

Table D12: Illnesses and Injuries Reported in California¹ Associated With² Pesticide Exposure, Summarized by Type of Exposure and Type of Illness 2017

Type of Exposure ³	Systemic/ Respiratory ⁴		Topical ⁴		TOTAL	
	Definite/ Probable	Possible	Definite/ Probable	Possible	Definite/ Probable	Possible
Direct Spray/Squirt	32	2	39	3	71	5
Drift	354	37	48	5	402	42
Ingestion	102	31	0	1	102	32
Multiple Exposures	45	3	18	1	63	4
Other	28	2	13	3	42	5
Residue	145	37	50	8	195	45
Spill/Other Direct	79	6	117	2	196	8
Unknown	51	53	15	11	66	64
TOTAL	836	171	300	34	1137	205

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

2. Associated With: Includes cases classified as definitely, probably, or possibly related to pesticide exposure.

Definite: High degree of correlation between pattern of exposure and resulting symptomatology. Requires both medical evidence (e.g., measured cholinesterase inhibition, positive allergy tests, characteristic signs observed by medical professional) and physical evidence of exposure (e.g., 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: Health effects correspond generally to the reported exposure, but evidence is not available to support a relationship.

3. Type of Exposure: Characterization of how an individual came into contact with a pesticide. Exposure categories not listed on the table indicate that no illnesses occurred under that category.

Direct Spray/Squirt: Material propelled by the application or mix/load equipment. Contact with the material can be by direct projection or ricochet. This includes exposure of mechanics working on application or mix/load equipment when the material is forced out by pressure.

- Drift: Spray, mist, vapors, or odor carried from the target site by air. Drift must be related to an application or mix/load activity.
- Ingestion: Intentional or unintentional oral ingestion.
- Multiple Exposures: Contact with pesticides occurred through two or more mechanisms.
- Other: Other known route of exposure not included in other exposure categories. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) residue from a spill and 2) exposure to smoke or pyrolytic products from a fire where pesticides are burning.
- Residue: The part of a pesticide that remains in the environment for a period of time following an application or drift. This includes odor after the completion of an application.
- Spill/ Other Direct: Any of the following: 1) contact made during an application or mixing/loading operation where the material is not propelled by the equipment; 2) expected direct contact during use (e.g., washing dishes in a disinfectant solution); 3) leaks, spills, etc. not related to an application.
- Unknown: Route of exposure is not known.

4. Type of Illness: Categorization of the type of symptoms experienced.

- Systemic: Any health effects not limited to the respiratory tree, skin, and/or eyes. 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 (e.g., miosis, lacrimation) related to effects on internal bodily systems. These signs are classified under ‘Systemic.’

Whom to Contact:

California Department of Pesticide Regulation
 Worker Health and Safety Branch
 Physical address: 1001 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814-2828
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015
 Phone: (916) 445-4222; Fax: (916) 445-4280
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 the effectiveness of the DPR pesticide safety programs and recommend changes when appropriate.