

# Victorian Poisons Information Centre

## Annual Report 2009

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## **Introduction**

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) commenced operation in 1962. It was located at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne from 1976 to 2008. In August 2008, the centre relocated to the Austin Hospital, to integrate with the Austin Hospital Clinical Toxicology Service (AHCTS). 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, mistakes with medicines, bites and stings
- the need for medical assessment
- prevention of poisoning
- referral to other information sources as necessary.

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 2009, VPIC continued to work some overnight shifts (12 midnight to 0600 hours), to assist the three other Australian Poisons Information Centres (PICs) taking calls from across Australia while other state PICs 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.

### **Medical Director of VPIC**

Dr Shaun Greene BHB, MBChB, MSc (Medical Toxicology) – appointed November 2009

### **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.

In November 2009, Dr Shaun Greene was appointed as Medical Director of VPIC. Shaun is an experienced clinical toxicologist who most recently worked at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital and the London Poisons Unit before joining Austin Health.

AHCTS is comprised of a toxicology registrar (six month rotation) and five toxicology consultants (Dr. Fergus Kerr, Dr. Shaun Greene, Dr. Zeff Koutsogiannis, Dr. Chris O'Callaghan, Professor Albert Frauman). AHCTS provides a specialised management and advice service for toxicology/toxinology admissions. VPIC staff enjoy a close day-to-day working relationship with all AHCTS members. In complicated and/or severe poisoning cases, they have ready access to the toxicology registrar or the on-call toxicology consultant.

In addition, a range of external consultants (clinical pharmacologists, mycologists, botanists and toxinologists) are available to VPIC staff to provide specialist advice in these areas if needed.

### **Review of Management Protocols**

- The following VPIC management protocols were reviewed during 2009: Eucalyptus Oil Ingestion; Ingestion of Unidentified Fungi.

### **Poisoning Prevention Activities**

- The Poisoning Prevention section of the Royal Children's Hospital Child Safety Handbook (5th edition) was reviewed.
- In May, Jeff Robinson was interviewed on radio station 3AW about poisoning prevention strategies in the home, the role of VPIC, types of calls received by VPIC etc.
- In May, Jeff Robinson was interviewed by a Herald Sun newspaper journalist for an article about paediatric poisoning involving household products.
- Printed material (pamphlets, telephone stickers, posters, information sheets) was supplied to child care centres, kindergartens, local councils, Maternal and Child Health Centres, GP surgeries etc throughout the year.

### **Research Activities and Publications**

- In January, VPIC commenced patient enrolments for the study: Nature and outcomes of chemical eye injuries reported to the Victorian Poisons Information Centre.
- In February, the Morpheus database was introduced, recording patient details of Austin Hospital toxicology admissions.
- Data was provided to the Department of Human Services about exposure calls involving paraquat/diquat for the period 2005 to mid-2009 inclusive.
- Dr Min Hin Chong (Maroondah Hospital) undertook sabbatical leave at VPIC and the Austin Hospital Clinical Toxicology Service in the latter half of 2009. He produced the following assessment and management guidelines:
  - Assessment and management of seizures resulting from known or suspected poisoning.
  - Assessment and management of cardiac arrhythmias resulting from known or suspected poisoning.

- Assessment and management of drug-induced hyperthermia.
- Assessment and management of antidepressant and antipsychotic drug overdose.
- Assessment and management of corrosive ingestions in the Emergency Department.
- Taylor DMcD, Robinson J, MacLeod D, MacBean CE, Braitberg G. Therapeutic errors among children in the community setting: nature, causes and outcomes. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2009; 45(5): 304–9.
- Taylor DMcD, Robinson J, MacLeod D, MacBean CE, Braitberg G. Therapeutic errors involving adults in the community setting: nature, causes and outcomes. *Aust NZ J Public Health* 2009; 33(4): 388–94.
- Gibbs L, Waters E, Robinson J, Young S, Hutchinson A. Assessing the feasibility of distributing child poison safety messages through three existing parent information pathways. *Injury Prevention* 2009; 15(6): 418–20.

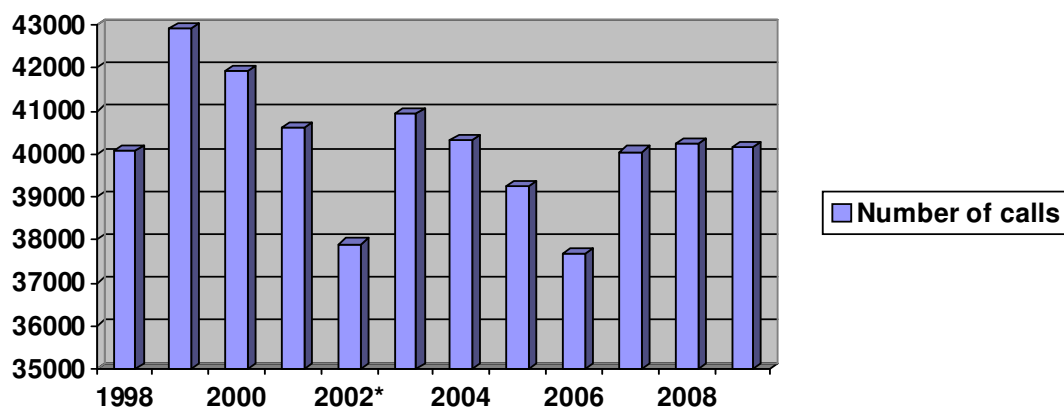
## Other Activities

The following additional activities were undertaken during 2009:

- Seven VPIC/AHCTS Clinical Governance meetings were held during the year.
- VPIC staff attended all five NSW PIC Clinical Meetings.
- Quarterly Toxicology Forums were held in April, July and November.
- VPIC operations were demonstrated to visitors from Vietnam, New Zealand and the Pharmacy Council of India.
- All VPIC staff attended the Victorian Health Services Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) course held in Melbourne.

## Calls to VPIC

The centre received a total of 40,155 calls during 2009, an average of 110 calls per day. This was very similar to 2008 (40,230 calls, average 110 calls per day) and 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 2009 total includes 939 calls answered by VPIC overnight. VPIC worked 25 overnight shifts during 2009.



\* 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.

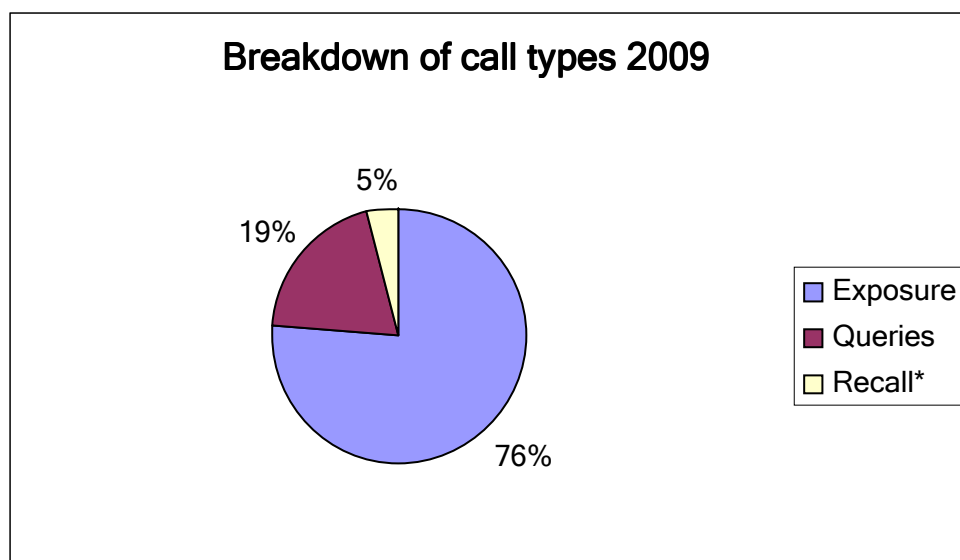
The 2009 total includes 939 calls answered by VPIC during 25 overnight shifts (New South Wales 309, Victoria 195, Western Australia 157, Queensland 164, South Australia 71, Northern Territory 7, Tasmania 12, Australian Capital Territory 24)

### Call type

Most calls involved an exposure. Approximately one-fifth of calls were queries.

Call type	Number of calls	%
Exposure to a poison	30,543	76
Queries	7,390	19
Recall*	2,222	5
Total	40,155	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	2,939	40
Drug information	2,935	40
Prevention of poisoning/safety	429	6
Medicines and pregnancy	387	5
Environmental	247	3
Medical	232	3
Medicines and breastfeeding	217	3
Occupational	4	<1
Total	7,390	100

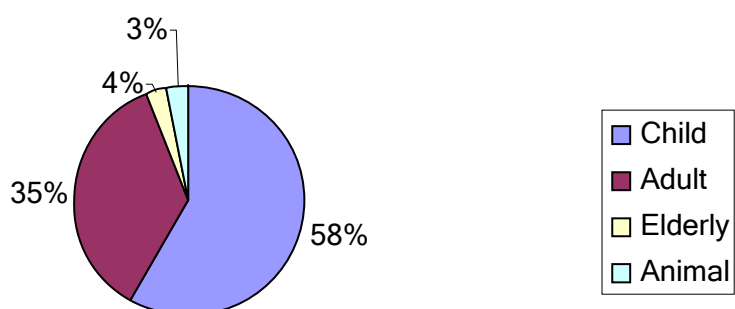
### Person exposed

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

Person exposed	Number of calls	%
Child (<16 years)	17,837	58
Adult (>16 years but <65 years)	10,690	35
Elderly (>65 years)	1,100	4
Animal*	916	3
Total	30,543	100

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

### Exposure calls breakdown 2009



#### 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	18,311	62
Self	4,915	17
Doctor	2,558	9
Nurse	1,387	5
Carer	928	3
Friend	665	2
Ambulance	417	1
Pharmacist	217	1
Counselling service	124	<1
Other, eg police, teachers	53	<1
Other medical professional, eg psychologist, social worker	52	<1
Total	29,627	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	22,517	76
Therapeutic error	3,634	12
Intentional	2,883	10
Workplace acute	551	2
Workplace chronic	26	<1
Environmental	12	<1
Other	4	<1
Total	29,627	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	23,428	79
Ocular	2,165	7
Dermal	1,561	5
Inhalation/nasal	1,217	4
Bite/sting	1,016	3
Parenteral	206	1
Aural	23	<1
Vaginal	7	<1
Rectal	4	<1
Total	29,627	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	15,518	87
In hospital	1,085	6
Hospital refer	620	4
Other	238	1
At GP surgery	191	1
GP refer	185	1
Total	17,837	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	5,562	52
In hospital	2,013	19
Hospital refer	1,541	14
GP refer	811	8
Other	419	4
At GP surgery	344	3
Total	10,690	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	758	70
In hospital	101	9
GP refer	91	8
Hospital refer	89	8
Other	47	4
At GP surgery	14	1
Total	1,100	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	21,474	72
Minor	7,745	27
Moderate	351	1
Severe	57	<1
Fatal	0	0
Total	29,627	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 2009 are shown below.\*

Substance	Number of calls
Paracetamol	1,729
Benzodiazepines	1,040
Topical antiseptics, handsanitiser	784
Silica gel	715
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	680
Ibuprofen	648
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor antidepressants	640
Detergent: hand dish/sink	495
Paracetamol/narcotic combination analgesic	475
Cleaners: all purpose/hard surface	470

\*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	198
Epoxy resins	20
Model glues, cements	26
Non-toxic glues, pastes	35
Adhesive, glue, cement, paste: other/unknown	67
<b>Art, craft, hobby, writing products</b>	
Chalk	13
Correction fluid	37
Crayon	26
Glazes	1
Paint: artists' paints, non-water colour	10
Paints: artists' paints, water colours	23
Paper/cardboard	37
Pencil	16
Pens/ink (including stamp pad ink, textas)	257
Printer ink/cartridge	9
Art, craft, writing products: other/unknown	23
<b>Batteries</b>	
Automotive	10
Disc/button battery	62
Penlight/dry cell	89
<b>Cleaners, bleaches, detergents etc</b>	
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	680
Bleach: other/unknown	13
CD/DVD cleaner	1
Cleaner: all purpose/hard surface	470
Cleaner: ammonia based	23
Cleaner: baby bottle	16
Cleaner: bathroom/shower/tile	215
Cleaner: carpet	69
Cleaner: drain	63
Cleaner: floor	52
Cleaner: glass/window	122
Cleaner: industrial	117
Cleaner: leather/vinyl/upholstery	2
Cleaner: nappy	35
Cleaner: oven	162
Cleaner: other/unknown	208
Detergent: anionic/non-ionic (not hand dish	13

type)	
Detergent: automatic dishwasher liquids	10
Detergent: automatic dishwasher powders/tablets	303
Detergent: automatic dishwasher rinse agents	71
Detergent: cationic (not disinfectants)	4
Detergent: hand dish	495
Detergent: laundry	375
Disinfectant	385
Dry cleaning agent	1
Fabric softener	18
Ironing aid/starch	7
Laundry additive	35
Pre-wash stain remover	157
Rust remover: other/unknown	8
Sugar soap (sodium carbonate)	16
Tape head cleaner	3
Toilet bowl cleaner/deodoriser: cage type	375
Toilet bowl cleaner: powder/liquid	76
Vaporiser cleaning tablet	15
<b>Fire extinguishers</b>	
BCF/Halon	1
Dry powder	46
Foam	5
<b>Food products, food poisoning</b>	
Artificial sweeteners	1
Ciguatera	4
Food additives	150
Food allergy	28
Food poisoning	62
Food recall/scare	13
Food spoilage	238
MSG (Chinese restaurant syndrome)	1
<b>Garden products</b>	
Fertiliser: household plant food	22
Fertiliser: outdoor	57
Soil/potting mix	59
<b>Miscellaneous home products</b>	
Air fresheners	157
Blu-tack	21
Bubble blowing solution	166
Charcoal	8
Christmas decorations	6

Cigarettes and tobacco products	133
Coins	31
Cyalume light sticks/glow necklaces	241
Desiccants: other/unknown (not silica gel)	58
Dyes: fabric	24
Dyes: food	11
Dyes: other/unknown	30
Fire starters	66
Foreign body	168
Fragrant oil/pot pourri oil	108
Freezer/cold packs	68
Glass	12
Incense	4
Massage oil	19
Matches	15
Pet food	39
Plastic/polystyrene	61
Pot pourri	1
Room deodoriser	62
Silica gel	715
Thermometer: mercury	134
Thermometer: non-mercury	32
Toys	139
Household products: other/unknown	240
<b>Photographic products</b>	
Photographic chemicals	5
Photographic products: other/unknown	1
<b>Polishes and waxes</b>	
Polish/wax: car	2
Polish/wax: floor (including sealers)	4
Polish/wax: furniture	48
Polish/wax: metal	13
Polish/wax: shoe/boot	8
Polish/wax: other/unknown	4
<b>Swimming pool and aquarium products</b>	
Aquarium products	57
Pool chlorine	70
Pool test kits/solutions	4
Pool products: other/unknown	35
<b>BUILDING/HANDYMAN PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Building products</b>	
Asbestos	3
Asphalt/bitumen	2
Caulking compounds and construction putties	7

Cement/concrete/lime	38
Clay	2
Fibreglass	6
Insulation	9
Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide	5
Soldering flux	5
Building/handyman products: other/unknown	106
<b>Paints and paint strippers</b>	
Copper chrome arsenate (wood preservative)	18
Creosote (wood preservative)	8
Paints: anti-corrosive	1
Paints: oil-based	62
Paints: water-based house type	58
Paint strippers: methylene chloride based	10
Paint strippers: other/unknown	13
Paint thinner	36
Paints: other/unknown	98
Varnishes and lacquers	17
Wood stains	18
<b>CAR/BOAT PRODUCTS</b>	
Car products: antifreeze	14
Car products: brake fluid, transmission fluid etc	25
Car products: other/unknown	65
<b>CHEMICALS</b>	
<b>Alcohols</b>	
Alcohol ethanol (beverage)	321
Alcohol ethanol (non-beverage)	153
Isopropanol	18
Methanol	13
<b>Essential oils</b>	
Camphor	18
Clove oil	17
Eucalyptus oil	246
Tea tree oil	59
Essential oil: other/unknown	130
<b>Fumes, gases, vapours</b>	
Carbon dioxide	1
Carbon monoxide	23
Chlorine	19
Chlorine/chloramine gas (mixing household cleaning agents)	40
Helium	1

Hydrogen sulphide	7
Lacrimators (Mace spray, tear gas etc –not fumigants)	4
Methane and natural gas	43
Propane and other simple asphyxiants	6
Smoke/toxic products of combustion	50
Fume/gas/vapour: other/unknown	49
<b>General chemicals</b>	
Acetone (not nail polish removers)	13
Acids: other/unknown	51
Alkalis (not cleaners)	41
Ammonia (not cleaners)	22
Benzene	2
Borates (not insecticides)	26
Copper sulphate	12
Corrosives: other/unknown	34
Ethylene glycol and other glycols	36
Formaldehyde/formalin	20
Hydrochloric acid	48
Hydrofluoric acid	10
Hydrogen peroxide (non-medical)	24
Iodine (non-medical)	6
Isothiazolones (acticide, biocide, kathon, octhiline etc)	4
Methylene chloride (not paint strippers)	3
Nitrates and nitrites	23
Phenol and other phenolics	7
Potassium permanganate	4
Strychnine	6
Sulphur	9
Toluene diisocyanate	3
Chemicals: other/unknown	160
<b>Heavy metals</b>	
Aluminium	7
Chromium salts	2
Copper	15
Lead	26
Mercury (not thermometers)	29
Metal fume fever	17
Selenium	3
Heavy metals: other/unknown	3
<b>Hydrocarbons</b>	
Hydrocarbons: aliphatic	54
Hydrocarbons: aromatic	3
Hydrocarbons: halogenated	28

Hydrocarbons: other/unknown	12
Kerosene	21
Lamp oil	19
Lighter fluid	5
Oils: lubricating/engine/machine	122
Petrol	211
Shellite	2
Toluene/xylene	33
Turpentine, mineral	160
<b>BITES AND STINGS</b>	
<b>Insects</b>	
Ant	38
Bee	67
Caterpillar	4
Centipede/millipede	21
Scorpion	32
Tick	10
Wasp/hornet	125
Insect bites: other/unknown	120
<b>Mammals</b>	
Animal bite: other/unknown	9
<b>Marine</b>	
Blue-ringed octopus	1
Fish stings: other/unknown	39
Jellyfish and other <i>Coelenterate</i> stings	28
Stingray	10
Marine bites/stings: other/unknown	15
<b>Reptiles and amphibians</b>	
Snake	60
<b>Spiders</b>	
Redback spider	207
White-tailed spider	100
Spider bite: other/unknown	392
<b>COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Cosmetics</b>	
Antiperspirants	34
Baby oil	58
Baby wipes	18
Bath oil/bubble bath/bath preparations	129
Creams/lotions/make-up	221
Deodorants	75
Depilatories	33
Lipstick/lip balms	30

Perfume/cologne/aftershave	243
Soap	187
Sunscreen/suntan products	85
Talc and other external powders	73
Cosmetics: other/unknown	29
<b>Dental/oral care products</b>	
Denture cleaning agents	37
Mouthwash: ethanol containing	63
Mouthwash: non-ethanol containing	70
Mouthwash: other/unknown	1
Teething gels	87
Toothache drops	13
Toothpaste with fluoride	95
Toothpaste without fluoride	2
Dental care products: other/unknown	13
<b>Hair care products</b>	
Hair colours (not peroxide)	59
Hair colours (peroxide)	70
Hair conditioner	13
Hair gel/mousse	18
Hair rinses/perms	5
Hair spray	24
Shampoo antidandruff: selenium based	6
Shampoo antidandruff: zinc pyrithione	18
Shampoo antidandruff: other	6
Shampoo non-medicated	80
Hair care: other	34
<b>Nail products</b>	
Nail hardeners	6
Nail polish	150
Nail polish remover	183
Nail primer	5
Nail products: other/unknown	28
<b>VETERINARY PRODUCTS</b>	
Veterinary: animal vaccines	57
Veterinary: external medicines	141
Veterinary: flea collars/insecticidal washes	17
Veterinary: heart worm preparations	18
Veterinary: internal medicines	191
<b>PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES/FUNGICIDES</b>	
<b>Baits</b>	
1080/monofluoroacetate	4
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (warfarin type)	39
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (long-acting)	300

Rodenticides: other/unknown	70
Baits: other/unknown	12
<b>Carbamates</b>	
Carbamates	10
Carbamates in combination with other pesticides	14
<b>Chlorinated hydrocarbons</b>	
Chlorinated hydrocarbons	8
Chlorinated hydrocarbons in combination with other pesticides	1
<b>Fumigants</b>	
Bromides	7
Chloropicrin	1
Phosphine	17
Fumigants: other	3
<b>Fungicides</b>	
Carbamate type	10
Copper type	2
Phthalimide type (captan, captafol etc.)	1
Fungicides: other/unknown (non-medical)	12
<b>Herbicides</b>	
Glyphosate	287
Herbicides: carbamate type	2
Herbicides: chlorphenoxy type (2,4 D; MCPA etc.)	34
Herbicides: triazine type	22
Paraquat/diquat	17
Herbicides: other/unknown	77
<b>Insecticides/pesticides</b>	
Arsenic pesticides	1
Borates/boric acid pesticides	191
Insect coils	4
Insect repellants containing DEET	102
Insect repellants not containing DEET	32
Pyrethrins/pyrethroids	417
Rotenone	6
Snail/slug bait: iron edetate	6
Snail/slug bait: iron phosphate	1
Snail/slug bait: metaldehyde	37
Snail/slug bait: methiocarb	5
Pesticides: other/unknown	75
<b>Moth repellents</b>	

Naphthalene moth repellants	43
<b>Organophosphates</b>	
Organophosphates	75
<b>PLANTS AND MUSHROOMS</b>	
Mushrooms	136
Plants: amaryllidaceae	31
Plants: amygdalin/cyanogenic glycosides	24
Plants: anticholinergic	12
Plants: cactus	2
Plants: capsaicin	16
Plants: cardiac glycosides	18
Plants: daphne	2
Plants: dermatitis	28
Plants: dieffenbachia	1
Plants: euphorbiaceae	28
Plants: gastrointestinal irritants	35
Plants: grayanotoxins	3
Plants: hallucinogenic	1
Plants: holly	1
Plants: lantana	1
Plants: non-toxic	69
Plants: oxalate	85
Plants: philodendron	1
Plants: solanine	28
Plants: stimulants	1
Plants: toxalbumins	3
Plants: toxicodendrol	1
Plants: other/unknown	97
<b>MISCELLANEOUS NON-MEDICINE, NON-DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Blue-green algae	6
Faeces/urine	34
Radioactive materials	1
Snail/slug	2

### Exposures to medicines and drugs

Medicine/drug	Number of exposures
<b>ANAESTHETICS</b>	
Anaesthetics: inhalation	1
Anaesthetics: topical/local	28
Anaesthetics: other/unknown	2
Nitrous oxide	1
<b>ANALGESICS</b>	
Aspirin/narcotic combination analgesic	7

Aspirin/salicylates	140
Codeine	16
Dextropropoxyphene	4
Fentanyl	7
Morphine	42
Oxycodone	123
Paracetamol	1729
Paracetamol/narcotic combination	475
Tramadol	128
Analgesics: non-narcotic other/unknown	4
<b>ANTICHOLINERGICS</b>	
Atropine	3
Benztropine	16
Anticholinergic drugs: other/unknown	53
<b>ANTICOAGULANTS and BLOOD PRODUCTS</b>	
Heparin	3
Warfarin	89
Anticoagulants: other/unknown	1
<b>ANTIHISTAMINES</b>	
Cetirizine	52
Dexchlorpheniramine	49
Fexofenadine	61
Loratadine	53
Pheniramine	6
Promethazine	90
Antihistamines: other/unknown	33
<b>ANTIMICROBIALS</b>	
<b>Antibiotics</b>	
Aminoglycosides	3
Antibiotic combinations (Augmentin, Bactrim etc.)	57
Cephalosporins	152
Macrolides	69
Penicillins	239
Quinolones	15
Sulphonamides	6
Tetracyclines	41
Antibiotics: other/unknown	29
<b>Antifungals</b>	
Antifungal drugs (ketoconazole, fluconazole etc)	19
<b>Antiparasitics/Anthelmintics</b>	
Anthelmintics	62

Antianaerobes (metronidazole, tinidazole etc)	27
Antimalarials (not quinine, chloroquine)	2
<b>Antituberculars</b>	
Antitubercular drugs	1
<b>Antivirals</b>	
Antiviral drugs	43
<b>ANTIMIGRAINE DRUGS</b>	
Ergot alkaloids	23
Triptans (naratriptan, sumatriptan etc)	4
Migraine preparations: other/unknown	24
<b>ASTHMA/RESPIRATORY DRUGS</b>	
Bronchodilators	59
Leukotriene receptor antagonists (montelukast, zafirlukast etc)	38
Preventors	66
Theophylline and other xanthines	2
Asthma drugs: other/unknown	2
Respiratory drugs: other/unknown	20
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS</b>	
ACE inhibitor/diuretic combinations	37
ACE inhibitors	153
Adrenaline	47
Alpha blockers	11
Angina preparations	9
Angiotensin II antagonist/diuretic combinations	85
Angiotensin II antagonists	133
Antiarrhythmic agents	34
Antihypertensives: other (not diuretics)	34
Antiplatelet agents: other (clopidogrel, dipyridamole etc)	49
Beta blockers	215
Calcium antagonists	176
Cardiac glycosides	51
Diuretics	76
Diuretics: potassium sparing	18
HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins)	125
Lipid lowering agents: fibrates (gemfibrozil, fenofibrate etc)	6
Lipid lowering agents: other	4
Vasodilators	15
Cardiovascular drugs: other/unknown	1

<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS</b>	
<b>Antidepressants</b>	
Duloxetine	48
Mianserin	3
Mirtazapine	103
Monoamine oxidase inhibitors	15
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine etc.)	640
Tricyclic antidepressants	114
Venlafaxine	195
Antidepressants: other/unknown	32
<b>Antiepileptics</b>	
Carbamazepine	124
Gabapentin	11
Phenytoin	37
Pregabalin	5
Sodium valproate	249
Antiepileptics: other/unknown	125
<b>Antipsychotics</b>	
Amisulpride	16
Aripiprazole	18
Clozapine	26
Olanzapine	129
Phenothiazines (chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine etc)	73
Quetiapine	276
Risperidone	100
Ziprasidone	8
Antipsychotics: other/unknown	25
<b>CNS depressants</b>	
Barbiturates	11
Benzodiazepines	1040
Chloral hydrate	2
Doxylamine	32
Sleep aids over-the-counter: other	3
Zolpidem	51
Sedative/hypnotic: other/unknown	37
<b>CNS stimulants</b>	
Amphetamines (for ADHD, not street drugs)	71
Caffeine	63
<b>CNS – miscellaneous</b>	
Antidementia agents (donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine)	25
Antiparkinsonian agents	46

Clonidine	60
Lithium	61
<b>COUGH/COLD PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antitussives	29
Cough/cold preparations with paracetamol	184
Cough/cold preparations without paracetamol/aspirin	422
Dextromethorphan	23
Pseudoephedrine	10
Throat lozenges with local anaesthetic	5
Throat lozenges without local anaesthetic	17
<b>DRUGS USED IN ADDICTIVE DISORDERS</b>	
Buprenorphine	23
Bupropion	10
Disulfiram	2
Methadone	20
Naltrexone	11
Antismoking products: other (nicotine patches, gum etc)	84
<b>EAR PREPARATIONS</b>	
Ear drops	59
Ear ointments	1
Ear products: other/unknown	1
<b>EYE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Contact lens preparations	12
Eye drops: imidazoline-based	5
Eye drops: other/unknown	54
Eye ointment	3
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antacids	86
Antidiarrhoeals: diphenoxylate/atropine	10
Antidiarrhoeals: loperamide	21
Antidiarrhoeals: other	3
Antiemetics	119
Antispasmodics	34
Histamine <sub>2</sub> - antagonists (cimetidine, ranitidine etc.)	44
Laxatives	147
Proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole, esomeprazole etc.)	171
Gastrointestinal preparations: other/unknown	92
<b>METABOLISM</b>	

<b>Electrolytes/minerals</b>	
Calcium salts	38
Electrolytes: other/unknown	1
Fluoride	9
Iron (not multivitamins)	77
Potassium salts	23
<b>Vitamins</b>	
Folic acid	60
Vitamin A	2
Vitamin B group	29
Vitamin C	55
Vitamin D	75
Vitamins compound with iron	278
Vitamins compound without iron	36
Vitamins: other	65
<b>Other metabolic</b>	
Androgenic and anabolic agents	1
Antihormones (tamoxifen, cyproterone, flutamide etc.)	9
Antithyroid preparations	9
Bisphosphonates	14
Corticosteroids	208
Diet aids/anorectics – over-the-counter	11
Diet aids/anorectics – prescription	25
Hypoglycaemics, oral: biguanides (metformin)	77
Hypoglycaemics, oral: glitazones	7
Hypoglycaemics, oral: sulphonylureas (glibenclamide, gliclazide etc)	44
Insulin	40
Oestrogens/progestagens (not oral contraceptives)	16
Oral contraceptives: oestrogen and progestogen	367
Oral contraceptives: progestogen only	42
Thyroxine	82
Thyroid preparations: other/unknown	10
Hormones: other/unknown	16
<b>NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS AND GOUT MEDICATIONS</b>	
Allopurinol	23
Celecoxib	15
Colchicine	8
Diclofenac	175
Ibuprofen	648
Ibuprofen plus codeine	98

Indomethacin	26
Mefenamic acid	12
Naproxen	36
NSAIDs: other/unknown	46
<b>NOSE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Nose drops/sprays: imidazoline-based	24
Nose drops/sprays: other/unknown	8
Nasal preparations: other/unknown	4
<b>STREET DRUGS</b>	
Amphetamine and related drugs	42
Cocaine	5
Ecstasy and other hallucinogenic amphetamines	23
Gamma hydroxybutyrate	4
Heroin	10
Inhalant abuse (chroming)	10
LSD	10
Marijuana	18
Street drugs: other/unknown	13
<b>TOPICAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Acne preparations	16
Antipruritics (calamine lotion etc)	33
Capsaicin	18
Chest rubs	121
Hydrogen peroxide	15
Lice/scabies preparations	124
Liniments	125
Lotions/creams/ointments: other/unknown	3
Nappy rash products	460
Topical antibiotics	15
Topical antifungals	124
Topical antiseptics	784
Topical antivirals	5
Topical corticosteroids	169
Wart/corn preparations	25
Topical preparations: other/unknown	85
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MEDICINE/DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Antineoplastics	10
Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine	12
Diagnostic agents	1
Herbal preparations	112
Homeopathic preparations	62
Immunosuppressants	18
Methotrexate	29

Muscle relaxants	23
Quinine	6
Unknown tablets/capsules	41
Urinary alkalinisers/antiseptics	3
Vaccines/toxoids/antivenoms	22
Vaporiser fluids and inhalants	215
Other over-the-counter-medicines	92
Other prescription medicines	76