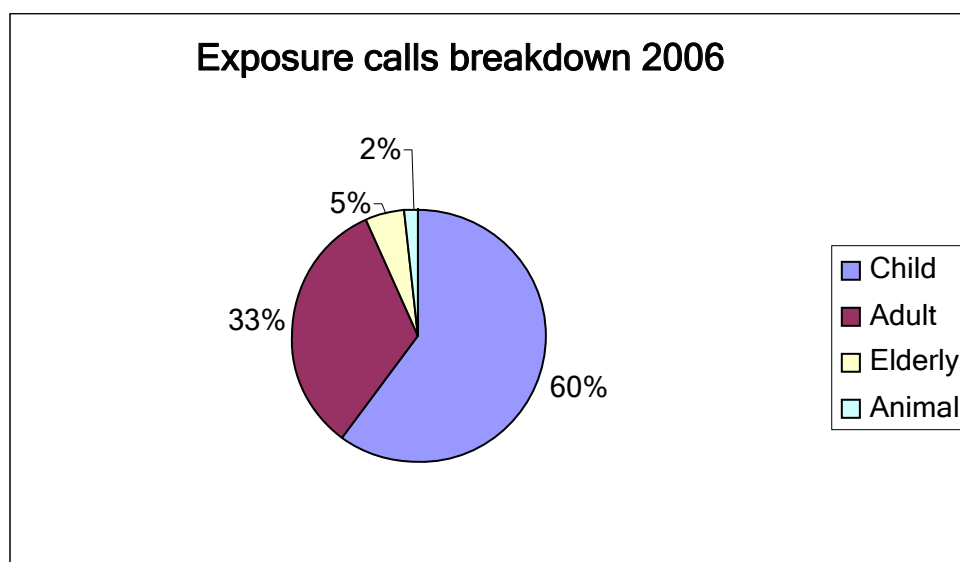
Medical	434	5
Environmental	389	5
Pregnancy	329	4
Breastfeeding	164	2
Occupational	52	1
Total	8565	100

### Person exposed

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

Person exposed	Number of calls	%
Child (<16 years)	16275	60
Adult (>16 years but <65 years)	9021	33
Elderly (>65 years)	1350	5
Animal*	475	2
Total	27121	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	17130	64
Self	4097	15
Doctor	1940	7
Nurse	1253	5
Friend	689	3
Carer	668	3
Ambulance	361	1
Pharmacist	257	1
Counselling service	120	<1
Other medical professional, eg psychologist, social worker	78	<1
Other, eg police, teachers	53	<1
Total	26646	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	21584	81
Intentional	2873	11
Therapeutic error	1595	6
Workplace acute	545	2
Environmental	33	<1
Workplace chronic	13	<1
Other	3	<1
Total	26646	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	20517	77
Bite/sting	1651	6
Ocular	1590	6
Dermal	1525	6
Inhalation/nasal	1167	4
Parenteral	164	<1
Aural	22	<1
Vaginal	7	<1
Rectal	3	<1
Total	26646	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	13670	84
Hospital refer	1140	7
In hospital	815	5
GP refer	326	2
At GP surgery	195	1
Other	129	1
Total	16275	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	4857	54
Hospital refer	1843	20
In hospital	1167	13
GP refer	727	8
At GP surgery	331	4
Other	96	1
Total	9021	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	1028	76
Hospital refer	108	8
GP refer	100	8
At GP surgery	86	6
In hospital	20	1
Other	8	1
Total	1350	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	18814	71
Minor	7318	27
Moderate	472	2
Severe	42	<1
Fatal	0	0
Total	26646	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 2005 are shown below.\*

Substance	Number of calls
Paracetamol	1414
Benzodiazepines	893
Silica gel	631
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor antidepressants	605
Spider bites (other than Redback, White-tailed spiders)	576
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	568
Cough and cold preparations (without paracetamol or aspirin)	567
Nappy rash products	474
Ibuprofen	412
Rodenticides	412

\*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	213
Epoxy resins	24
Model glues, cements	19
Non-toxic glues, pastes	39
Adhesive, glue, cement, paste: other/unknown	45
<b>Art, craft, hobby, writing products</b>	
Chalk	23
Correction fluid	30
Crayon	20
Paint: artists' paints, non-water colour	13
Paints: artists' paints, water colours	19
Paper/cardboard	21
Pencil	19
Pens/ink (including stamp pad ink, textas)	222
Printer ink/cartridge	10
Art, craft, writing products: other/unknown	18
<b>Batteries</b>	
Automotive	15
Disc/button battery	76
Penlight/dry cell	104
<b>Cleaners, bleaches, detergents etc</b>	
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	568
Bleach: other/unknown	8
Cleaner: all purpose/hard surface	410
Cleaner: ammonia based	32
Cleaner: baby bottle	6
Cleaner: bathroom/shower/tile	129
Cleaner: carpet	51
Cleaner: drain	40
Cleaner: floor	60
Cleaner: glass/window	122
Cleaner: industrial	106
Cleaner: leather/vinyl/upholstery	5
Cleaner: nappy	67
Cleaner: oven	152
Cleaner: other/unknown	132
Detergent: anionic/non-ionic (not hand dish type)	29
Detergent: automatic dishwasher liquids	14

Detergent: automatic dishwasher powders/tablets	312
Detergent: automatic dishwasher rinse agents	21
Detergent: cationic (not disinfectants)	3
Detergent: hand dish	408
Detergent: laundry	288
Disinfectant	347
Dry cleaning agent	2
Fabric softener	24
Ironing aid/starch	7
Laundry additive	8
Pre-wash stain remover	112
Rust remover: other/unknown	6
Sugar soap (sodium carbonate)	15
Tape head cleaner	1
Toilet bowl cleaner/deodoriser: cage type	180
Toilet bowl cleaner: powder/liquid	58
Vaporiser cleaning tablet	13
<b>Fire extinguishers</b>	
BCF/Halon	1
Dry powder	37
Foam	4
<b>Food products, food poisoning</b>	
Artificial sweeteners	2
Food additives	90
Food allergy	56
Food poisoning	107
Food spoilage	229
MSG ("Chinese Restaurant Syndrome")	1
<b>Garden products</b>	
Fertiliser: house plant food	39
Fertiliser: outdoor	54
Soil/potting mix	52
<b>Miscellaneous home products</b>	
Air fresheners	116
Blu-tack	29
Bubble blowing solution	143
Charcoal	18
Christmas decorations	1
Cigarettes and tobacco products	121
Coins	51
Cyalume light sticks/glow necklaces	225
Desiccants: other/unknown (not silica gel)	33

Dyes: fabric	15
Dyes: food	6
Dyes: other/unknown	12
Fire starters	59
Foreign body	250
Fragrant oil/pot pourri oil	65
Freezer/cold packs	29
Glass	18
Incense	8
Massage oil	21
Matches	8
Pet food	24
Plastic/polystyrene	64
Room deodoriser	51
Silica gel	631
Thermometer: mercury	100
Thermometer: mercury	12
Toys	95
Household products: other/unknown	240
<b>Photographic products</b>	
Photographic chemicals	10
Photographic products: other/unknown	2
<b>Polishes and waxes</b>	
Polish/wax: car	8
Polish/wax: floor (including sealers)	1
Polish/wax: furniture	26
Polish/wax: metal	8
Polish/wax: shoe/boot	7
Polish/wax: other/unknown	2
<b>Swimming pool and aquarium products</b>	
Aquarium products	27
Pool chlorine	79
Pool test kits/solutions	1
Pool products: other/unknown	11
<b>BUILDING/HANDYMAN PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Building products</b>	
Asbestos	10
Asphalt/bitumen	3
Caulking compounds and construction putties	6
Cement/concrete/lime	47
Clay	2
Fibreglass	13
Insulation	3
Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide	7

Soldering flux	2
Building/handyman products: other/unknown	116
<b>Paints and paint strippers</b>	
Copper chrome arsenate (wood preservative)	8
Creosote (wood preservative)	10
Paints: anti-corrosive	1
Paints: oil-based	56
Paints: water-based house type	67
Paint strippers: methylene chloride based	10
Paint strippers: other/unknown	11
Paint thinner	52
Paints: other/unknown	90
Varnishes and lacquers	12
Wood stains	20
<b>CAR/BOAT PRODUCTS</b>	
Car products: antifreeze	26
Car products: brake fluid, transmission fluid etc	36
Car products: other/unknown	62
<b>CHEMICALS</b>	
<b>Alcohols</b>	
Alcohol ethanol (beverage)	256
Alcohol ethanol (non-beverage)	136
Alcohol higher (butanol, propanol etc.)	1
Alcohol: other/unknown	3
Isopropanol	25
Methanol	12
<b>Essential oils</b>	
Camphor	19
Clove oil	14
Eucalyptus oil	175
Tea tree oil	45
Essential oil: other/unknown	141
<b>Fumes, gases, vapours</b>	
Carbon monoxide	27
Chlorine	13
Chlorine/chloramine gas (mixing household cleaning agents)	28
Helium	7
Hydrogen sulphide	3
Lacrimators (Mace spray, tear gas etc -not fumigants)	2
Methane and natural gas	47

Polymer fume fever	2
Propane and other simple asphyxiants	22
Smoke/toxic products of combustion	63
Fume/gas/vapour: other/unknown	71
<b>General chemicals</b>	
Acetone (not nail polish removers)	13
Acids: other/unknown	55
Alkalis (not cleaners)	49
Ammonia (not cleaners)	22
Borates (not insecticides)	11
Copper sulfate	27
Corrosives: other/unknown	11
Cyanide	3
Ethylene glycol and other glycols	22
Formaldehyde/formalin	15
Hydrochloric acid	36
Hydrofluoric acid	20
Hydrogen peroxide (non-medical)	33
Iodine (non-medical)	7
Isothiazolones (acticide, biocide, kathon, octhilinone etc)	4
Methylene chloride (not paint strippers)	3
Nitrates and nitrites	12
Phenol and other phenolics	7
Polychlorinated/polybrominated biphenyls	3
Potassium permanganate	7
Strychnine	1
Sulphur	9
Toluene diisocyanate	5
Chemicals: other/unknown	163
<b>Heavy metals</b>	
Aluminium	10
Cadmium	2
Chromium salts	3
Copper	13
Lead	23
Mercury (not thermometers)	18
Metal fume fever	23
Selenium	3
Heavy metals: other/unknown	4
<b>Hydrocarbons</b>	
Hydrocarbons: aliphatic	82
Hydrocarbons: aromatic	5
Hydrocarbons: halogenated	34
Hydrocarbons: other/unknown	15

Kerosene	24
Lamp oil	22
Lighter fluid	3
Oils: lubricating/engine/machine	54
Petrol	225
Toluene/xylene	21
Turpentine mineral	221
<b>BITES AND STINGS</b>	
<b>Insects</b>	
Ant	63
Bee	102
Caterpillar	5
Centipede/millipede	18
Mosquito	4
Scorpion	65
Tick	15
Wasp/hornet	145
Insect bites: other/unknown	114
<b>Mammals</b>	
Dog/cat bite	8
Animal bite: other/unknown	20
<b>Marine</b>	
Blue-ringed octopus	1
Fish stings: other/unknown	42
Jellyfish and other <i>Coelenterate</i> stings	12
Stingray	10
Marine bites/stings: other/unknown	17
<b>Reptiles and amphibians</b>	
Snake	51
<b>Spiders</b>	
Redback spider	190
White-tailed spider	173
Spider bite: other/unknown	576
<b>COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Cosmetics</b>	
Antiperspirants	16
Baby oil	40
Baby wipes	13
Bath oil/bubble bath/bath preparations	139
Cleanser: skin	19
Creams/lotions/make-up	157
Deodorants	120
Depilatories	38

Lipstick/lip balms	29
Perfume/cologne/aftershave	213
Soap	148
Sunscreen/suntan products	66
Talc and other external powders	49
Cosmetics: other/unknown	59
<b>Dental/oral care products</b>	
Denture cleaning agents	29
Mouthwash: ethanol containing	57
Mouthwash: non-ethanol containing	8
Mouthwash: other/unknown	2
Teething gels	62
Toothache drops	10
Toothpaste with fluoride	62
Toothpaste without fluoride	4
Dental care products: other/unknown	7
<b>Hair care products</b>	
Hair colours (not peroxide)	58
Hair colours (peroxide)	54
Hair conditioner	16
Hair gel/mousse	31
Hair rinses/perms	7
Hair spray	16
Shampoo antidandruff: selenium based	8
Shampoo antidandruff: zinc pyrithione	6
Shampoo antidandruff: other	5
Shampoo non-medicated	96
Hair care: other	33
<b>Nail products</b>	
Nail hardeners	9
Nail polish	126
Nail polish remover	115
Nail primer	14
Nail products: other/unknown	18
<b>VETERINARY PRODUCTS</b>	
Veterinary: animal vaccines	58
Veterinary: external medicines	115
Veterinary: flea collars/insecticidal washes	8
Veterinary: heart worm preparations	15
Veterinary: internal medicines	157
<b>PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES/FUNGICIDES</b>	
<b>Baits</b>	
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (warfarin type)	38
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (long-acting)	301

Rodenticides: other/unknown	73
Baits: other/unknown	20
<b>Carbamates</b>	
Carbamates	15
Carbamates in combination with other pesticides	17
<b>Chlorinated hydrocarbons</b>	
Chlorinated hydrocarbons	2
Chlorinated hydrocarbons in combination with other pesticides	1
<b>Fumigants</b>	
Bromides	5
Chloropicrin	2
Phosphine	4
Fumigants: other	1
<b>Fungicides</b>	
Carbamate type	2
Copper type	4
Fungicides: other/unknown (non-medical)	8
<b>Herbicides</b>	
Glyphosate	289
Herbicides: carbamate type	4
Herbicides: chlorophenoxy type (2,4 D; MCPA etc.)	34
Herbicides: triazine type	14
Herbicides: urea type	2
Paraquat/diquat	16
Herbicides: other/unknown	68
<b>Insecticides/pesticides</b>	
Borates/boric acid pesticides	153
Insect coils	4
Insect repellants containing DEET	105
Insect repellants not containing DEET	5
Pesticides: arsenic	1
Pyrethrins/pyrethroids	312
Rotenone	2
Snail/slug bait: iron edetate	8
Snail/slug bait: iron phosphate	1
Snail/slug bait: metaldehyde	28
Snail/slug bait: methiocarb	8
Pesticides: other/unknown	67
<b>Moth repellents</b>	

Naphthalene moth repellants	63
Paradichlorobenzene moth repellants	2
<b>Organophosphates</b>	
Organophosphates	85
<b>PLANTS AND MUSHROOMS</b>	
Mushrooms	163
Plants: amaryllidaceae	26
Plants: amygdalin/cyanogenic glycosides	26
Plants: anticholinergic	24
Plants: cactus	3
Plants: capsaicin	37
Plants: cardiac glycosides	17
Plants: dermatitis	30
Plants: dieffenbachia	2
Plants: euphorbiaceae	15
Plants: gastrointestinal irritants	17
Plants: grayanotoxins	6
Plants: lantana	1
Plants: non-toxic	102
Plants: oxalate	136
Plants: philodendron	4
Plants: solanine	28
Plants: toxicodendrol	3
Plants: other/unknown	118
<b>MISCELLANEOUS NON-MEDICINE, NON-DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Blue-green algae	5
Faeces/urine	51
Snail/slug	9

### Exposures to medicines and drugs

<b>Medicine/drug</b>	<b>Number of exposures</b>
<b>ANAESTHETICS</b>	
Anaesthetics: topical/local	18
Anaesthetics: other/unknown	2
<b>ANALGESICS</b>	
Aspirin/narcotic combination analgesic	6
Aspirin/salicylates	115
Codeine	20
Dextropropoxyphene	3
Morphine	35
Oxycodone	38
Paracetamol	1414

Paracetamol/narcotic combination	373
Pethidine	1
Tramadol	106
Analgesics: other/unknown	5
<b>ANTICHOLINERGICS</b>	
Atropine	2
Benztropine	26
Anticholinergic drugs: other/unknown	74
<b>ANTICOAGULANTS</b>	
Warfarin	47
Anticoagulants: other/unknown	9
<b>ANTIHISTAMINES</b>	
Cetirizine	29
Dexchlorpheniramine	26
Fexofenadine	18
Loratadine	44
Pheniramine	5
Promethazine	71
Antihistamines: other/unknown	42
<b>ANTIMICROBIALS</b>	
<b>Antibiotics</b>	
Aminoglycosides	1
Antibiotic combinations (Augmentin, Bactrim etc.)	41
Cephalosporins	94
Macrolides	62
Penicillins	252
Quinolones	5
Sulphonamides	6
Tetracyclines	39
Antibiotics: other/unknown	25
<b>Antifungals</b>	
Antifungal drugs (ketoconazole, fluconazole etc)	28
<b>Antiparasitics/anthelmintics</b>	
Anthelmintics	59
Antianaerobes (metronidazole, tinidazole etc)	21
Antimalarials (not quinine, chloroquine)	3
Antiparasitic	1
<b>Antituberculars</b>	
Antitubercular drugs	3

<b>Antivirals</b>	
Antiviral drugs	9
<b>ANTIMIGRAINE DRUGS</b>	
Ergot alkaloids	7
Triptans (naratriptan, sumatriptan etc)	3
Migraine preparations: other/unknown	26
<b>ASTHMA/RESPIRATORY DRUGS</b>	
Bronchodilators	75
Leukotriene receptor antagonists (montelukast, zafirlukast etc)	35
Preventors	40
Theophylline and other xanthines	5
Asthma drugs: other/unknown	7
Respiratory drugs: other/unknown	48
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS</b>	
ACE inhibitor/diuretic combinations	16
ACE inhibitors	115
Adrenaline	28
Alpha blockers	6
Angina preparations	11
Angiotensin II antagonist/diuretic combinations	49
Angiotensin II antagonists	71
Antiarrhythmic agents	26
Antihypertensives: other (not diuretics)	11
Antiplatelet agents: other (clopidogrel, dipyridamole etc)	21
Beta blockers	174
Calcium antagonists	113
Cardiac glycosides	37
Diuretics	60
Diuretics: potassium sparing	11
HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins)	71
Lipid lowering agents: fibrates (gemfibrozil, fenofibrate etc)	3
Lipid lowering agents: other	10
Vasodilators	10
Cardiovascular drugs: other	6
<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS</b>	
<b>Antidepressants</b>	
Mianserin	2
Mirtazapine	83
Monoamine oxidase inhibitors	15
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors	605

(citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine etc.)	
Tricyclic antidepressants	103
Venlafaxine	155
Antidepressants: other/unknown	18
<b>Antiepileptics</b>	
Carbamazepine	150
Gabapentin	12
Phenytoin	41
Sodium valproate	235
Antiepileptics: other/unknown	107
<b>Antipsychotics</b>	
Amisulpride	22
Aripiprazole	8
Clozapine	12
Olanzapine	126
Phenothiazines (chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine etc)	131
Quetiapine	123
Risperidone	66
Antipsychotics: other/unknown	34
<b>CNS depressants</b>	
Barbiturates	10
Benzodiazepines	893
Doxylamine	21
Sleep aids – over-the-counter: other	3
Zolpidem	70
Sedative/hypnotic: other/unknown	20
<b>CNS stimulants</b>	
Amphetamines (for ADHD, not street drugs)	99
Caffeine	44
<b>CNS – miscellaneous</b>	
Antidementia agents (donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine)	34
Antiparkinsonian agents	34
Clonidine	63
Lithium	47
CNS drugs: other/unknown	
<b>COUGH/COLD PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antitussives	27
Cough/cold preparations with paracetamol	123
Cough/cold preparations without paracetamol/aspirin	567
Pseudoephedrine	22

Throat lozenges with local anaesthetic	4
Throat lozenges without local anaesthetic	4
<b>DRUGS USED IN ADDICTIVE DISORDERS</b>	
Buprenorphine	7
Bupropion	40
Disulfiram	2
Methadone	17
Naltrexone	6
Antismoking products: other (nicotine patches, gum etc)	25
<b>EAR PREPARATIONS</b>	
Ear drops	43
Ear ointments	1
Ear products: other/unknown	1
<b>EYE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Contact lens preparations	17
Eye drops: imidazoline-based	2
Eye drops: other/unknown	40
Eye ointment	1
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antacids	66
Antidiarrhoeals: diphenoxylate/atropine	10
Antidiarrhoeals: loperamide	18
Antiemetics	76
Antispasmodics	29
Histamine- antagonists (cimetidine, ranitidine etc.)	40
Laxatives	84
Proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole, esomeprazole etc.)	120
Gastrointestinal preparations: other/unknown	83
<b>METABOLISM</b>	
<b>Electrolytes/minerals</b>	
Calcium salts	40
Fluoride	26
Iron (not multivitamins)	96
Potassium salts	20
<b>Vitamins</b>	
Folic acid	55
Vitamin A	1
Vitamin B group	22
Vitamin C	44

Vitamin D	30
Vitamins compound with iron	190
Vitamins compound without iron	46
Vitamins: other	40
<b>Other metabolic</b>	
Antihormones (tamoxifen, cyproterone, flutamide etc.)	1
Antithyroid preparations	4
Bisphosphonates	15
Corticosteroids	164
Diet aids/anorectics – over-the-counter	7
Diet aids/anorectics – prescription	16
Hypoglycaemics, oral: biguanides (metformin)	60
Hypoglycaemics, oral: glitazones	9
Hypoglycaemics, oral: sulphonylureas (glibenclamide, gliclazide etc)	40
Insulin	7
Oestrogens/progestagens (not oral contraceptives)	15
Oral contraceptives: oestrogen and progestogen	246
Oral contraceptives: progestogen only	46
Thyroxine	119
Thyroid preparations: other/unknown	14
Hormones: other/unknown	13
<b>NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS AND GOUT MEDICATIONS</b>	
Allopurinol	18
Celecoxib	5
Colchicine	21
Diclofenac	131
Ibuprofen	412
Ibuprofen plus codeine	59
Indomethacin	26
Mefenamic acid	6
Naproxen	37
NSAIDs: other/unknown	43
<b>NOSE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Nose drops/sprays: imidazoline-based	9
Nose drops/sprays	4
Nasal preparations: other/unknown	10
<b>STREET DRUGS</b>	
Amphetamine and related drugs	65
Amyl nitrite and other volatile nitrites	1

Cocaine	2
Ecstasy and other hallucinogenic amphetamines	21
Gamma hydroxybutyrate	9
Heroin	13
Inhalant abuse (chroming)	4
LSD	1
Marijuana	24
Hallucinogenics: other/unknown	1
Street drugs: other/unknown	46
<b>TOPICAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Acne preparations	18
Antipruritics (calamine lotion etc)	27
Capsaicin	5
Chest rubs	67
Hydrogen peroxide	8
Lice/scabies preparations	127
Liniments	70
Lotions/creams/ointments: other/unknown	7
Nappy rash products	474
Topical antibiotics	6
Topical antifungals	76
Topical antiseptics	222
Topical antivirals	1
Topical corticosteroids	106
Wart/corn preparations	17
Topical preparations: other/unknown	110
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MEDICINE/DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Antineoplastics	10
Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine	12
Herbal preparations	90
Homeopathic preparations	41
Immunosuppressants	11
Methotrexate	29
Muscle relaxants	28
Quinine	3
Unknown tablets/capsules	3
Urinary alkalinisers/antiseptics	1
Vaccines/toxoids/antivenoms	17
Vaporiser fluids and inhalants	208
Other over-the-counter-medicines	100
Other prescription medicines	89