

# Victorian Poisons Information Centre

## Annual Report 2007

### Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Hours of Operation	2
Staff Members	2
Review of Management Protocols	3
Poisoning Prevention Activities	3
Research Activities and Publications	3
Other Activities	3
Calls to Victorian Poisons Information Centre	
Call type	4
Query type	5
Person exposed	5
Person calling	5
Type of exposure	6
Route of exposure	6
Handling calls – children	6
Handling calls – adults	6
Handling calls – elderly	7
Symptom severity at the time of the call	7
Ten substances that generated the most calls	7
Exposures to non-medicine, non-drug products	8
Exposures to medicines and drugs	16

## **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.

In March 2007, VPIC started working 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**

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)

Fabian Kong B. Pharm., M. Epi.

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.

### **Review of Management Protocols**

- The following VPIC management protocols were reviewed during 2007: Accidental Ingestion of Low Systemic Toxicity Hydrocarbons; Eucalyptus Oil Ingestion; Ingestion of Unidentified Fungi.

### **Poisoning Prevention Activities**

- In January, Jeff Robinson provided Alpine Radio with two community service announcements (First Aid in Poisoning; How to Prevent Poisoning).
- In January, Jeff Robinson wrote an article for 'News For Seniors' magazine to remind readers that they could ring the Poisons Information Centre for advice if they make a mistake with their, or someone else's, medicine.
- In early 2007, Jeff Robinson had extensive input into the development of Wyndham City Council's Poisoning Prevention DVD.
- In October, Jeff Robinson reviewed the Paediatric Poisoning Prevention information available on Better Health Channel.
- 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.
- The Poisoning Prevention section of the Royal Children's Hospital Child Safety Handbook (4th edition) was reviewed.

### **Research Activities and Publications**

- In March, VPIC completed patient enrolments for the study: Nature and Outcomes of Therapeutic Errors reported to the Victorian Poisons Information Centre.
- Data was provided to the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee about exposure calls involving fluoride-containing products.
- Data was provided to Commonwealth Serum Laboratories about exposure calls involving adrenaline auto injectors (Epipen).
- Data was provided to other researchers about exposure calls involving sodium valproate.
- In November, the paper 'Nature and Outcomes of Therapeutic Errors Reported to the Victorian Poisons Information Centre' was presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

### **Other Activities**

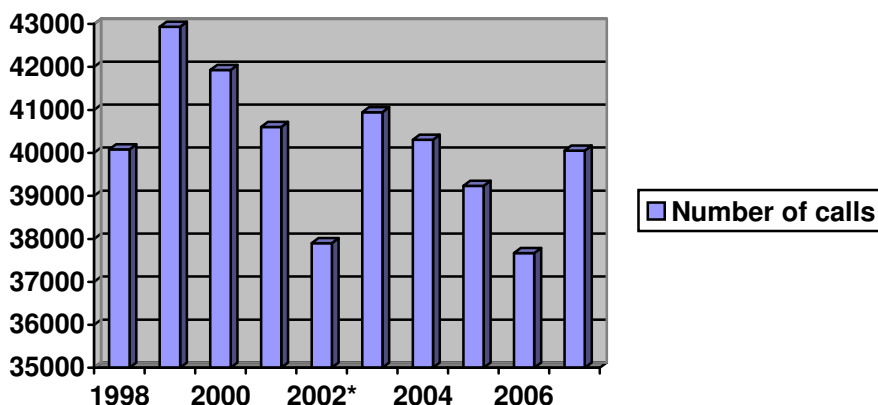
The following additional activities were undertaken during 2007:

- Meetings of the RCH Clinical Toxicology Service were held monthly.
- VPIC staff attended all five NSW Poisons Information Centre Clinical Meetings.
- During February, VPIC staff trained a visiting Indian pharmacist who was returning to India to establish a Poisons Information Centre in Mysore.
- A satisfaction survey of members of the public using the VPIC service was carried out in December.
- VPIC staff attended a lecture presented by Dr. Erik Andrew, Head of the Norwegian Poisons Information Centre.
- VPIC operations were demonstrated to visitors from the Malaysian and Chinese Ministries of Health.

- Detailed planning was undertaken in preparation for VPIC's relocation to the Austin Hospital in 2008, where it will develop a close working relationship with the Austin Toxicology Service.

### Calls to VPIC

The centre received a total of 40,050 calls during 2007, an average of 110 calls per day. This was slightly higher than 2006 (37,668 calls, average of 103 calls per day) and 2005 (39,230 calls, average of 107 calls per day). The 2007 total included 661 calls from states other than Victoria that were answered by VPIC overnight. VPIC worked 20 overnight shifts during 2007.



\* 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.

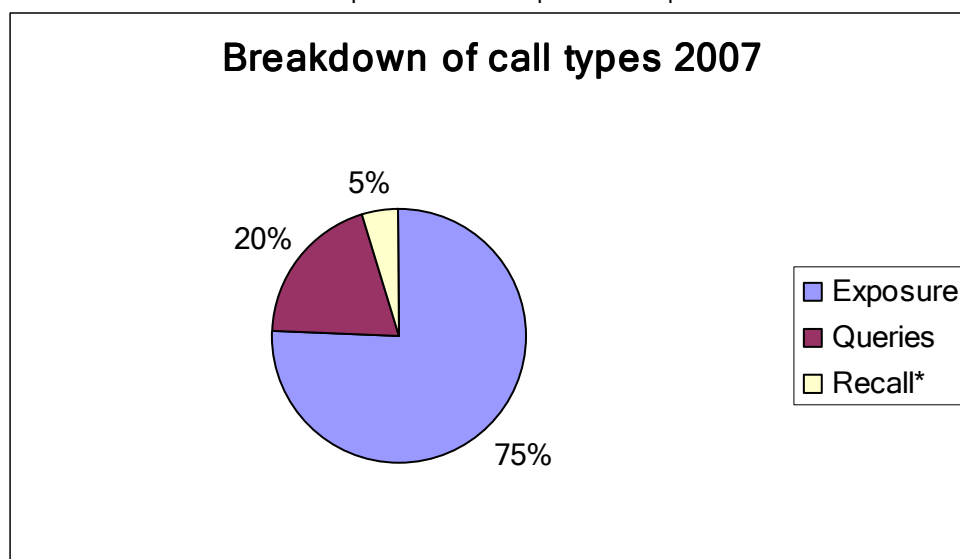
The 2007 total includes 661 interstate calls answered by VPIC overnight (New South Wales 245, Western Australia 158, Queensland 151, South Australia 70, Northern Territory 14, Tasmania 11, Australian Capital Territory 12)

### Call type

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

Call type	Number of calls	%
Exposure to a poison	30,212	75
Queries	7,992	20
Recall*	1,846	5
Total	40,050	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.

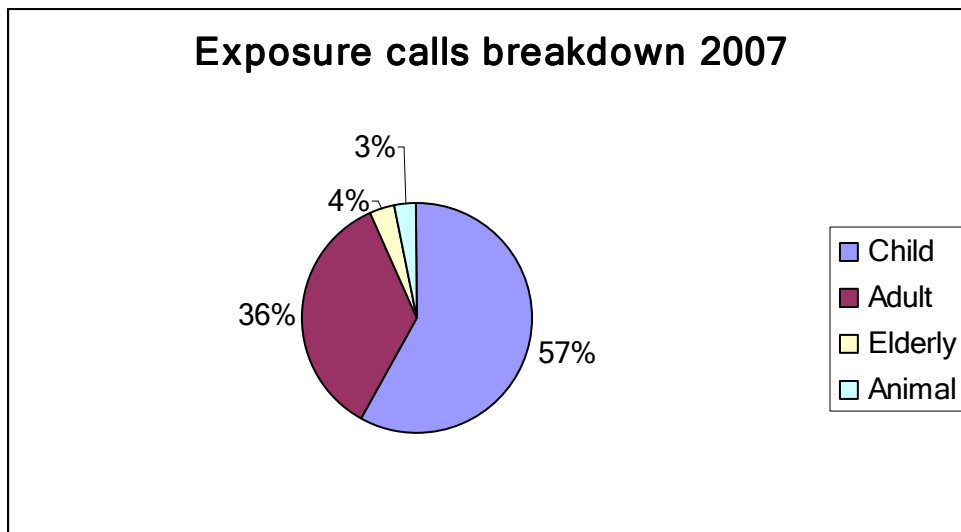
Query type	Number of calls	%
Poisons information	3,236	40
Drug information	2,604	33
Prevention of poisoning/safety	867	11
Medicines and pregnancy	404	5
Environmental	346	4
Medical	337	4
Medicines and breastfeeding	196	2
Occupational	2	<1
Total	7,992	100

### Person exposed

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

Person exposed	Number of calls	%
Child (<16 years)	17,416	57
Adult (>16 years but <65 years)	10,800	36
Elderly (>65 years)	1,098	4
Animal*	898	3
Total	30,212	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	18,434	63
Self	4,998	17
Doctor	2,137	7
Nurse	1,321	5
Carer	735	2.5
Friend	724	2.5
Ambulance	380	1
Pharmacist	250	<1

Counselling service	164	<1
Other, eg police, teachers	104	<1
Other medical professional, eg psychologist, social worker	67	<1
Total	29,314	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	22,815	78
Intentional	3,230	11
Therapeutic error	2,661	9
Workplace acute	567	2
Workplace chronic	27	<1
Environmental	9	<1
Other	5	<1
Total	29,314	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	22,613	77
Ocular	1,943	7
Dermal	1,831	6
Inhalation/nasal	1,456	5
Bite/sting	1,244	4
Parenteral	191	<1
Aural	24	<1
Vaginal	10	<1
Rectal	2	<1
Total	29,314	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	14,988	86
In hospital	869	5
Hospital refer	828	5
Other	278	2
GP refer	249	1
At GP surgery	204	1
Total	17,416	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	5,636	52
Hospital refer	1,717	16
In hospital	1,609	15

GP refer	1,106	10
Other	392	4
At GP surgery	340	3
Total	10,800	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	808	74
GP refer	104	9
In hospital	70	6
Hospital refer	67	6
Other	30	3
At GP surgery	19	2
Total	1,098	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	20,629	70
Minor	8,263	28
Moderate	372	1
Severe	50	<1
Fatal	0	0
Total	29,314	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 2007 are shown below.\*

Substance	Number of calls
Paracetamol	1,634
Benzodiazepines	1,068
Silica gel	747
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	640
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor antidepressants	606
Cough and cold preparations (without paracetamol or aspirin)	606
Ibuprofen	532
Nappy rash products	501
Spider bites (other than Redback, White-tailed spiders)	497
Cleaners: all purpose/hard surface	490

\*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	191
Epoxy resins	26
Model glues, cements	18
Non-toxic glues, pastes	37
Adhesive, glue, cement, paste: other/unknown	64
<b>Art, craft, hobby, writing products</b>	
Chalk	35
Correction fluid	44
Crayon	26
Paint: artists' paints, non-water colour	5
Paints: artists' paints, water colours	25
Paper/cardboard	23
Pencil	22
Pens/ink (including stamp pad ink, textas)	323
Printer ink/cartridge	8
Art, craft, writing products: other/unknown	11
<b>Batteries</b>	
Automotive	28
Disc/button battery	54
Penlight/dry cell	127
<b>Cleaners, bleaches, detergents etc</b>	
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	640
Bleach: other/unknown	7
Cleaner: all purpose/hard surface	490
Cleaner: ammonia based	24
Cleaner: baby bottle	18
Cleaner: bathroom/shower/tile	239
Cleaner: carpet	93
Cleaner: drain	64
Cleaner: floor	82
Cleaner: glass/window	111
Cleaner: industrial	131
Cleaner: leather/vinyl/upholstery	3
Cleaner: nappy	45
Cleaner: oven	151
Cleaner: other/unknown	128
Detergent: anionic/non-ionic (not hand dish type)	25
Detergent: automatic dishwasher liquids	20



Detergent: automatic dishwasher powders/tablets	282
Detergent: automatic dishwasher rinse agents	28
Detergent: cationic (not disinfectants)	4
Detergent: hand dish	476
Detergent: laundry	296
Disinfectant	438
Dry cleaning agent	4
Fabric softener	21
Ironing aid/starch	12
Laundry additive	7
Pre-wash stain remover	187
Rust remover: other/unknown	1
Sugar soap (sodium carbonate)	19
Tape head cleaner	2
Toilet bowl cleaner/deodoriser: cage type	205
Toilet bowl cleaner: powder/liquid	68
Vaporiser cleaning tablet	10
<b>Fire extinguishers</b>	
BCF/Halon	1
Dry powder	42
Foam	2
<b>Food products, food poisoning</b>	
Artificial sweeteners	3
Ciguatera	2
Food additives	128
Food allergy	34
Food poisoning	90
Food recall/scare	7
Food spoilage	264
<b>Garden products</b>	
Fertiliser: house plant food	25
Fertiliser: outdoor	74
Soil/potting mix	60
<b>Miscellaneous home products</b>	
Air fresheners	161
Blu-tack	23
Bubble blowing solution	175
Charcoal	3
Christmas decorations	4
Cigarettes and tobacco products	177
Coins	26
Cyalume light sticks/glow necklaces	249

Desiccants: other/unknown (not silica gel)	40
Dyes: fabric	8
Dyes: food	8
Dyes: other/unknown	18
Fire starters	55
Foreign body	202
Fragrant oil/pot pourri oil	50
Freezer/cold packs	49
Glass	25
Incense	2
Massage oil	13
Matches	12
Pet food	31
Plastic/polystyrene	50
Room deodoriser	43
Silica gel	747
Thermometer: mercury	128
Thermometer: mercury	44
Toys	162
Household products: other/unknown	247
<b>Photographic products</b>	
Photographic chemicals	7
<b>Polishes and waxes</b>	
Polish/wax: car	8
Polish/wax: floor (including sealers)	2
Polish/wax: furniture	37
Polish/wax: metal	11
Polish/wax: shoe/boot	13
Polish/wax: other/unknown	2
<b>Swimming pool and aquarium products</b>	
Aquarium products	44
Pool chlorine	89
Pool test kits/solutions	1
Pool products: other/unknown	28
<b>BUILDING/HANDYMAN PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Building products</b>	
Asbestos	14
Asphalt/bitumen	7
Caulking compounds and construction putties	1
Cement/concrete/lime	60
Fibreglass	12
Insulation	2
Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide	1
Soldering flux	12

Building/handyman products: other/unknown	131
<b>Paints and paint strippers</b>	
Copper chrome arsenate (wood preservative)	31
Creosote (wood preservative)	12
Paints: anti-corrosive	5
Paints: oil-based	83
Paints: water-based house type	90
Paint strippers: methylene chloride based	18
Paint strippers: other/unknown	12
Paint thinner	45
Paints: other/unknown	83
Varnishes and lacquers	24
Wood stains	19
<b>CAR/BOAT PRODUCTS</b>	
Car products: antifreeze	9
Car products: brake fluid, transmission fluid etc	16
Car products: other/unknown	78
<b>CHEMICALS</b>	
<b>Alcohols</b>	
Alcohol ethanol (beverage)	328
Alcohol ethanol (non-beverage)	196
Alcohol higher (butanol, propanol etc.)	3
Isopropanol	19
Methanol	9
<b>Essential oils</b>	
Camphor	10
Clove oil	14
Eucalyptus oil	203
Tea tree oil	48
Essential oil: other/unknown	133
<b>Fumes, gases, vapours</b>	
Carbon dioxide	6
Carbon monoxide	26
Chlorine	19
Chlorine/chloramine gas (mixing household cleaning agents)	26
Helium	1
Hydrogen sulphide	3
Lacrimators (Mace spray, tear gas etc -not fumigants)	9
Methane and natural gas	45
Polymer fume fever	2

Propane and other simple asphyxiants	12
Smoke/toxic products of combustion	59
Fume/gas/vapour: other/unknown	77
<b>General chemicals</b>	
Acetone (not nail polish removers)	12
Acids: other/unknown	67
Alkalis (not cleaners)	37
Ammonia (not cleaners)	12
Benzene	1
Borates (not insecticides)	23
Copper sulfate	16
Corrosives: other/unknown	12
Cyanide	8
Ethylene glycol and other glycols	17
Formaldehyde/formalin	19
Hydrochloric acid	40
Hydrofluoric acid	22
Hydrogen peroxide (non-medical)	25
Iodine (non-medical)	11
Isothiazolones (acticide, biocide, kathon, octhilinone etc)	1
Methylene chloride (not paint strippers)	8
Nitrates and nitrites	17
Phenol and other phenolics	11
Potassium permanganate	3
Sulphur	18
Toluene diisocyanate	7
Chemicals: other/unknown	168
<b>Heavy metals</b>	
Aluminium	6
Chromium salts	3
Copper	17
Lead	28
Mercury (not thermometers)	33
Metal fume fever	12
Selenium	4
Heavy metals: other/unknown	4
<b>Hydrocarbons</b>	
Hydrocarbons: aliphatic	72
Hydrocarbons: aromatic	1
Hydrocarbons: halogenated	46
Hydrocarbons: other/unknown	17
Kerosene	12
Lamp oil	14
Oils: lubricating/engine/machine	66

Petrol	238
Toluene/xylene	18
Turpentine, mineral	190
<b>BITES AND STINGS</b>	
<b>Insects</b>	
Ant	51
Bee	104
Caterpillar	5
Centipede/millipede	21
Mosquito	1
Scorpion	66
Tick	11
Wasp/hornet	183
Insect bites: other/unknown	107
<b>Mammals</b>	
Dog/cat bite	4
Animal bite: other/unknown	11
<b>Marine</b>	
Fish stings: other/unknown	42
Jellyfish and other <i>Coelenterate</i> stings	43
Stingray	10
Marine bites/stings: other/unknown	13
<b>Reptiles and amphibians</b>	
Snake	40
<b>Spiders</b>	
Redback spider	190
White-tailed spider	148
Spider bite: other/unknown	497
<b>COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS</b>	
<b>Cosmetics</b>	
Antiperspirants	15
Baby oil	50
Baby wipes	19
Bath oil/bubble bath/bath preparations	145
Cleanser: skin	2
Creams/lotions/make-up	165
Deodorants	131
Depilatories	48
Lipstick/lip balms	43
Perfume/cologne/aftershave	233
Soap	208
Sunscreen/suntan products	66
Talc and other external powders	44

Cosmetics: other/unknown	39
<b>Dental/oral care products</b>	
Denture cleaning agents	28
Mouthwash: ethanol containing	72
Mouthwash: non-ethanol containing	7
Mouthwash: other/unknown	1
Teething gels	80
Toothache drops	12
Toothpaste with fluoride	67
Toothpaste without fluoride	1
Dental care products: other/unknown	4
<b>Hair care products</b>	
Hair colours (not peroxide)	46
Hair colours (peroxide)	62
Hair conditioner	22
Hair gel/mousse	19
Hair rinses/perms	4
Hair spray	18
Shampoo antidandruff: selenium based	5
Shampoo antidandruff: zinc pyrithione	10
Shampoo antidandruff: other	3
Shampoo non-medicated	104
Hair care: other	33
<b>Nail products</b>	
Nail hardeners	11
Nail polish	161
Nail polish remover	160
Nail primer	7
Nail products: other/unknown	20
<b>VETERINARY PRODUCTS</b>	
Veterinary: animal vaccines	36
Veterinary: external medicines	137
Veterinary: flea collars/insecticidal washes	6
Veterinary: heart worm preparations	19
Veterinary: internal medicines	185
<b>PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES/FUNGICIDES</b>	
<b>Baits</b>	
1080/monofluoroacetate	1
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (warfarin type)	34
Rodenticides: anticoagulant (long-acting)	251
Rodenticides: other/unknown	57
Baits: other/unknown	11

<b>Carbamates</b>	
Carbamates	20
Carbamates in combination with other pesticides	37
<b>Chlorinated hydrocarbons</b>	
Chlorinated hydrocarbons	6
<b>Fumigants</b>	
Bromides	4
Phosphine	6
Fumigants: other	4
<b>Fungicides</b>	
Carbamate type	8
Copper type	4
Fungicides: other/unknown (non-medical)	18
<b>Herbicides</b>	
Glyphosate	241
Herbicides: carbamate type	1
Herbicides: chlorphenoxy type (2,4 D; MCPA etc.)	55
Herbicides: triazine type	14
Herbicides: urea type	2
Paraquat/diquat	25
Herbicides: other/unknown	88
<b>Insecticides/pesticides</b>	
Borates/boric acid pesticides	184
Insect coils	7
Insect repellants containing DEET	167
Insect repellants not containing DEET	13
Pesticides: arsenic	2
Pyrethrins/pyrethroids	376
Snail/slug bait: iron edetate	3
Snail/slug bait: metaldehyde	39
Snail/slug bait: methiocarb	11
Pesticides: other/unknown	70
<b>Moth repellents</b>	
Naphthalene moth repellants	49
Paradichlorobenzene moth repellants	3
<b>Organophosphates</b>	
Organophosphates	89
<b>PLANTS AND MUSHROOMS</b>	
Mushrooms	154

Plants: amaryllidaceae	19
Plants: amygdalin/cyanogenic glycosides	16
Plants: anticholinergic	13
Plants: cactus	13
Plants: capsaicin	45
Plants: cardiac glycosides	26
Plants: daphne	5
Plants: dermatitis	29
Plants: dieffenbachia	2
Plants: euphorbiaceae	14
Plants: gastrointestinal irritants	21
Plants: grayanotoxins	4
Plants: hallucinogenic	3
Plants: holly	1
Plants: lantana	2
Plants: non-toxic	96
Plants: oxalate	145
Plants: philodendron	3
Plants: solanine	28
Plants: toxicodendrol	4
Plants: other/unknown	105
<b>MISCELLANEOUS NON-MEDICINE, NON-DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Blue-green algae	6
Faeces/urine	60
Snail/slug	3

### Exposures to medicines and drugs

<b>Medicine/drug</b>	<b>Number of exposures</b>
<b>ANAESTHETICS</b>	
Anaesthetics: topical/local	24
Anaesthetics: other/unknown	1
<b>ANALGESICS</b>	
Aspirin/narcotic combination analgesic	3
Aspirin/salicylates	141
Codeine	18
Dextropropoxyphene	4
Fentanyl	5
Morphine	35
Oxycodone	91
Paracetamol	1,634
Paracetamol/narcotic combination	447
Pethidine	1
Tramadol	107



Analgesics: narcotic other/unknown	1
Analgesics: non-narcotic other/unknown	6
<b>ANTICHOLINERGICS</b>	
Atropine	3
Benztropine	42
Anticholinergic drugs: other/unknown	41
<b>ANTICOAGULANTS</b>	
Heparin	2
Warfarin	70
Anticoagulants: other/unknown	5
<b>ANTIHISTAMINES</b>	
Cetirizine	43
Dexchlorpheniramine	35
Fexofenadine	35
Loratadine	65
Pheniramine	5
Promethazine	78
Antihistamines: other/unknown	44
<b>ANTIMICROBIALS</b>	
<b>Antibiotics</b>	
Aminoglycosides	1
Antibiotic combinations (Augmentin, Bactrim etc.)	49
Cephalosporins	119
Macrolides	74
Penicillins	306
Quinolones	8
Sulphonamides	4
Tetracyclines	51
Antibiotics: other/unknown	27
<b>Antifungals</b>	
Antifungal drugs (ketoconazole, fluconazole etc)	29
<b>Antiparasitics/Anthelmintics</b>	
Anthelmintics	67
Antianaerobes (metronidazole, tinidazole etc)	23
Antimalarials (not quinine, chloroquine)	6
Antiparasitic	1
<b>Antituberculars</b>	
Antitubercular drugs	2

<b>Antivirals</b>	
Antiviral drugs	17
<b>ANTIMIGRAINE DRUGS</b>	
Ergot alkaloids	5
Triptans (naratriptan, sumatriptan etc)	3
Migraine preparations: other/unknown	21
<b>ASTHMA/RESPIRATORY DRUGS</b>	
Bronchodilators	72
Leukotriene receptor antagonists (montelukast, zafirlukast etc)	30
Preventors	49
Theophylline and other xanthines	4
Asthma drugs: other/unknown	4
Respiratory drugs: other/unknown	37
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS</b>	
ACE inhibitor/diuretic combinations	22
ACE inhibitors	154
Adrenaline	39
Alpha blockers	5
Angina preparations	23
Angiotensin II antagonist/diuretic combinations	61
Angiotensin II antagonists	129
Antiarrhythmic agents	18
Antihypertensives: other (not diuretics)	20
Antiplatelet agents: other (clopidogrel, dipyridamole etc)	38
Beta blockers	184
Calcium antagonists	144
Cardiac glycosides	44
Diuretics	109
Diuretics: potassium sparing	13
HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins)	90
Lipid lowering agents: fibrates (gemfibrozil, fenofibrate etc)	4
Lipid lowering agents: other	3
Vasodilators	21
Vasopressors	1
<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS</b>	
<b>Antidepressants</b>	
Mianserin	4
Mirtazapine	87
Monoamine oxidase inhibitors	26
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine etc.)	606

Tricyclic antidepressants	121
Venlafaxine	180
Antidepressants: other/unknown	20
<b>Antiepileptics</b>	
Carbamazepine	129
Gabapentin	12
Phenytoin	35
Pregabalin	3
Sodium valproate	240
Antiepileptics: other/unknown	110
<b>Antipsychotics</b>	
Amisulpride	21
Aripiprazole	24
Clozapine	10
Olanzapine	138
Phenothiazines (chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine etc)	110
Quetiapine	154
Risperidone	80
Ziprasidone	2
Antipsychotics: other/unknown	35
<b>CNS depressants</b>	
Barbiturates	13
Benzodiazepines	1,068
Chloral hydrate	1
Doxylamine	27
Sleep aids over-the-counter: other	2
Zolpidem	96
Sedative/hypnotic: other/unknown	33
<b>CNS stimulants</b>	
Amphetamines (for ADHD, not street drugs)	76
Caffeine	38
<b>CNS – miscellaneous</b>	
Antidementia agents (donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine)	23
Antiparkinsonian agents	39
Clonidine	55
Lithium	59
CNS drugs: other/unknown	1
<b>COUGH/COLD PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antitussives	49
Cough/cold preparations with paracetamol	160
Cough/cold preparations without	606

paracetamol/aspirin	
Dextromethorphan	7
Pseudoephedrine	17
Throat lozenges without local anaesthetic	16
<b>DRUGS USED IN ADDICTIVE DISORDERS</b>	
Buprenorphine	28
Bupropion	25
Disulfiram	2
Methadone	22
Naloxone	1
Naltrexone	13
Antismoking products: other (nicotine patches, gum etc)	37
<b>EAR PREPARATIONS</b>	
Ear drops	67
<b>EYE PREPARATIONS</b>	
Contact lens preparations	18
Eye drops: imidazoline-based	4
Eye drops: other/unknown	37
Eye ointment	1
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Antacids	74
Antidiarrhoeals: diphenoxylate/atropine	8
Antidiarrhoeals: loperamide	12
Antidiarrhoeals: other	3
Antiemetics	116
Antispasmodics	32
Barium, soluble salts	2
Histamine <sub>2</sub> - antagonists (cimetidine, ranitidine etc.)	57
Laxatives	103
Proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole, esomeprazole etc.)	148
Gastrointestinal preparations: other/unknown	71
<b>METABOLISM</b>	
<b>Electrolytes/minerals</b>	
Calcium salts	40
Fluoride	20
Iron (not multivitamins)	92
Potassium salts	29
Electrolytes: other/unknown	5

<b>Vitamins</b>	
Folic acid	75
Vitamin A	2
Vitamin B group	22
Vitamin C	52
Vitamin D	30
Vitamins compound with iron	224
Vitamins compound without iron	45
Vitamins: other	77
<b>Other metabolic</b>	
Antihormones (tamoxifen, cyproterone, flutamide etc.)	7
Antithyroid preparations	11
Bisphosphonates	19
Corticosteroids	161
Diet aids/anorectics – over-the-counter	10
Diet aids/anorectics – prescription	29
Hypoglycaemics, oral: alpha glucosidase inhibitors (acarbose etc)	1
Hypoglycaemics, oral: biguanides (metformin)	54
Hypoglycaemics, oral: glitazones	8
Hypoglycaemics, oral: sulphonylureas (glibenclamide, gliclazide etc)	59
Insulin	33
Oestrogens/progestagens (not oral contraceptives)	21
Oral contraceptives: oestrogen and progestogen	299
Oral contraceptives: progestogen only	53
Thyroxine	113
Thyroid preparations: other/unknown	19
Hormones: other/unknown	18
<b>NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS AND GOUT MEDICATIONS</b>	
Allopurinol	19
Celecoxib	26
Colchicine	10
Diclofenac	159
Ibuprofen	532
Ibuprofen plus codeine	92
Indomethacin	16
Mefenamic acid	11
Naproxen	43
NSAIDs: other/unknown	48
<b>NOSE PREPARATIONS</b>	

Nose drops/sprays: imidazoline-based	12
Nose drops/sprays	5
Nasal preparations: other/unknown	9
<b>STREET DRUGS</b>	
Amphetamine and related drugs	60
Amyl nitrite and other volatile nitrites	1
Cocaine	2
Ecstasy and other hallucinogenic amphetamines	27
Gamma hydroxybutyrate	7
Heroin	9
Inhalant abuse (chroming)	15
Marijuana	29
Hallucinogenics: other/unknown	1
Street drugs: other/unknown	41
<b>TOPICAL PREPARATIONS</b>	
Acne preparations	21
Antipruritics (calamine lotion etc)	22
Capsaicin	10
Chest rubs	98
Hydrogen peroxide	12
Lice/scabies preparations	113
Liniments	99
Lotions/creams/ointments: other/unknown	8
Nappy rash products	501
Topical antibiotics	11
Topical antifungals	98
Topical antiseptics	344
Topical antivirals	7
Topical corticosteroids	108
Wart/corn preparations	20
Topical preparations: other/unknown	119
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MEDICINE/DRUG EXPOSURES</b>	
Antineoplastics	14
Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine	9
Diagnostic agents	1
Herbal preparations	101
Homeopathic preparations	47
Immunosuppressants	14
Methotrexate	23
Muscle relaxants	10
Quinine	4
Radiopharmaceuticals	1
Unknown tablets/capsules	22
Urinary alkalinisers/antiseptics	1

Vaccines/toxoids/antivenoms	14
Vaporiser fluids and inhalants	244
Other over-the-counter-medicines	96
Other prescription medicines	69