

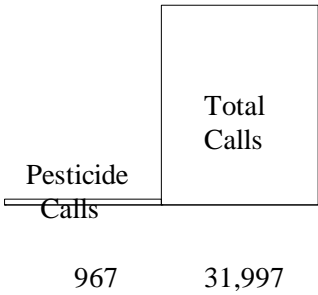
1998

PESTICIDE POISONING CALLS

Logged by the Poison Information Line
 April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996

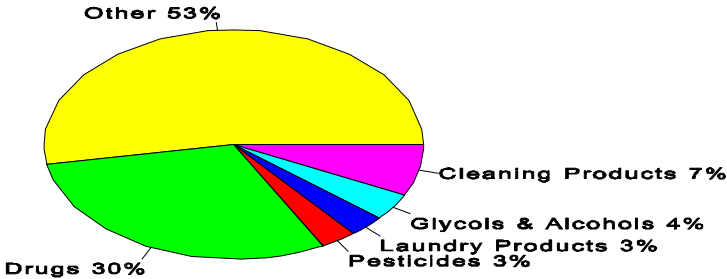
This fact sheet documents pesticide poisoning reports through the Poison Information Line from April 1, 1995, to March 31, 1996.

Approximately three per cent of calls received by the Poison Information Line in 1995/1996 were related to pesticides.



Pesticide-related calls included inquiries about poisoning in addition to calls about exposure and possible health effects.

The chart below compares the frequency of pesticide-related calls to those involving common household products.



Drugs accounted for 30 per cent of calls and was the substance group responsible for the greatest number of poisoning reports.

The category “Other” included calls related to plants and mushrooms, personal care products, food products, hydrocarbons, and several other substances.

Most reported exposures involving pesticides, laundry products and cleaning products were associated with minor or no health effects (99 per cent of reports for pesticides and 98 per cent of reports for laundry and cleaning products). Very few required hospitalization (three per cent of reports for pesticides and two per cent of reports for laundry and cleaning products).

Exposures involving either glycols and alcohols or drugs were more frequently associated with major health effects (13 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively). Exposures involving these substance groups also required hospitalization more frequently (20 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively).

Most pesticide exposures occurred in the home (88 per cent). Pesticide exposures frequently involved people over age 15 (48 per cent) and children under five (43 per cent). Exposures associated with laundry products, cleaning products and drugs usually involved children under five (59 per cent, 61 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively). Exposure associated with glycols and alcohols typically involved people over 15 (68 per cent).

A comparison of historical pesticide poisoning data suggests the Poison Information Line's three per cent pesticide-related call rate for 1995/1996 is typical for Alberta. A 1970 provincial study showed the proportions of pesticide poisoning reports was five per cent for 1964/65, four per cent for 1966; and three per cent for 1967/68.

The Poison Information Line (1-800-332-1414) is a publicly available, toll-free 24-hour service based at the Calgary Foothills Hospital.

For information about pesticide management in Alberta, please contact a nearest Alberta Environment office:

Grande Prairie (780) 538-5460, Fax (780) 538-5336), Room 1701, Provincial Building
10320 - 99 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 6J4

Stony Plain (780) 963-6131 Fax (780) 963-4651, Westerra Building, 52322 - Golf Course Road, Stony Plain,
Alberta T7Z 2K9

Edmonton (780) 427-7617 Fax (780) 427-7824, 6th Floor, Oxbridge Place
9820-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

Red Deer (403) 340-7052 Fax: (403) 340-5022, 3rd Floor, Provincial Building
4920 - 51 Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6K8

Calgary (403) 297-7602 Fax: (403) 297-8232, 2nd Floor, Deerfoot Square
2938 - 11 Street N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 7L7

Lethbridge (403) 381-5511 Fax: (403) 382-4008, 2nd Floor, Provincial Building
200 - 5th Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4C7

The above offices can also be reached by phoning 310-0000 toll-free from anywhere in Alberta.