

**Cases Reported in California<sup>1</sup> with Documented<sup>2</sup> Pesticide Exposure  
Summarized by the Type of Illness and the Type of Pesticides  
2003**

Type of Illness <sup>3</sup>	Antimicrobials <sup>4</sup>		Cholinesterase Inhibitors <sup>4</sup>		Other Pesticides <sup>4</sup>		Total
	Occupational <sup>5</sup>	Non-Occupational <sup>5</sup>	Occupational <sup>5</sup>	Non-Occupational <sup>5</sup>	Occupational <sup>5</sup>	Non-Occupational <sup>5</sup>	
<b>Systemic</b>							
Systemic with Respiratory and Topical Effects	16	0	3	3	10	67	<b>99</b>
Systemic with Respiratory Effects	25	0	9	2	28	6	<b>70</b>
Systemic with Topical Effects	6	1	6	1	15	29	<b>58</b>
Systemic Only	14	4	11	3	29	14	<b>75</b>
<b>Respiratory</b>							
Respiratory with Topical Effects	15	0	3	0	13	51	<b>82</b>
Respiratory Only	35	2	1	1	9	11	<b>59</b>
<b>Topical</b>							
Eye Only	121	3	3	0	71	43	<b>241</b>
Skin Only	43	0	9	1	43	3	<b>99</b>
Eye and Skin	7	0	0	0	8	4	<b>19</b>
<b>Asymptomatic</b>							
Asymptomatic	4	2	5	1	2	27	<b>41</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>843</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program.

<sup>2</sup> **Documented Pesticide Exposure:** Includes cases classified as definitely, probably, or possibly related to pesticide exposure as well as documented pesticide exposure that did not result in symptomatology.

Definite : High degree of correlation between pattern of exposure and resulting symptomatology. Requires both medical evidence (such as measured cholinesterase inhibition, positive allergy tests, characteristic signs observed by medical professional) and physical evidence of exposure (environmental and/or biological samples, exposure history) to support the conclusions.

Probable : Relatively high degree of correlation exists between the pattern of exposure and the resulting symptomatology. Either medical or physical evidence is inconclusive or unavailable.

Possible : Some degree of correlation evident. Medical and physical evidence are inconclusive or unavailable.

<sup>3</sup> **Type of Illness:** Categorization of the type of symptoms experienced.

Systemic : Any health effects not limited to the respiratory, skin and/or eye. Cases involving multiple illness symptom types including systemic symptoms are included in the systemic category.

Respiratory : Health effects involving any part of the respiratory tree.

Topical : Health effects involving only the eyes and/or skin. This excludes outward physical signs (miosis and lacrimation) related to effects on internal bodily systems. These signs are classified under 'Systemic.'

Asymptomatic : Exposure occurred, but did not result in illness/injury. Cholinesterase depression without symptoms falls in this category.

<sup>4</sup> **Type of Pesticide:** Type of pesticide based on functional class.

Antimicrobials : Pesticides used to kill or inactivate microbiological organisms (bacteria, viruses, etc.).

Cholinesterase Inhibitors : Pesticides known to inhibit the function of the cholinesterase enzyme.

Other Pesticides : Any pesticide that is not an antimicrobial or cholinesterase-inhibiting pesticide.

<sup>5</sup> **Occupational or Non-Occupational:** The relationship between the illness/injury and the individual's work

Occupational : Work related. The individual was on the job at the time of the incident. This includes both paid employees and volunteers working in similar capacity to paid employees.

Non-Occupational : Not work related. The individual was not on the job at the time of the incident. This category includes individuals on the way to or from work (before the start or after the end of their workday).

**Whom to Contact:**

California Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Worker Health and Safety Branch

Phone: (916) 445-4222.

Physical address: 1001 I St., Sacramento CA 95814-2828.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Fax: (916) 445-4280

[www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)

**About the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program Data**

Pesticide-related illnesses have been tracked within the state of California for more than 50 years. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) maintains a surveillance program which records human health effects of pesticide exposure. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) documents information on adverse effects from pesticide products, whether elicited by the active ingredients, inert ingredients, impurities, or breakdown products. This program maintains a database, which is utilized for evaluating the circumstances of pesticide exposures resulting in illness. This database is consulted regularly by staff who evaluate(s) the effectiveness of the DPR pesticide safety programs and recommend changes when appropriate.