

**Pesticide-Related Skin Disease  
Among Field Workers<sup>1</sup> Reported by California Physicians  
1982 – 1999**

Year	Definite or Probable <sup>2</sup>	Possible <sup>2</sup>
1982	32	105
1983	28	77
1984	45	99
1985	154	146
1986	149	56
1987 <sup>3</sup>	51	139
1988	62	186
1989	7	77
1990	8	98
1991	2	64
1992	16	94
1993	1	51
1994	5	37
1995	74	74
1996	12	55
1997	8	45
1998 <sup>4</sup>	3	40
1999	0	32

1. **Source:** California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program.

2. **Relationship:** Degree of correlation between pesticide exposure and resulting symptomatology. The term “pesticide-related” refers to one of the following relationships.

- 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.

3. Evaluation of field worker dermatitis became more conservative in 1987, following a 1986 study that demonstrated the difficulty of collecting reliable information.
4. Starting in 1998, the values represent the number of field workers who developed skin conditions following exposure to pesticide residue. The values for previous years counted anyone who developed a skin condition following exposure to pesticide residue from an agricultural field.

**Whom to Contact:**

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**About the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program Data**

Pesticide-related illnesses have been tracked within the state of California for nearly 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.