



Report of the Poison Control Centre for 2025

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This report of the Poison Control Centre of the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health is a continuation of previous reports published in this journal. It brings basic annual statistics that include the number of calls received by the Poison Control Centre from January to December 2025, as well as information on the callers, patients, and poisoning cases.

In 2025, the Poison Control Centre received 3475 phone calls reporting 3515 cases. Of all the cases, 3418 were related to human exposure cases associated with health risks, based on the described symptoms and exposure circumstances (the characteristics of which are described below), 88 were general inquiries about toxicity without actual exposure, and 9 were related to the exposure of animals. Our users were mostly healthcare professionals such as medical doctors or nurses (54 % of the total number of cases related to human exposures) and the general public (46 %). Six calls were received from other users (kindergarten and retirement home workers).

Most of the cases were recorded in July (372 cases) and the least in January (231 cases). If we examine the entire year, the average number of cases was 284 per month.

The age of the exposed persons ranged from newborns to 95. Of the total number of persons whose age was known, the most prevalent were infants and preschool children (from birth to five years 46 %; average age two years) and adults (40 %). Overall, both sexes were equally represented (49 % men *vs.* 51 % women). A larger frequency of female persons was recorded in adolescents (64 %).

The most prevalent substances were household chemicals (41 % of cases with known cause of intoxication) and drugs (34 %). The most commonly reported drugs were psychoactive drugs (42 % of all drug poisonings), including neuroleptics, benzodiazepines, antidepressants, and hypnotics, followed by analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (23 %) and cardiac drugs (9 %).

Poisonings by plants (180 cases) most frequently involved oleander (*Nerium oleander*), followed by night-scented lily (*Alocasia odora*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), and cuckoopint (*Arum maculatum*).

Bites and stings of poisonous animals (46 cases) included snakes (*Vipera ammodytes* and *Vipera berus*), fish (most commonly the greater weever, *Trachinus draco*), and arthropods (spiders including black widow spiders).

Among cases with a known route of exposure, ingestion was by far the most prevalent (81 %), followed by inhalation (10 %).

Of the total number of cases with known clinical manifestations at the time of call, 62 % were asymptomatic, 35 % had only mild to moderate signs and symptoms (e.g., gastrointestinal irritation, headache, or irritation of skin and respiratory system), and 3 % had severe symptoms (e.g., serious disturbances of the central nervous system, corrosive injuries of the gastrointestinal tract, or severe respiratory symptoms).

The ratio between suicidal and accidental poisonings was approx. 1:5 (475 *vs.* 2476 cases). Among adolescents, this ratio was reversed, with about twice as many suicidal poisonings than accidental ones.

Table 1 Causes of human exposure

Substance	Number of cases (% of total)
Household chemicals ^a	1405 (41.1)
Drugs	1179 (34.5)
Plants ^b	180 (5.3)
Industrial chemicals ^c	149 (4.4)
Combinations ^d	81 (2.4)
Pesticides ^e	80 (2.3)
Food	60 (1.8)
Drugs of abuse	55 (1.6)
Animals	46 (1.3)
Carbon monoxide	32 (0.9)
Mushrooms	22 (0.6)
Foreign body	18 (0.5)
Alcohol	8 (0.2)
Miscellaneous	80 (2.3)
Unknown	23 (0.7)
TOTAL	3418 (100)

The total number of cases (3418) does not include the 88 inquiries about toxicity without appropriate exposure and the 9 cases of animal exposure. ^aProducts for household use, e.g. detergents and cleaning agents, cosmetics, toys, and school accessories, products containing organic solvents, household insecticides, and repellents. ^bMushrooms excluded. ^cChemicals intended for outdoor or professional use, e.g. motor fuels, mineral fertilizers, professional cleaning products. ^dConcomitant exposure to two or more substance categories (mostly drugs and alcohol). ^eDoes not include pesticide-containing chemicals sold to the general public

Table 2 Number of cases according to cause of exposure in different age groups

Substance	Number of cases (% of total)		
	Infants and preschool children	School children and adolescents	Adults
Household chemicals	836 (53.1)	83 (17.8)	486 (35.3)
Drugs	478 (30.4)	256 (55.1)	445 (32.3)
Industrial chemicals	12 (0.8)	14 (3.0)	123 (8.9)
Plants	127 (8.1)	12 (2.6)	41 (3.0)
Pesticides	29 (1.8)	5 (1.1)	46 (3.3)
Food	18 (1.1)	18 (3.9)	24 (1.7)
Drugs of abuse	3 (0.2)	24 (5.2)	28 (2.0)
Animals	11 (0.7)	4 (0.9)	31 (2.2)
Mushrooms	3 (0.2)	5 (1.1)	14 (1.0)
Carbon monoxide	23 (1.5)	4 (0.9)	5 (0.4)
Foreign body	2 (0.1)	3 (0.6)	13 (0.9)
Alcohol	1 (0.1)	3 (0.6)	4 (0.3)
Combinations	1 (0.1)	15 (3.2)	65 (4.7)
Miscellaneous	28 (1.8)	16 (3.4)	36 (2.6)
Unknown	2 (0.1)	3 (0.6)	17 (1.2)
TOTAL	1574 (100)	465 (100)	1378 (100)

The age groups are defined in Figure 1. The total number of cases (3417) does not include the one case with an unknown age group, the 88 inquiries about toxicity without appropriate exposure, and the 9 cases of animal exposure

Table 3 Route of exposure in cases involving humans

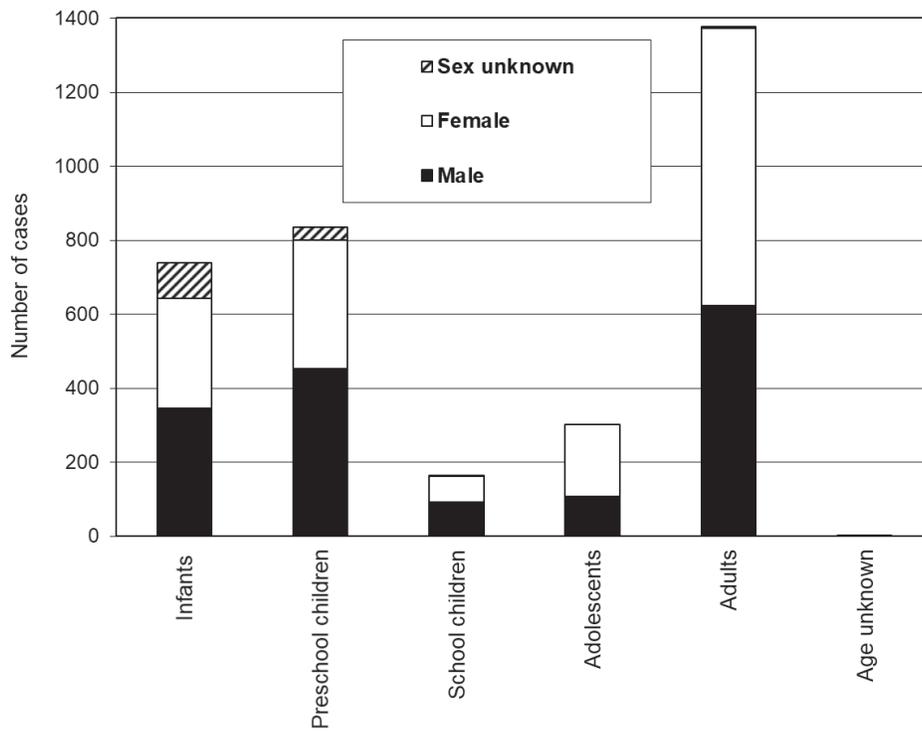
Route of exposure	Number of cases (% of total)
Ingestion	2757 (80.7)
Inhalation	337 (9.9)
Dermal	83 (2.4)
Conjunctival	42 (1.2)
Bite or sting	44 (1.3)
Parenteral	25 (0.7)
Nasal	18 (0.5)
Vaginal	11 (0.3)
Ear	4 (0.1)
Gingival	1 (<0.1)
Combination	78 (2.3)
Unknown	18 (0.5)
TOTAL	3418 (100)

The total number of cases (3418) does not include the 88 inquiries about toxicity without appropriate exposure and the 9 cases of animal exposure

Table 4 Circumstances of exposure cases or type of information request regarding human exposure

Circumstances of exposure/ type of information request	Number of cases (% of total)
Accidental	2476 (70.6)
Suicidal	475 (13.5)
Intentional, other ^a	142 (4.1)
Educational reasons ^b	88 (2.5)
Occupational	81 (2.3)
Substance abuse	78 (2.2)
Unknown	67 (1.9)
Psychiatric patient ^c	66 (1.9)
Iatrogenic	19 (0.5)
Drug side-effect	8 (0.2)
Assault	6 (0.2)
TOTAL	3506 (100)

The total number of cases (3506) does not include the 9 cases of animal exposure. ^aIntentional attempts other than suicide, attacks, or substance abuse. ^bEnquiries regarding the toxicity of a certain substance, but without exposure. ^cUnaware of the consequences due to severe intellectual disability, dementia, etc.



Age and sex distribution of human exposure cases. Age groups: infants – up to 23 months; preschool children – 2 to 5 years; school children – 6 to 12 years; adolescents – 13 to 17 years; adults – 18 years or more