

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



QUEENSLAND POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE

13 11 26

Poisons Information Centre
Royal Children's Hospital
Pharmacy Department
Level 1
Foundation Building
Herston Road
Herston QLD 4029

www.health.qld.gov.au/poisonsinformationcentre

Queensland Poisons Information Centre

Annual Report 2008

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Mission Statement

To maximise the health of the people of Queensland by providing timely, appropriate information in poisoning or suspected poisoning situations and by the promotion of poisoning prevention.

Role and Philosophy

The role of the Queensland Poisons Information Centre (QPIC) is to provide the public and health professionals with prompt, up-to-date and appropriate information, and advice to assist in the management of poisonings and suspected poisonings. Members of the public may be given first aid instructions, possible symptoms to watch for, advice on the need for medical attention in poisonings, and general advice on poisoning's prevention and management. Unnecessary visits to medical facilities may be avoided in minor accidental poisonings by the timely provision of advice and reassurance. Health professionals are also given poisoning advice in the management of poisoned patients.

Location

The Queensland Poisons Centre is located in the Pharmacy Department of the Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane and has been in operation since 1973. The QPIC employs a team of pharmacists specialising in toxicology to handle poisoning calls.

Telephone Access

The Queensland Poisons Information Centre can be reached on 13 11 26. This number is available Australia-wide for the cost of a local call (excluding mobile phones). The QPIC receives calls from all over Queensland, northern New South Wales, Papua New Guinea and surrounding areas.

Hours of Operation

The QPIC operates Monday to Friday (08:30 to 21:00), Saturday (08:30 to 19:00) and Sunday (08:30 to 17:00). Outside these times, calls are diverted to the NSW Poisons Information Centre, which remains open on a 24-hour basis. During 2008, the QPIC continued to work some overnight shifts to assist the other Poisons Information Centres in taking calls from across other Australian states.

Website

For more information, visit the Queensland Poisons Information website at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/poisonsinformationcentre>

Staffing

Director

Hugh Miller B Sc Pharm, Grad Cert Man, Dip Hosp Pharm (Admin)

Manager

Carol Wylie B Pharm, Dip Hosp Clin Pharm

Specialists in Poisons Information

The QPIC is staffed by a total of 3.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of specialists in poisons information. The following people were available to be rostered on a part time basis as poison information specialists at the QPIC in 2008.

Jessica Bunker B Pharm	Sasanka Handunnetti B Pharm
Anita Champion B Pharm	Alicia Lorenz B Pharm
Michele Cree B Sci B Pharm Grad Dip Clin Pharm	Genevieve Messina B Pharm
Felicity Davis B Pharm	Lyn Robinson B Pharm Dip Hosp Pharm
Danielle Dean B Pharm	Sonya Stacey B Pharm PGDip (Child Health) PGCert (Health Mgmt)
Kimberly Graham B Pharm	Jenny Stubbs B Pharm
Meghan Fitzpatrick B Pharm	Michael Toon B Pharm
Nicolette Graham B Pharm, M Clin Pharm	Kriss Yunker BSc (Hons) B Pharm
Fiona Gregory B Pharm FSHP	

Administration

Natalie Burnham

Consultants

Numerous external consultants from a variety of Queensland organisations and government departments are available to the Poisons Information Centre, for advice or direct referral. These consultants range from the Queensland Museum and Queensland Herbarium staff, to the Environmental Health and Workplace Health and Safety officers. These departments and organisations continue to offer a valuable service to the Poisons Information Centre

The Poisons Information Centre has access to a number of clinical toxicologists. These clinicians are available on a 24 hour roster for direct advice to a poisons centre specialist, or referral to a practitioner requiring management advice in a poisoning.

Medical Consultants

Medical Toxicology Consultants are provided to physician callers for unusual, complicated or severe poisoning cases. Each day, coverage is provided for both adult and paediatric poisonings. (This service is available 24 hours per day).

Braitberg, George. MB BS FACEM
Buckley, Nick. MD FRACP
Chan, Betty. MB BS, FACEM, PhD
Daly, Frank. MB BS, FACEM
Downes, Michael. MB ChB FACEM
Dowsett, Robert. MB BS, FACEM
Graudins, Andis. MB BS, PhD, FACEM, FACMT
Gunja, Naren. MB BS, FACEM
Isbister, Geoffrey. B Sc, MB BS, FACEM
Jones, Alison. B Sc (Hons) Biochem, MD, FRCP, FRCPE, FiBIOL, FRACP
Kerr, Fergus. MB BS, FACEM, MPH
Little, Mark. MB BS, FACEM, MPH&TM, DTM&H (Lon)
McCoubrie, David. MB BS, FACEM
Monaghan, Mark. MB BS, FACEM
Murray, Lindsay. MB BS, FACEM
White, Julian. MB BS, MD FACTM
Whyte, Ian. MB BS (Hon), FRACP, FRCPE

Fellows in Training

Alfred, Sam. MB BS, FACEM, Dip Tox
Armstrong, Jason. MB ChB FACEM
Page, Colin. MB BS, FACEM

Research Activities and Publication Reviews

- Provided advice as a member the Clinical Advisory Panel for 13HEALTH
- Reviewed poisoning sections of Australian Medicines Handbook - Drug Choice Companion: Emergency and Primary Care, Third Edition, 2008
- Reviewed Royal Children's Hospital Emergency Medicine Department Guidelines for Poisonings, 2008

Data Collection and Feedback

- Provided feedback to Therapeutic Goods Administration on Therapeutic Goods Order Number 80: Children Resistant Packaging

Poisons Prevention Activities

- Produced 'Preventing poisoning – tips and advice' leaflet in conjunction with Health Promotion Unit, Queensland Health April 2008
- Reviewed poisonous plants section of QPIC Website

Training for QPIC Staff

- *Two staff attended:*
Advanced course in Toxicological Emergencies
Organised as part of Critical Care Medicines Workshop 2008, Queensland Health
25-26 July 2008 - Rockhampton
- *Two staff attended:*
Toxicology workshop
Medical Education Solutions
October 2008 - Brisbane
- *Two staff attended:*
All five New South Wales Poisons Centre meetings throughout the year
- *One staff member attended:*
2008 Toxinology Course
Hosted by Sunshine Coast Health in conjunction with Australasian Emergency Medicine (ACEM), Australian College of Remote and Rural Medicine (ACRRM) and the Australian Venom Research Unit.
15-17 August 2008

Poisons Education by QPIC Staff

- Poisons Information Seminar presented to 2008 Ferny Grove High School Students
10 March 2008
- Poisoning and Toxicology lecture provided to Masters of Pharmacy students from Griffith University
12 March 2008
- Phone interview with 'Extra' on safety of consuming Aloe Vera Juice
7 April 2008
- Phone interview with 'ABC Longreach Radio' on Child Resistant Packaging
8 May 2008
- Lecture on Poisons Information and Prevention to pharmacy assistants and members of the public
Keperra, Brisbane
18 May 2008
- Phone interview with 'Radio Pictures' on Human and Animal Exposures to Cane Toads
21 July 2008
- Phone interview with SBS on Hazards of Impaled Toys
3 October 2008
- Poisoning and Toxicology lecture to Queensland Ambulance First Aid Officers
Northgate, Brisbane
3 December 2008

Calls to the QPIC

Poisons can be hazardous to adults and children. Even the mildest chemicals can be poisonous to the person if the exposure is large enough. The QPIC receives calls about many potential poisons including medications, household products, workplace chemicals, animals and plants. Some examples of calls to the centre are listed below.

Examples of Calls to the QPIC

Example 1

A concerned father rang the QPIC after he noticed that several rat bait pellets were missing. The father suspected that his three year old son may have eaten the pieces that were laid inside the garage. The poison centre specialist reassured the father that in this quantity the substance was not considered toxic and no treatment would be necessary. However he was told to watch out for any delayed symptoms of unexplained nose bleeds, bleeding gums or blood in the faeces. The father was instructed to take his son to the GP if he experienced any of these symptoms.

Example 2

An eighteen month old toddler was found at the open dishwasher with white detergent around her mouth and on her fingers. It appeared that the child put her fingers into the powder container on the inside of the dishwasher door. Her mother immediately rang the QPIC and stated that she didn't know how much her daughter may have consumed. The mother was advised to wipe her daughter's mouth and give a small drink of water. The poison centre specialist questioned the mother about whether her child had any symptoms. The toddler was crying and appeared to have a red mark on her lip which may be a burn from the detergent. The mother was advised to take her child to the hospital for immediate assessment.

Example 3

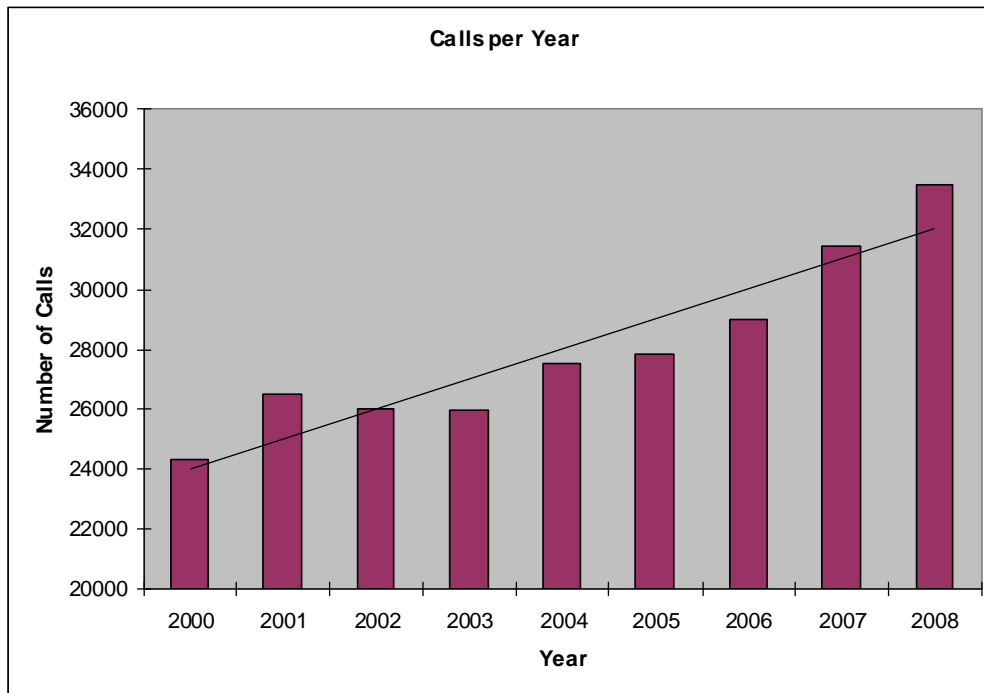
Mr J.F was unloading his van when he suddenly felt a sharp pain on his arm. He told the staff at the QPIC he wasn't sure what caused the pain, but he suspected a bite from small green spider, which he saw in the van. The man was told to wash the area with soap and water and apply a cold pack. He was also advised that he could take analgesics and antihistamines for the pain and swelling and that he should seek medical attention if his symptoms persisted or if there were any signs of infection. The caller was also advised to seek urgent medical attention if he showed any signs of an allergic reaction.

Example 4

A junior medical officer phoned the QPIC for management advice after a young male adult presented to the emergency department in a small regional hospital. The patient had intentionally overdosed on paracetamol, diazepam, amitriptyline and ibuprofen. The poisons specialist conducted a risk assessment and established that the dose of amitriptyline was in the life threatening range. The doctor was immediately transferred to a consultant toxicologist for expert management advice.

Calls to QPIC per Year

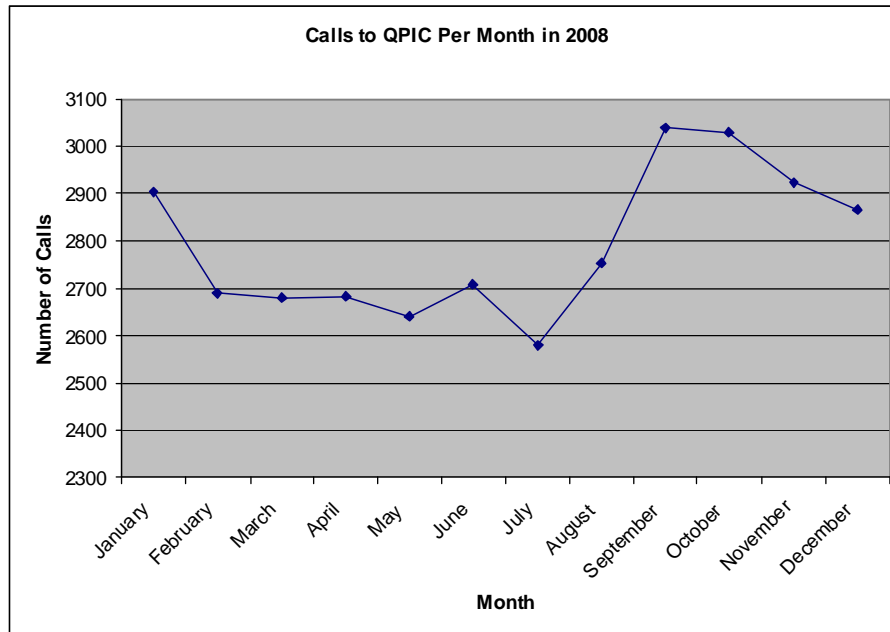
- Consistent increase in the number of calls to the QPIC every year since 2000



Calls to QPIC Per Year	Number of Calls
2000	24303
2001	26470
2002	26001
2003	25978
2004	27508
2005	27803
2006	28970
2007	31441
2008	33495

Calls Received per Month

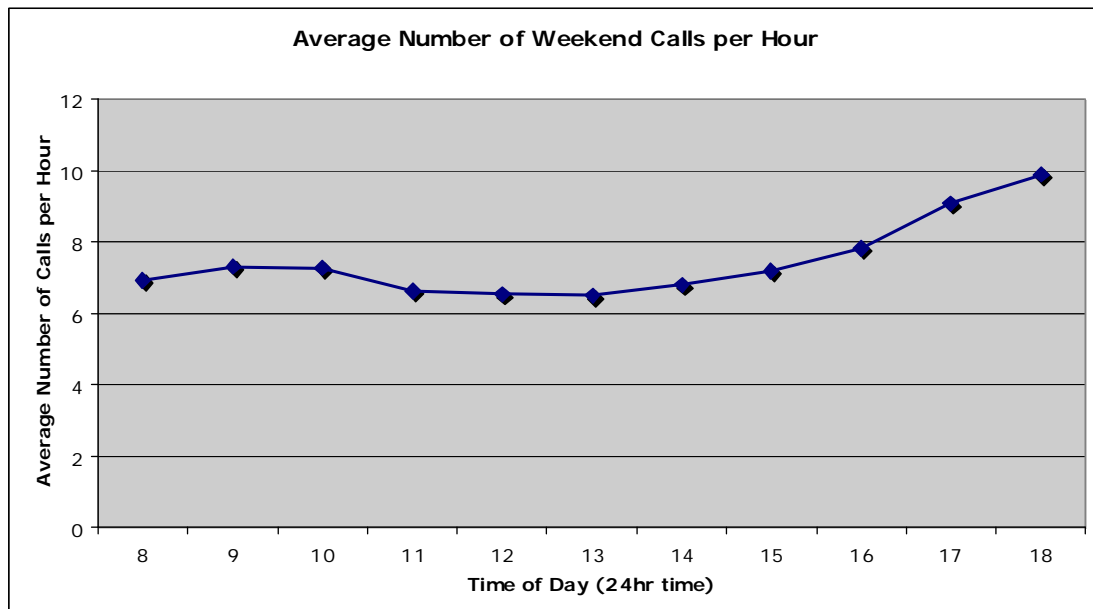
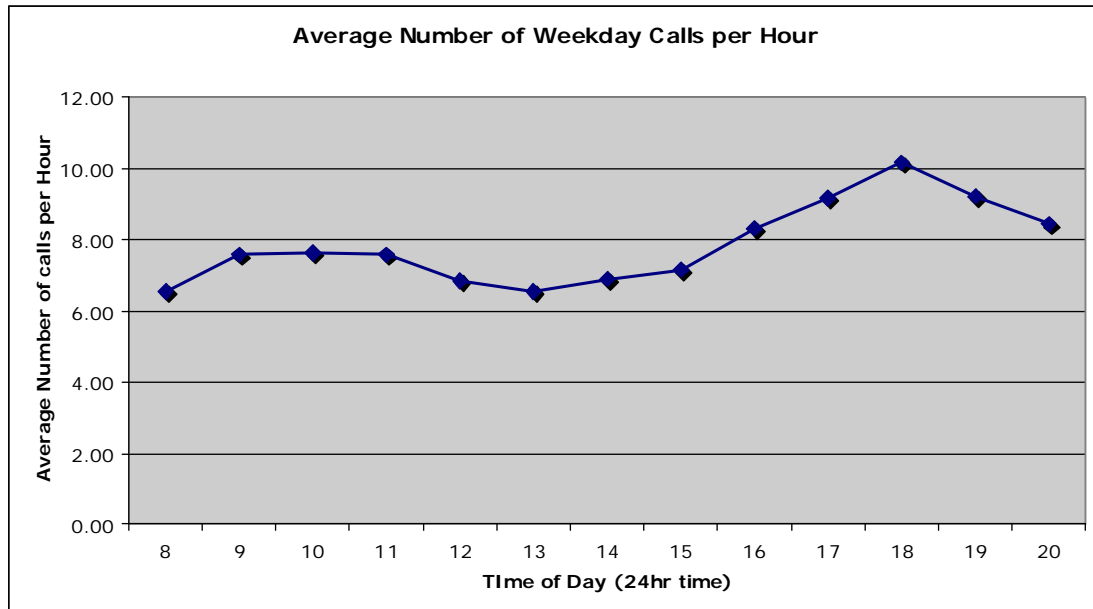
- Most calls/month were answered in September/October, the least number of calls/month were answered in July
- More calls occur in summer compared to winter
- Variation of 459 calls/month between the busiest and slowest times of the year



Calls to QPIC Per Month	Number of Calls
January	2903
February	2688
March	2680
April	2682
May	2640
June	2709
July	2580
August	2754
September	3039
October	3030
November	2924
December	2866

Average Calls Received Per Hour

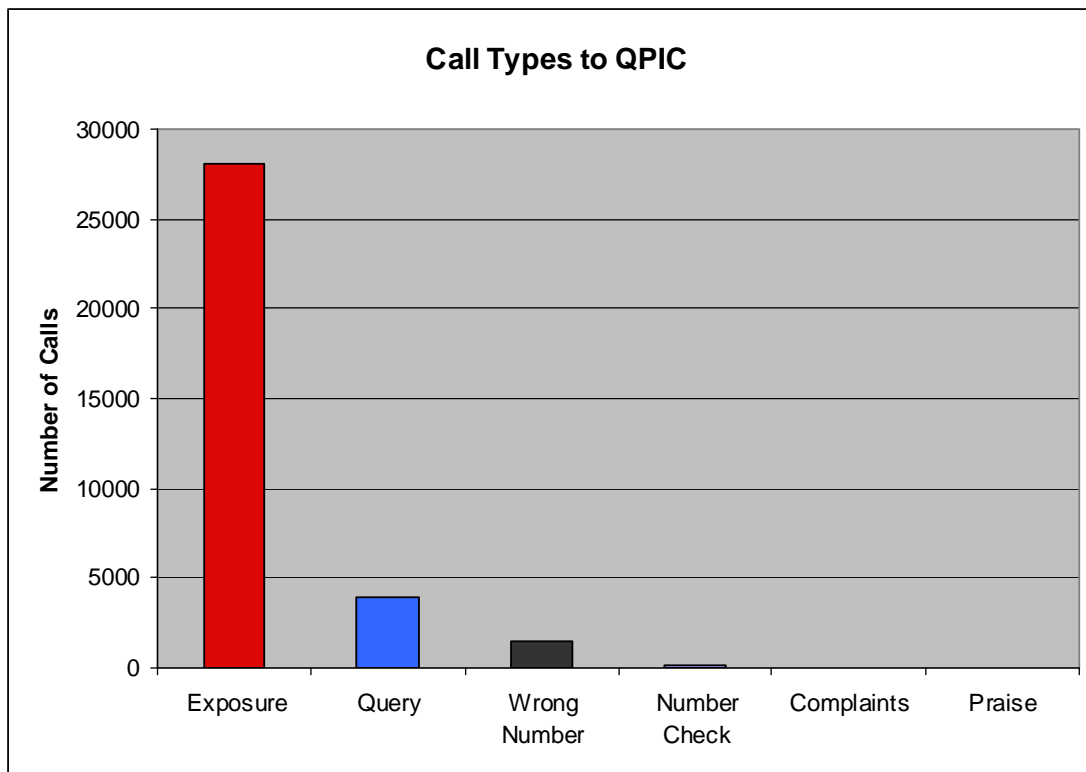
- Similar trend seen in the average number of calls for weekdays and weekends
- Most calls/hr received between 4-9pm
- Least number of calls/hr received between 12-3pm



** The QPIC changed its closing time on Saturdays to 7pm (originally 5pm) on the 7th of June 2008.*

Call Types

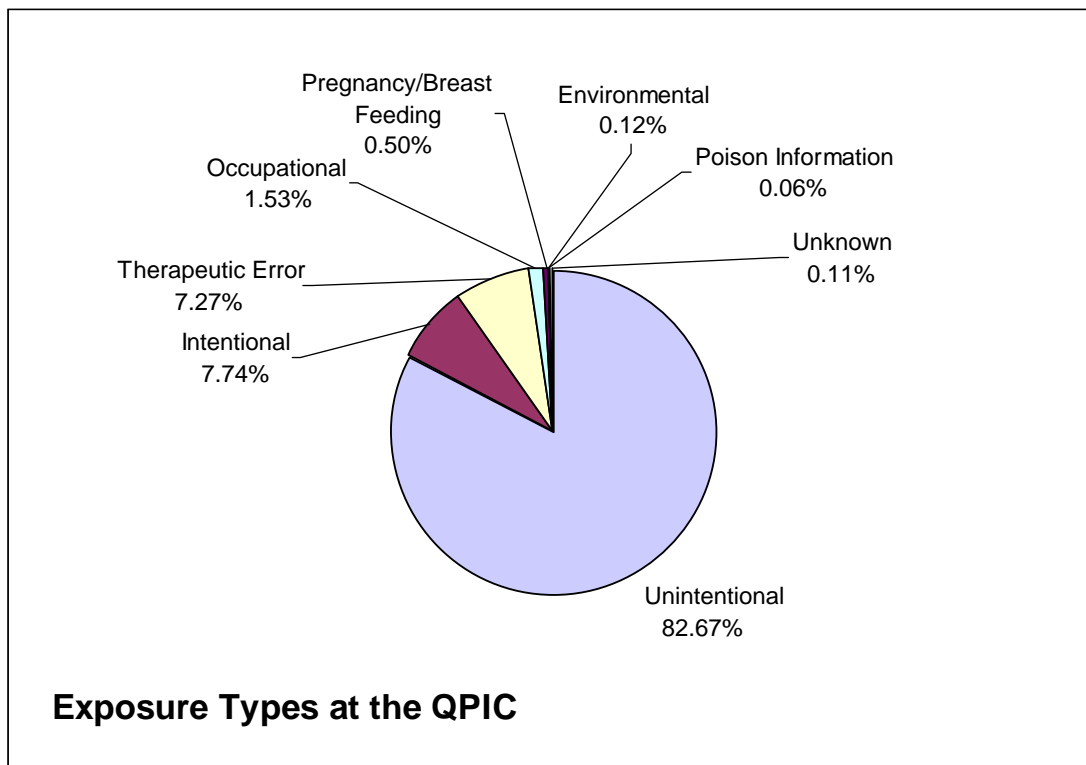
- The majority of calls to the centre involve exposures



Call Type	Number of Calls	(%)
Exposure	28053	83.75%
Query	3917	11.69%
Wrong Number	1399	4.18%
Number Check	114	0.34%
Complaints	7	0.02%
Praise	5	0.01%

Exposure Types

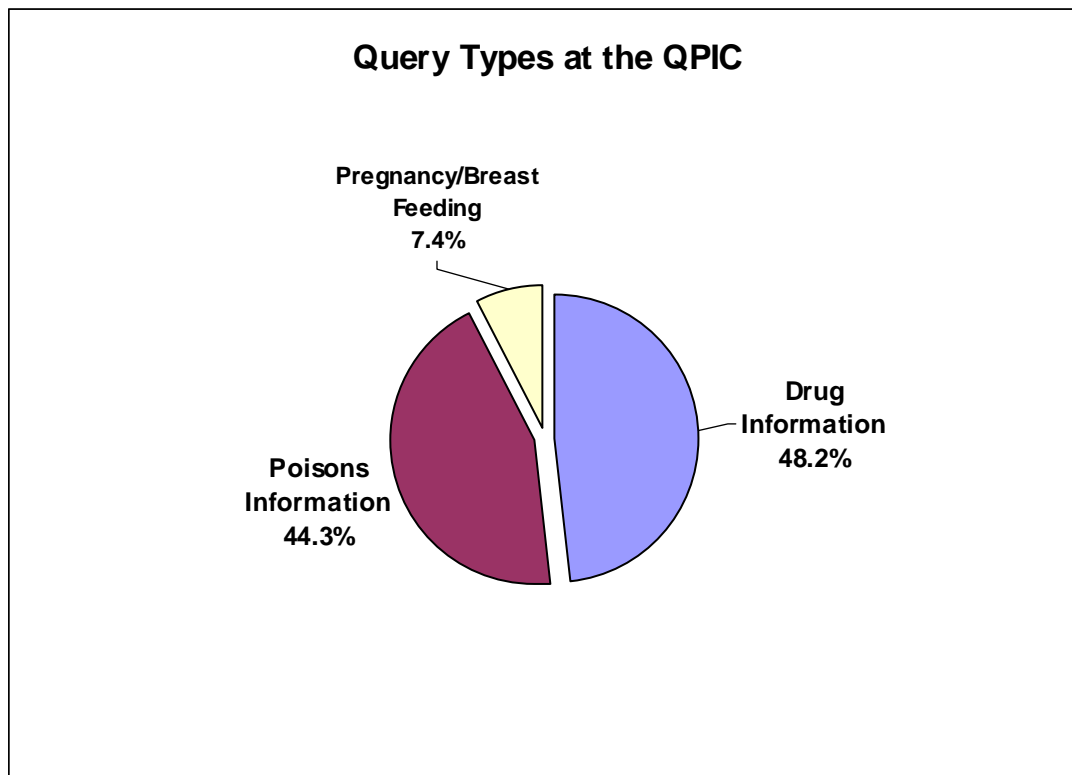
- Most exposures are classified as unintentional



Exposure Type	Number of Calls	(%)
Unintentional	23164	82.67%
Intentional	2168	7.74%
Therapeutic Error	2038	7.27%
Occupational	428	1.53%
Pregnancy/Breast Feeding	140	0.50%
Environmental	34	0.12%
Poison Information	18	0.06%
Unknown	35	0.11%

Query Types

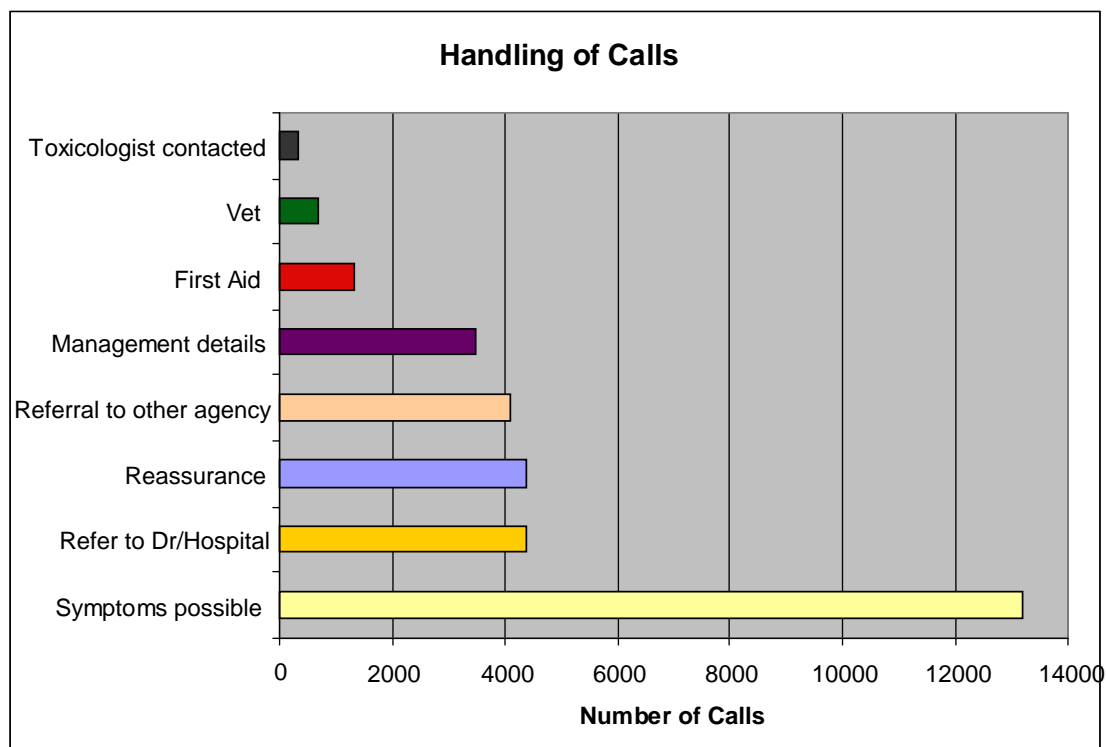
- The majority of queries are drug and poison information calls



Query Type	Number of Calls	(%)
Drug Information	1883	48.23%
Poisons Information	1731	44.34%
Pregnancy/Breast Feeding	290	7.43%

Handling of Calls

- Most callers are advised to watch for possible symptoms, while remaining at home
- Less than 14% of callers are given an immediate referral to a doctor/hospital

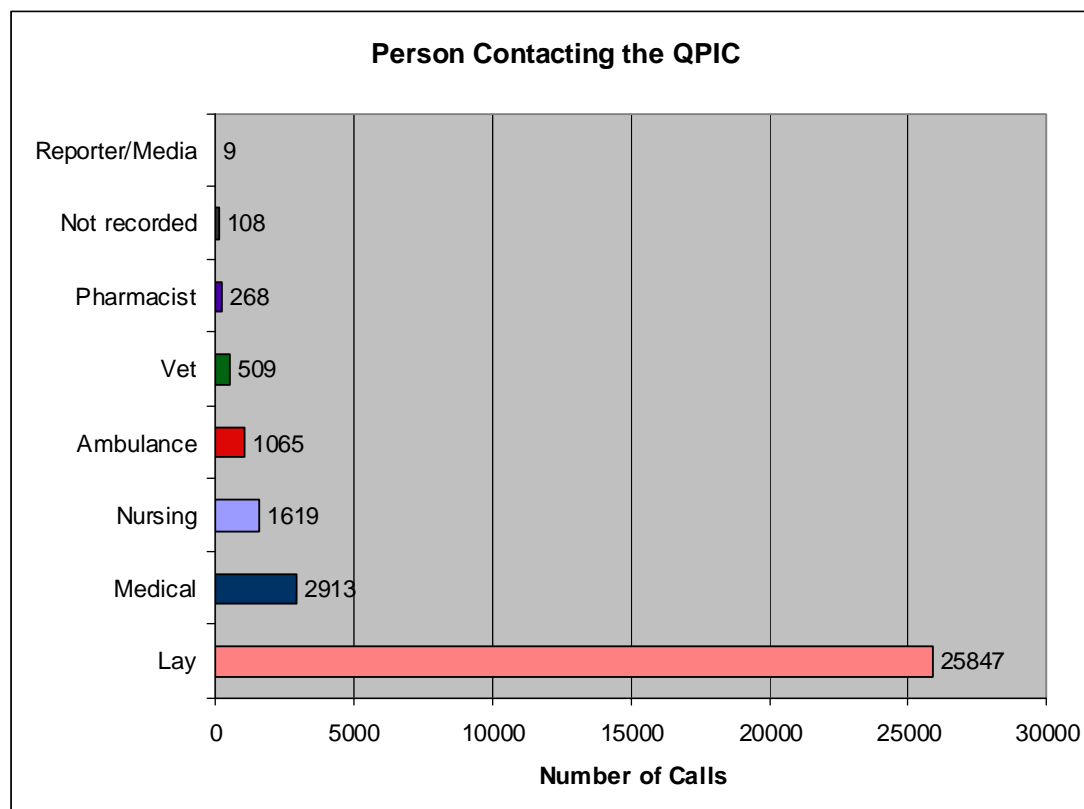


Handling of Calls	Number of Calls	(%)
Symptoms possible	13204	41.32%
Refer to Dr/Hospital	4391	13.74%
Reassurance	4385	13.72%
Referral to other agency	4099	12.83%
Management details*	3488	10.92%
First Aid	1323	4.14%
Vet	709	2.22%
Toxicologist contacted	354	1.11%

**These patients are already at a GP surgery or a hospital. The QPIC provides management details to health professionals.*

Persons Calling the QPIC

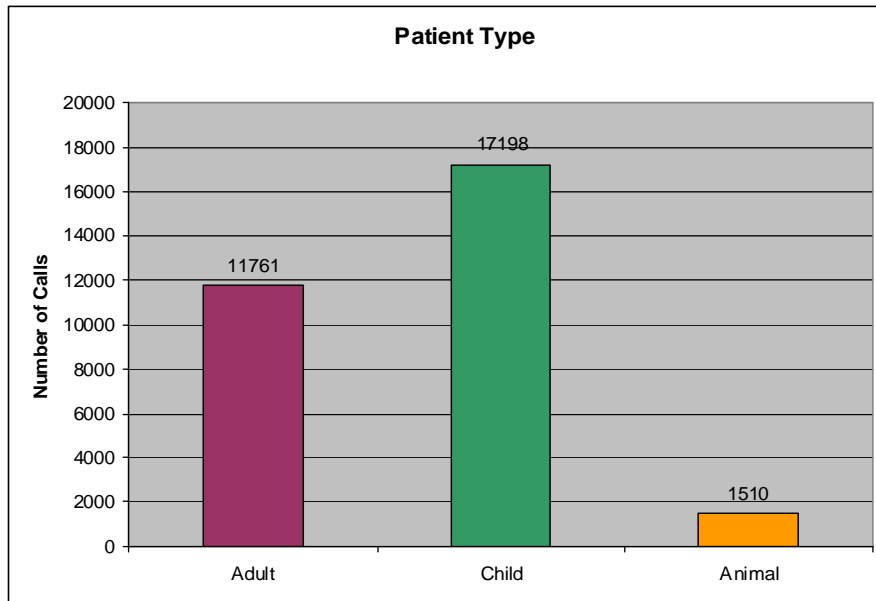
- Most calls are from the general public; these calls can be from the patient themselves, a friend/relative or a carer



Persons calling the QPIC	Number of Calls	(%)
Lay	25847	79.93%
Medical	2913	9.01%
Nursing	1619	5.01%
Ambulance	1065	3.29%
Vet	509	1.57%
Pharmacist	268	0.83%
Not recorded	108	0.33%
Reporter/Media	9	0.03%

Patient Type

- The majority of calls involved children

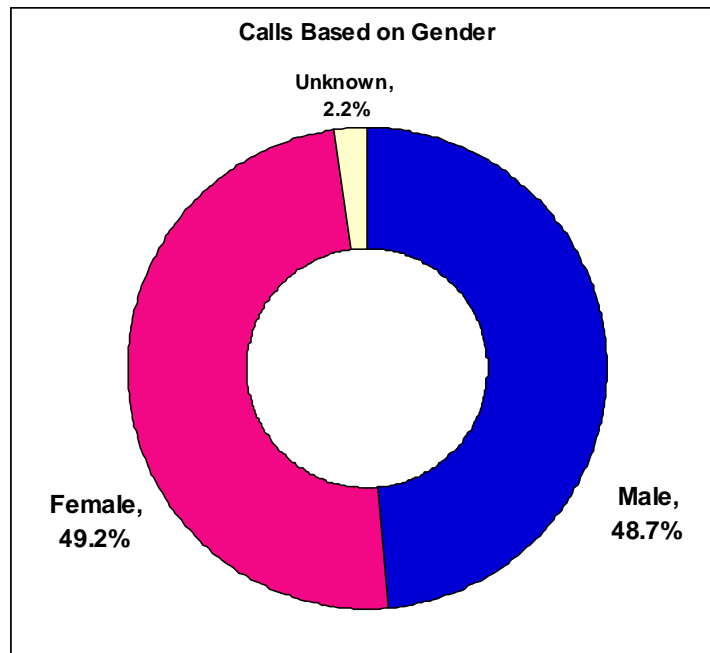


Patient Type Summary	Number of Calls	(%)
Adult	11761	38.60%
Child	17198	56.44%
Animal	1510	4.96%

** Children include all people under the age of 18*

Gender of Patients

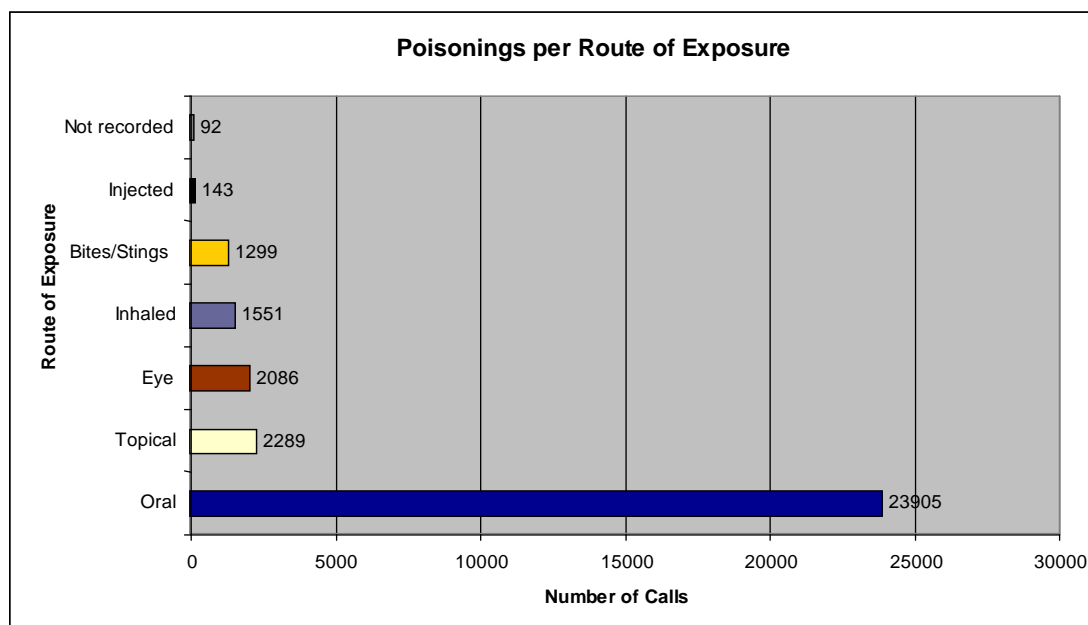
- Numbers of males and females are not significantly different



Gender	Number of Calls	(%)
Male	11134	48.7%
Female	11252	49.2%
Unknown	494	2.2%

Route of Exposure of Poisonings

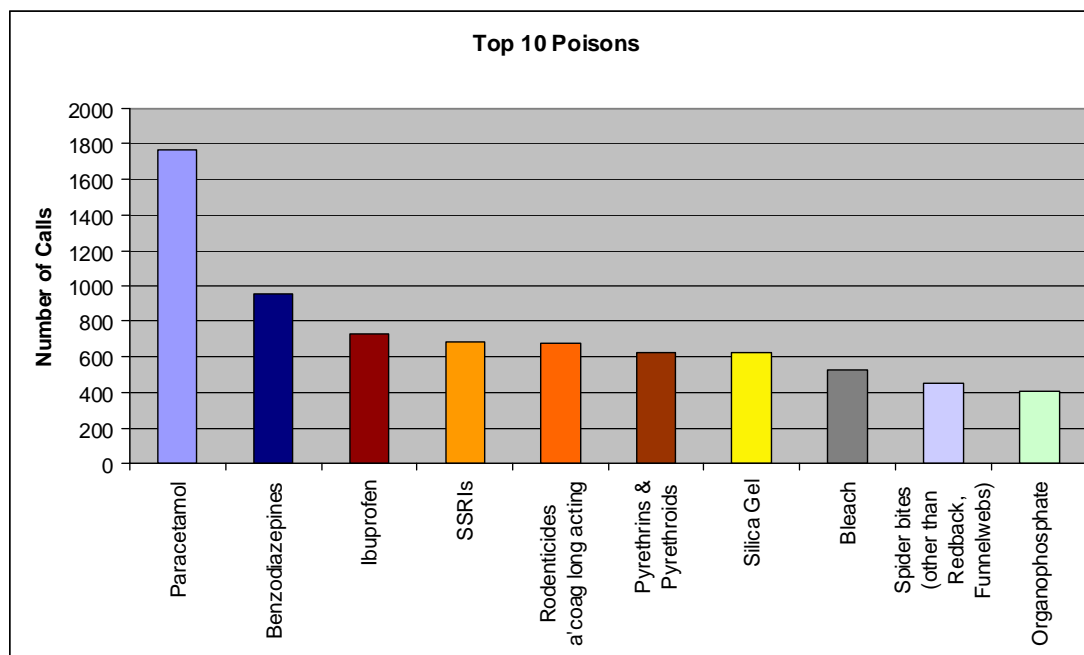
- The most common route of exposure is the oral route
- Many poisonings involve more than one route of exposure eg. both topical and eye



Route of Exposure	Number of Calls	(%)
Oral	23905	76.22%
Topical	2289	7.30%
Eye	2086	6.65%
Inhaled	1551	4.95%
Bite/Sting	1299	4.14%
Injected	143	0.46%
Not recorded	92	0.29%

Top 10 Poisons

- Paracetamol has consistently been the number one poison over several years
- The four most common calls for poisonings are all medications
- Many calls involve cleaning agents (refer to appendix), however bleach is the only cleaning agent to be listed in the top ten poisons list
- Although it is non toxic, silica gel is one of the substances generating many calls



Number	Poison	Number of Calls	(%) of Calls
1	Paracetamol	1758	5.25%
2	Benzodiazepines (eg. diazepam, temazepam)	950	2.84%
3	Ibuprofen	732	2.19%
4	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI's, eg. sertraline, paroxetine)	681	2.03%
5	Rodenticides: anticoagulant long acting	673	2.01%
6	Pyrethrin & Pyrethroid pesticides	629	1.88%
7	Silica Gel	625	1.87%
8	Bleach	525	1.57%
9	Spider bites (other than Redback, Funnel webs)	449	1.34%
10	Organophosphate pesticides	405	1.21%

Appendix: Queensland Poisons Information System Report

STATISTICS

Data Range: 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008

Total Calls: 33,495

Animals/ Plants	Count
<i>Animals other</i>	
Animal, other	27
Bat/flying fox	13
Bite: other/ unknown	289
Cane toads	78
Dog/cat	2
Leech	4
Lizard	8
Platypus	1
Snail/ slug ingestion	2
Snake	177
Total for Animals other	<u>601</u>
<i>Insects</i>	
Ant	41
Bee	27
Caterpillar	28
Centipede	49
Fire Ant	7
Insect	76
Millipede	6
Mosquito	3
Scorpion	33
Tick	95
Wasp/ hornet	72
Total for Insects	<u>437</u>
<i>Marine animals</i>	
Blue-ringed octopus	1
Catfish	23
Fish stings: other/ unknown	28
Jellyfish, bluebottle (physalia)	10
Jellyfish, chironex	2
Jellyfish, irukandji	4
Jellyfish: other/ unknown	5
Marine animal bite/ sting: other/ unknown	23
Stingray	10
Stonefish	14
Total for Marine Animals	<u>120</u>
<i>Plants</i>	
Algae, other	1
Blue- green algae	5
Mushrooms, amanita	2
Mushrooms, chlorophyllum	7
Mushrooms: other/ unknown	110

Plant: amarylidaceae other	7
Plant: Apricot (cyanogenic glycosides)	1
Plant: Asparagus fern	5
Plant: cactus	11
Plant: capsaicin	22
Plant: cardiac glycosides:other/ unknown	3
Plant: Chinaberry (Melia aziderach)	1
Plant: colchicine	2
Plant: Cyanogenic glycoside other	13
Plant: Daffodil	1
Plant: Datura (angel's trumpet)	7
Plant: dermatitis	57
Plant: Dieffenbachia	8
Plant: Duranta	65
Plant: Euphorbiacea	30
Plant: Frangipani	20
Plant: gastrointestinal irritants	30
Plant: grayanotoxins	2
Plant: identification	13
Plant: lantana	8
Plant: Mother-in-Laws tongue (oxalates)	2
Plant: non-toxic	115
Plant: Oleander (yellow), Cascabella thevetia	18
Plant: Oleander, Nerium	12
Plant: other/ unknown	290
Plant: oxalate	91
Plant: Pelargonium	1
Plant: Philodendron	4
Plant: Poinsettia	4
Plant: poisonous (enquiries)	30
Plant: pyrrolizidine alkaloids	2
Plant: schefflera	2
Plant: solanine	32
Plant: stimulants	2
Plant: thorn injury	6
Plant: toxicodendrol	6
Total for Plants	<u>1,048</u>

Spiders

Funnel Web Spider	11
Redback spider	149
Spider other/ unknown	451
White-tailed spider	11
Total for Spiders	<u>622</u>

Veterinary medicines

Aquarium Products	51
Vet: Animal vaccines	26
Vet: Diethylcarbamazine	13
Vet: external medicines: other/ unknown	77
Vet: Fipronil (topical)	20
Vet: flea collar	4
Vet: Heart worm: other/ unknown	17
Vet: Imidacloprid (topical)	50
Vet: internal medicines: other/ unknown	135
Vet: Ivermectin & related agents	41
Vet: Organophosphate (top/ oral)	23
Vet: Pimobendan	6
Vet: Praziquantel	29

Vet: Pyrantel	31
Vet: Pyrethrin (topical)	48
Vet: Tilmicosin	1
Vet: Topical infestation products: other/ unknown	42
<i>Total for Veterinary medicines</i>	<u>614</u>

Total for Animals/Plants **3,440** **8.43%**

Chemical **Count**

Adhesives

Adhesive, glue, cement, paste: other/ unknown	138
Adhesives, cyanoacrylates	166
Adhesives, epoxy resins	28
Adhesives, model glues/ cements	3
Adhesives, non-toxic glues, pastes, etc.	14
<i>Total for Adhesives</i>	<u>349</u>

Alcohols/ Glycols

Alcohol, ethanol (beverage)	400
Alcohol, ethanol (non-beverage)	79
Alcohol, higher (butanol, propanol etc.)	6
Alcohol: other/ unknown	11
Ethylene glycol	44
Glycol ethers	14
Glycols: other/ unknown	2
Isopropanol	49
Methanol	24
Methylated spirits	121
propylene glycol	1
<i>Total for Alcohols/ Glycols</i>	<u>751</u>

Chemicals general

Borates (not insecticides)	7
Bromides	3
Capsaicin	21
Chemicals: other/ unknown	192
Cyanamide	1
Metabisulphite	3
Nitrates and nitrites	10
Phosphorous	3
Radioactive materials	4
Silicones	45
Sodium Chloride (salt)	10
Styrene	11
Sulphur Dioxide	4
Sulphur: other/ unknown	15
Tin compounds	1
<i>Total for Chemicals general</i>	<u>330</u>

Cleaning agents

Baby bottle cleaner	14
Bleach (hypochlorite based)	165
Bleach: (NaOH + hypochlorite)	267
Bleach: other/ unknown	95
Carpet cleaner	24
Carpet deodoriser	9

Chlorine (see also pool chlorine)	37
Cleaner: acidic	200
Cleaner: alkaline	350
Cleaner: all purpose/ hard surface	247
Cleaner: ammonia based	25
Cleaner: floor	49
Cleaner: glass/ window	92
Cleaner: industrial - general	26
Cleaner: leather, vinyl, upholstery	4
Cleaner: limonene	39
Cleaner: other/ unknown	130
Dettol	146
Disinfectant, cationic detergent	352
Disinfectant, essential oil based	1
Disinfectant, other/ unknown	39
Disinfectant, phenolic	9
Drain cleaner - other/ unknown	9
Drain cleaner - sodium hydroxide based	18
Oven cleaner - other/ unknown	79
Oven cleaner - sodium hydroxide based	81
Phenol and other phenolics	23
Sodium Carbonate	16
Toilet bowl cleaner: powder, liquid	85
Toilet bowl rim block cleaner/ deodoriser	112
Toilet bowl rim liquid cleaner/ deodoriser	91
Toilet cistern cleaner/ deodorant	19
Vaporiser cleaning tablet	15
<i>Total for Cleaning Agents</i>	<u>2,868</u>

Corrosives

Acid: other/ unknown	101
Alkalis (not cleaners)	22
Ammonia (not cleaners)	24
Ammonium bifluoride	3
Battery Acid	48
Copper sulphate	28
Corrosives: other/ unknown	21
Hydrochloric acid	77
Hydrofluoric acid	24
Hydrogen peroxide (not for medical use)	3
ketone peroxide (inc. MEKP)	5
Potassium permanganate	37
Sodium Hydroxide	55
<i>Total for Corrosives</i>	<u>448</u>

Detergents

Detergent anionic/ non-ionic (not sink washing up type)	245
Detergent, sink washing up	390
Dishwasher (auto) rinse agents	31
Dishwasher cleaner	6
Dishwasher deterg. liquid (auto)	8
Dishwasher deterg. powder/ granule (auto)	89
Dishwasher deterg. tablet (auto)	137
<i>Total for Detergents</i>	<u>906</u>

Fungicides

Carbamate fungicide	17
Copper fungicide	4

	Fungicide:other/ unknown (non-medical)	21
	<i>Total for Fungicides</i>	<u>42</u>
<i>Herbicides</i>		
	Carbamate herbicide	1
	Chlorophenoxy type herbicide	33
	Glufosinate	2
	Glyphosate	338
	Herbicide: other/ unknown	101
	Paraquat/ diquat	27
	Triazine herbicide	14
	<i>Total for Herbicides</i>	<u>516</u>
<i>Hydrocarbons</i>		
	Benzene	5
	Diesel	32
	Fabric protection (eg Scotchguard)	1
	Formaldehyde/ formalin	36
	Hydrocarbon: other/ unknown	261
	Hydrocarbons, aromatic: other/ unknown	29
	Hydrocarbons, halogenated	9
	Kerosene	53
	Lighter fluid	1
	Methylene chloride (not paint strippers)	4
	Mineral turpentine	215
	Petrol	224
	Solvent abuse	3
	Tetrachloroethylene	2
	Toluene	28
	Toluene diisocyanate	6
	Xylene	27
	<i>Total for Hydrocarbons</i>	<u>936</u>
<i>Ketones</i>		
	Acetone (not nail polish remover)	18
	ketones: other	23
	<i>Total for Ketones</i>	<u>41</u>
<i>Pesticides & insecticides</i>		
	2,4,5-T	1
	2,4-D	18
	Amitraz	20
	Arsenic & Arsenicals	25
	Bacillus thuringiensis (insecticide)	2
	Biological insecticides other/ unknown	2
	Borates & boric acid pesticides	135
	Carbamate insecticides	47
	Carbamate/ other pesticides combinations	18
	Chlorinated h'carbon insecticides: other/ unknown	10
	Chlorophenoxy/ Dicamba	26
	Chloropicrin	2
	Copper chrome arsenate (wood preservative)	28
	Creosote (wood preservative)	14
	Dicamba	47
	Endosulphan	4
	Fipronil	53
	Fumigants: other	3
	Herbicide + Fertilizer	6

Hydramethylnon	2
Imidacloprid	46
Insect growth regulators, other	7
MCPA	54
Metakdehyde	13
Methiocarb	1
Methyl Bromide	11
Organophosphate + other pesticide combinations	47
Organophosphate	405
Pesticide: other/ unknown	119
Picloram	16
Piperonyl butoxide	27
Pyrethrins & Pyrethroids	630
Rotenone	4
Snail poison, other/ unknown	7
<i>Total for Pesticides & insecticides</i>	<u>1,850</u>

Pool chemicals

Pool chlorine	141
Pool products: acid	46
Pool products: other/ unknown	20
Pool test kits/ solutions	5
<i>Total for Pool chemicals</i>	<u>212</u>

Rodenticides

1080/monoflouroacetate	19
Rodenticides: a'coag long-acting	673
Rodenticides: a'coag short-acting	39
Rodenticides: other/ unknown	67
Strychnine	17
<i>Total for Rodenticides</i>	<u>815</u>

Total for Chemical

10,055 24.64%

External medicines

Count

Ear preparations

Ear ointment	1
Ear product other/ unknown	1
Ear drops	1
<i>Total for Ear preparations</i>	<u>3</u>

Eye preparations

Contact lens preparations	9
Eye drops: imidazoline based	4
Eye drops: other/ unknown	28
Eye ointment	1
Eye products: other/ unknown	1
<i>Total for Eye preparations</i>	<u>43</u>

Lotion, solution, powder, ointment, cream

Acne preparations	12
Antibiotic, topical	20
Antifungal, topical	102
Antipruritics (calamine lotion etc.)	18
Antiseptic, top: iodine based	18

Antiseptic, top: mercurochrome	1
Antiseptic, top: povidone-iodine based	24
Antiseptic, top: alcohol	175
Antiseptic, top: chlorhexidine	38
Antiseptic, top: other	27
Antiviral, topical	1
Baby oil	73
Chest rubs	59
Corticosteroid, topical	66
Cream/ Gel: methyl salicylate based	16
Hydrogen peroxide	49
Lice/ scabies preps: organophosphate based	50
Lice/ scabies preps: other	17
Lice/ scabies preps: pyrethrins based	17
Lice/scabies preps: essential oil based	18
Liniments: methyl salicylate based	49
Liniments: other	25
Lotions, creams, ointments: other/ unknown	49
Nappy rash products	266
Pinetarsol	9
Shampoo antidandruff: other/ unknown	7
Shampoo antidandruff: selenium based	8
Shampoo antidandruff: zinc pyrithione	13
Topical non-steroidal agents	14
Wart/ corn preps: other	1
Wart/ corn preps: salicylic acid based	14
Wart/corn preps: podophyllum based	9
Total for Lotion, solution, powder, ointment, cream	<u>1,265</u>

Miscellaneous external medications

Topical preparations: other/ unknown	57
Topical: Fluorouracil	4
Total for Miscellaneous external medications	<u>61</u>

Mouth preparations

Mouth preparations: anaesthetic	3
Mouth preparations: anti-inflammatory	1
Mouth preparations: other	12
Mouth preparations: povidone-iodine	5
Teething gels	62
Throat lozenges- local anaesthetic	3
Throat lozenges- no local anaesthetic	5
Toothache drops: clove oil	7
Toothache drops: other	17
Total for Mouth preparations	<u>115</u>

Nasal/ Inhaled preparations

Nose drop/ spray: imidazoline based	23
Nose drop/ spray: steroid based	3
Nose drop/spray: other/ unknown	9
Vaporiser fluids and inhalants	193
Total for Nasal/ Inhaled preparations	<u>228</u>

Total for External medicines

1,762 4.32%

Internal medicines

Abuse/ Recreational

Amphetamines and related drugs (abuse)	47
Amyl nitrite and other volatile nitrites	2
Cocaine	5
Ecstasy/ other hallucinogenic agents	20
Gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and related drugs	23
Heroin	5
Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)	1
Marijuana	26
Phencyclidine (PCP)	1
Street Drugs, unknown	1
<i>Total for Abuse/ Recreational</i>	<u>131</u>

Alimentary system

5HT3 antagonists (eg ondansetron)	6
Antacids	75
Antiemetics: other	3
Antispasmodics: other	6
Atropine	19
Diphenoxylate/ atropine	11
Domperidone	9
Gastrointestinal preps: other/ unknown	31
Glycerol	2
H2 antagonists (eg cimetidine)	27
Hyoscine/ hyoscyamine	77
Ipecac	2
Laxatives: other	76
Laxatives: stimulant	56
Loperamide	23
Metoclopramide	79
Prochlorperazine	10
Propantheline	1
Proton pump inhibitors (eg omeprazole)	175
Sulfasalazine	13
Ulcer treatment: other	1
<i>Total for Alimentary system</i>	<u>702</u>

Analgesics, other

Analgesic: other/ unknown	5
Aspirin & other salicylates	161
Aspirin/ Codeine combinations	11
Ergot alkaloids	8
Ibuprofen + codeine	93
Methysergide	3
Naratriptan	1
Paracetamol	1758
Paracetamol/ antihistamine combination	12
Paracetamol/ codeine 15mg combinations	37
Paracetamol/ codeine 30mg combinations	168
Paracetamol/ codeine 8-10mg combinations	135
Paracetamol/ codeine liquid preparation	22
Paracetamol/ codeine/ antihistamine	107
Paracetamol/ Dextropropoxyphene	27
Pizotifen	18

Sumatriptan	4
Sumatriptan	132
Tramadol	1
Zolmitriptan	1
<i>Total for Analgesics, other</i>	<u>2,703</u>

Anti-infective agents

Aciclovir	7
Amoxicillin	213
Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid combinations	65
Amphotericin	2
Anthelmintics: other	3
Antibiotics: other/ unknown	33
Antimalarial drugs (other/ unknown) not quinine): other/unknown	1
Antimicrobial: other/ unknown	3
Antiviral drugs: other/ unknown	2
Azithromycin	2
Benzyloxyphenicol	1
Cefaclor	37
Ceftriaxone	2
Cefuroxime	1
Cephalexin	113
Cephalosporins, other	2
Chloramphenicol	25
Chloroquine	1
Ciprofloxacin	15
Clarithromycin	17
Co-trimoxazole	12
Dapsone	1
Dicloxacillin	7
Doxycycline	47
Efavirenz	2
Enoxacin	1
Erythromycin	45
Famciclovir	4
Flucloxacillin	14
Fluconazole	8
Fusidic acid/ sodium fusidate	1
Gentamicin	2
Griseofulvin	2
Ivermectin & related agents	34
Ketoconazole	10
Lamivudine	1
Mebendazole	33
Metronidazole	45
Minocycline	9
Neomycin	1
Norfloxacin	7
Nystatin	5
Oseltamivir	1
Penicillins: other	17
Phenoxyethylpenicillin	17
Piperacillin	1
Piperacillin/ tazobactam combinations	1
Pyrantel	91
Quinine	21
Ribavirin	4
Rifampicin	4
Roxithromycin	60

Sulphonamides: other/ unknown	9
Terbinafine	7
Tetracyclines, other	2
Ticarcillin/clavulanic acid combinations	3
Tinidazole	1
Tobramycin	2
Trimethoprim	30
Valaciclovir	8
<i>Total for Anti-infective Agents</i>	<u>1,115</u>

Blood/ Blood forming tissues

Anticoagulants: other/ unknown	5
Blood products: other/ unknown	2
Clopidogrel	35
Dipyridamole	8
Heparin	4
Iron (not multivitamins)	58
Tranexamic Acid	4
Warfarin	83
<i>Total for Blood/ Blood forming tissues</i>	<u>199</u>

Cardiovascular system

ACE II Inhibitors: other	7
ACE Inhibitor, other	11
Alpha blocker, other	1
Amiodarone	1
Amlodipine	36
Angina preps: other	1
Antihypertensives (not diuretics): other	4
Atenolol	50
Beta blockers: other	4
Bisoprolol	7
Calcium antagonists:other	2
Candesartan	27
Captopril	2
Cardiovascular drugs: other	2
Carvedilol	12
Clonidine	40
Digoxin	33
Diltiazem	12
Enalapril	1
Eprosarten	4
Felodipine	6
Flecainide	5
Fosinopril	6
Glyceryl trinitrate	11
Hydralazine	8
Irbesartan	63
Isosorbide mononitrate	20
Labetalol	5
Lercanidipine	9
Lignocaine	28
Lisinopril	7
Methyldopa	9
Metoprolol	54
Minoxidil	5
Nicorandil	10
Nifedipine	13

Olmesartan	5
Perhexiline	2
Perindopril	82
Prazosin	12
Propranolol	40
Quinapril	3
Ramipril	29
Sotalol	17
Telmisartan	18
Trandolapril	2
Verapamil	18
<i>Total for Cardiovascular system</i>	<u>744</u>

CNS depressants

Acetazolamide	3
Alprazolam	142
Anaesthetics: inhalation	3
Anaesthetics: other/ unknown	3
Anaesthetics: topical/ local	13
Anticonvulsant other	2
Barbiturates	23
Bromazepam	8
Carbamazepine	180
Chloral hydrate	3
Clobazam	5
Clonazepam	63
Diazepam	364
Flunitrazepam	3
Gabapentin	18
Lamotrigine	84
Levetiracetam	43
Lithium	58
Lorazepam	11
Midazolam	5
Nitrazepam	41
Oxazepam	111
Oxcarbazepine	9
Phenytoin	57
Pregabalin	9
Sedative/ hypnotic: other/ unknown	8
Sulthiame	3
Temazepam	204
Tiagabine	5
Topiramate	49
Triazolam	1
Valproic acid	269
vigabatrin	9
Zolpidem	71
Zopiclone	28
<i>Total for CNS depressants</i>	<u>1,908</u>

CNS stimulants

Amitriptyline	86
Antidepressants: other/ unknown	19
Atomoxetine	16
Caffeine	12
Citalopram	109
Clomipramine	7
CNS stimulants: other/ unknown	2

Dexamphetamine	37
Donepezil	3
Dothiepin	27
Doxepin	13
Duloxetine	22
Escitalopram	125
Fluoxetine	108
Fluvoxamine	64
Galantamine	2
Imipramine	20
Methylphenidate	74
Mianserin	7
Mirtazapine	127
Moclobemide	11
Modafinil	3
Monoamine oxidase inhibitors: other/ unknown	6
Nortriptyline	4
Paroxetine	59
Quetiapine	217
Reboxetine	7
Rivastigmine	1
Sertraline	213
SSRIs: other	4
Stimulants: other/ unknown	5
Trimipramine	3
Venlafaxine	178
Ziprasidone	10
<i>Total for CNS stimulants</i>	<u>1,601</u>

Hormones

Androgenic and anabolic agents	3
Antiandrogenic/ antioestrogenic agents: other/ unknown	3
Cabergoline	4
Carbimazole	11
Clomiphene	2
Corticosteroid	217
Cyproterone	5
Hormones: other/ unknown	25
Letrozole	1
Melatonin	16
Oestrogens/ progestins (not oral contraceptives)	28
Oral contraceptives	395
Oral contraceptives, emergency	1
Propylthiouracil	3
Raloxifene	1
Tamoxifen	8
Thyroid preps: other/ unknown	5
Thyroxine	163
<i>Total for Hormones</i>	<u>891</u>

Immunosuppressives

Azathioprine	4
Chemotherapy agents: other/ unknown	15
Cyclosporin	3
Immunomodifiers: other/ unknown	5
Mercaptopurine	2
Methotrexate	26

Mycophenolate	3
Tacrolimus	3
<i>Total for Immunosuppressives</i>	<u>61</u>

Metabolism

Acarbose	1
Alendronate	17
Amino acid	7
Atorvastatin	64
Calcium salts	85
Diet aids - OTC	2
Electrolytes: other/ unknown	7
Ezetimibe	6
Fluoride	102
Folic Acid	55
Gemfibrozil	2
Glibenclamide	6
Gliclazide	23
Glimepiride	8
Glipizide	1
Hypoglycaemics, oral: other/ unknown	3
Insulin	32
Lipid lowering: other/ unknown	10
Metabolic agents: other/ unknown	5
Metformin	67
Orlistat	7
Phentermine	45
Pioglitazone	6
Potassium salts	13
Pravastatin	9
Risedronate	14
Rosiglitazone	4
Rosuvastatin	15
Sibutramine	6
Simvastatin	29
Vitamin A	6
Vitamin B group	25
Vitamin C	49
Vitamin D	30
Vitamin E	8
Vitamin K	3
Vitamins, compound - iron	186
Vitamins, compound - no iron	53
Vitamins: other/ unknown	51
<i>Total for Metabolism</i>	<u>1,062</u>

Miscellaneous internal medicines

Acamprosate	2
Acetylcysteine	6
Acitretin	2
Antidotes	6
Antismoking products: nicotine	27
Antismoking products: other/ unknown	2
Artificial sweeteners	2
Bupropion	19
Disulfiram	2
Echinacea	9
Finasteride	4
Herbal/ homeopathic preparations	289

Isotretinoin	7
Medication, unknown	98
Naltrexone	8
Radiographic agents	1
Sildenafil	10
Sodium Chloride 0.9%(saline)	3
St Johns Wort	8
Tadalafil	3
Tetrabenazine	2
Vaccines	39
Vardenafil	3
Varenicline	30
<i>Total for Miscellaneous internal medicines</i>	<u>582</u>

Narcotic analgesics

Buprenorphine	30
Codeine	95
Dextropropoxyphene	9
Fentanyl	12
Hydromorphone	1
Methadone	14
Morphine	36
Oxycodone	91
Pethidine	3
<i>Total for Narcotic analgesics</i>	<u>291</u>

Narcotic Antagonists

Naloxone	4
<i>Total for Narcotic antagonists</i>	<u>4</u>

Other CNS drugs

Amisulpride	12
Antiparkinsonian agents: other/ unknown	5
Antipsychotics: other/ unknown	7
Aripiprazole	19
Baclofen	31
Benzhexol	5
Benztropine	31
Betahistine	5
Botulinum toxin (Botox)	4
Chlorpromazine	72
Clozapine	23
Haloperidol	23
Levodopa/ benserazide combinations	15
Levodopa/ carbidopa combinations	10
Muscle relaxants: other/ unknown	2
Neuroleptics: other/ unknown	1
Olanzapine	159
Pericyazine	23
Prochlorperazine	22
Pyridostigmine	1
Risperidone	146
Thioridazine	3
Trifluoperazine	4
Zuclopenthixol	2
<i>Total for Other CNS drugs</i>	<u>625</u>

Renal (genito-urinary system)

Diuretics, potassium sparing	17
Diuretics: other/ unknown	84
Oxybutynin	13
Renal drugs: other/ unknown	1
Tamsulosin	2
Urinary alkalinisers	2
<i>Total for Renal (genitor-urinary system)</i>	<u>119</u>

Respiratory system

Zafirlukast	1
Adrenaline	18
Antihist./ decongest.+ aspirin	2
Antihist./ decongest.+ paracetamol	59
Antihist./decongest. + antitussive	43
Antihistamine other	44
Antihistamine/ decongestant	279
Antitussives: other/ unknown	8
Bromhexine	38
Caffeine	54
Cetirizine	45
Corticosteroid, inhaled	21
Cyproheptadine	13
Decongestant + antitussive	9
Decongestant + expectorant	3
Decongestant + paracetamol + antitussive	14
Decongestant + paracetamol + codeine	56
Desloratadine	5
Dexchlorpheniramine	105
Dextromethorphan	42
Dihydrocodeine	6
Dimenhydrinate	2
Diphenhydramine	18
Doxylamine	61
Eformoterol	1
Fexofenadine	57
Guaiphenisin	29
Ipratropium	2
Loratadine	53
Montelukast	23
Orciprenaline	1
Pheniramine	4
Phenylephrine	41
Pholcodine	20
Promethazine	133
Pseudoephedrine	61
Respiratory drugs: other/ unknown	4
Salbutamol	60
Salmeterol	9
Salmeterol + Corticosteroid	4
Sodium Cromoglycate	2
Terbutaline	4
Terfenadine	2
Theophylline	9
Tiotropium	64
Trimeprazine	3
<i>Total for Respiratory system</i>	<u>1,532</u>

Rheumatoid disease & gout

adalimumab	3
Allopurinol	23
Celecoxib	34
Colchicine	22
Diclofenac	141
Glucosamine	13
Hydroxychloroquine	8
Ibuprofen	732
Indomethacin	27
Ketoprofen	6
Ketorolac	2
Leflunomide	2
Lumiracoxib	2
Mefenamic Acid	17
Meloxicam	45
Naproxen	48
NSAIDs: other/ unknown	10
Piroxicam	6
Probenecid	2
Sulindac	1

Total for Rheumatoid disease & gout

1,144

Total for Internal medicines

15,402

37.74%

Other

Batteries

Battery, alkaline	58
Battery, disc/ button type	50
Battery, penlight/ dry cell	2

Total for Batteries

110

Car products

Brake fluid	29
Car products: other/ unknown	78
Radiator coolant/ Antifreeze: ethylene glycol	9
Radiator coolant/ Antifreeze: other/ unknown	5
Transmission fluid	4

Total for Car products

125

Chemical Terrorism

Chemical Terrorism	0
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Total for Chemical terrorism

0

Dental Products

Dental care products: other/ unknown	4
Denture cleaning -powder	5
Denture cleaning tablet	13
Mouthwash: ethanol containing	27
Mouthwash: non ethanol containing	51
Toothpaste with fluoride	43
Toothpaste without fluoride	1

Total for Dental products

144

Foreign bodies

Coins	16
Desiccants: other/ unknown	68

Faeces/ urine/ blood	41
Foreign body: other/ unknown	194
Glass	9
Nappy	13
Needlestick, unknown	2
Silica gel	625
Toys	122
<i>Total for Foreign bodies</i>	<u>1,090</u>

Gases & fumes

Carbon dioxide	4
Carbon monoxide	16
Chlorine gas (mixing bleach & acid)	30
Cyanide	20
Gas, fume, vapour: other/ unknown	126
Helium	2
Hydrocarbon propellants (inc. CFCs)	53
Hydrogen sulfide	4
Lacrimators (mace spray, tear gas etc) (not fumigants)	1
Metal fume fever	18
Methane and natural gas	4
Nitrous oxide	2
Phosphine	10
Polymer fume fever	2
Propane and other simple asphyxiants	16
Refrigeration gas	24
Smoke/toxic products of combustion	25
<i>Total for Gases & fumes</i>	<u>357</u>

Hair Products

Conditioner, hair	12
Hair care: other	57
Hair colours (not peroxide)	41
Hair colours (peroxide)	51
Hair gel, hair mousse	13
Hair rinses, perms	2
Hair spray	18
Shampoo (non-medicated)	80
<i>Total for Hair products</i>	<u>274</u>

Handyman/ Tradesman

Asbestos	25
Asphalt/ bitumen	5
Building/handyman products: other/ unknown	52
Caulking compounds and construction putties	28
Cement	14
Concrete	9
Fertiliser: bead	59
Fertiliser: other/ unknown	85
Fibreglass	10
Fibreglass hardener: other/ unknown	6
Insulation material	2
Lime (Calcium Oxide)	22
Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide	13
Oils: lubricating, engine, machine	74
PCB + PBB (Polychlorinated biphenyls)	1
Plant rooting hormone (indole butyric acid etc.)	4

	Plastic	30
	Polystyrene	32
	Rust remover: other/ unknown	18
	Soil/ potting mix	20
	Soldering flux	4
	Water crystals, soil wetting agents	16
	Wetting agents, garden	5
	<i>Total for Handyman/Tradesman</i>	<u>534</u>
<i>Laundry products</i>		
	Detergent, laundry	229
	Dry cleaning agent	4
	Fabric softener	20
	Ironing aid/ starch	20
	Laundry products: other/ unknown	75
	Nappy cleaner	68
	Pre-wash stain remover	90
	<i>Total for Laundry products</i>	<u>506</u>
<i>Metals</i>		
	Alum	4
	Aluminium	9
	Barium sulfate	2
	Barium, soluble salts	2
	Cadmium	3
	Chromium salts	6
	Copper	15
	Heavy metal: other/ unknown	1
	Iodine (non-medical)	19
	Lead	65
	Mercury (not thermometers)	40
	Nickel	1
	Rust (iron oxide)	2
	Selenium	12
	Silver	12
	Zinc	20
	<i>Total for Metals</i>	<u>213</u>
<i>Misc enquiries</i>		
	13 HEALTH referral	787
	Abusive/ obscene call	5
	Complaint	6
	Disposal of chemicals/ medicines etc	34
	Drink spiking	25
	Drug Information (general)	113
	First Aid, general	4
	Leaflet/ Sticker/ Pamphlet	128
	Legislation/ labelling	12
	Poison Information/ Prevention	170
	Praise	3
	Speaker/ Presentation request	2
	Tablet/capsule Identification	32
	To be coded	0
	Website enquiry/ comment	8
	<i>Total for Misc enquires</i>	<u>1,329</u>
<i>Nail products</i>		
	Nail hardeners	8
	Nail polish	92

	Nail polish remover: acetone	55
	Nail polish remover: ethyl acetate	36
	Nail polish remover: other/ unknown	23
	Nail products: other/ unknown	39
	<i>Total for Nail products</i>	<u>253</u>
<i>Noxious food</i>		
	Ciguatera	10
	Fish poisoning (food, not envenomations)	7
	Food additives	43
	Food allergy	13
	Food poisoning	111
	Food products	158
	Food recall/ food scare	12
	Food spoilage	112
	Pet food	19
	Water (toxic/ contaminated)	80
	<i>Total for Noxious food</i>	<u>565</u>
<i>Oils</i>		
	Camphor	36
	Clove oil (not toothache drops)	16
	Essential oil: other/ unknown	203
	Eucalyptus oil	175
	Fragrant oil/ pot pourri oil	53
	Massage oils	6
	Peppermint oil	14
	Tea tree oil	48
	<i>Total for Oils</i>	<u>551</u>
<i>Other household agents</i>		
	Air freshener - liquid	63
	Air freshener - plug in	27
	Air freshener - solid	8
	Air freshener - spray	53
	Candle/ Wax	9
	Cigarettes and tobacco products	127
	Cold/ Freezer pack	70
	Dyes, fabric	5
	Dyes, food	5
	Dyes: other/ unknown	10
	Fabric freshener	8
	Fire extinguisher, BCF/ halon type	1
	Fire extinguisher, dry powder type	29
	Fire extinguisher, foam type	2
	Fire extinguisher, other/ unknown	2
	Fire starters	23
	Fireworks	2
	Fluorescent light bulb	36
	Glowstick, cyalume	250
	Household: other/ unknown	33
	Incense/ aromatherapy	8
	Insect coils, other/ unknown	5
	Insect coils, pyrethrin based	21
	Insect repellants -DEET based	157
	Insect repellants: other/ unknown	101
	Kitty litter	15
	Matches	4
	Meat absorption pad	33
	Naphthalene	44
	Paradichlorobenzene	6

	Thermometer - mercury	104
	Thermometer: other/ unknown	10
	<i>Total for Other household agents</i>	<u>1,271</u>
<i>Paints & similar</i>		
	Paint stripper, methylene chloride based	11
	Paint stripper: other/unknown	10
	Paint thinner (not mineral turpentine)	47
	Paint, anti-algae	3
	Paint, anti-corrosion	3
	Paint, lead	12
	Paint, oil-based	33
	Paint, two pack	13
	Paint, water-based (house)	47
	Paint: other/ unknown	107
	Varnishes and lacquers	6
	Wood stains	9
	<i>Total for Paints & similar</i>	<u>301</u>
<i>Personal Hygiene</i>		
	Aftershave	34
	Anti-perspirants and deodorants	105
	Baby wipes	4
	Bath oil, bubble bath, bath preparations	90
	Cleanser, skin	42
	Cologne	1
	Cosmetics: other/ unknown	39
	Creams, lotions (non- medicinal)	85
	Depilatories	37
	Lipsticks and lip balms	26
	Make-up	25
	Perfume	99
	Shaving Cream	13
	Soap	98
	Sunscreen/ suntan products	65
	Talcum powder	30
	<i>Total for Personal hygiene</i>	<u>793</u>
<i>Polishes</i>		
	Polish, car	8
	Polish, floor (inc Waxes and sealers)	1
	Polish, furniture	14
	Polish, metal	14
	Polish, shoe/boot	8
	Polish: other/ unknown	1
	<i>Total for Polishes</i>	<u>46</u>
<i>Stationary, arts & crafts</i>		
	Arts, craft, hobby, writing products: other/ unknown	5
	Blu tac etc.	9
	Chalk	16
	Charcoal	8
	Clay	3
	Correction Fluid	21
	Crayon	14
	Office supplies: miscellaneous	9
	Paint, artist (non-water colour)	13
	Paint, artist (water colour)	13

Paper/ cardboard			14
Pencil			17
Pens/ ink (inc. Stamp pad ink, textas)			160
Photographic chemicals			9
Photographic products: other/ unknown			2
<i>Total for Stationary, arts & crafts</i>			<u>313</u>
<u>Total for Other</u>	<u>8,802</u>		21.57%

Total Poisons Involved 39,461

*Some poisons result in exposures by more than one route. These receive a count for each exposure route.