

**Cases Reported in California¹ with Documented² Pesticide Exposure
Summarized by the Type of Illness and the Type of Pesticides
2005**

Type of Illness ³	Antimicrobials ⁴		Cholinesterase Inhibitors ⁴		Other Pesticides ⁴		Total
	Occupational ⁵	Non-Occupational ⁵	Occupational ⁵	Non-Occupational ⁵	Occupational ⁵	Non-Occupational ⁵	
Systemic							
Systemic with Respiratory and Topical Effects	10	0	9	2	77	30	129⁶
Systemic with Respiratory Effects	23	0	15	1	56	6	101
Systemic with Topical Effects	4	0	4	0	32	47	87
Systemic Only	11	1	26	1	19	11	69
Respiratory							
Respiratory with Topical Effects	10	0	6	0	14	82	112
Respiratory Only	12	2	2	2	17	15	50
Topical							
Eye Only	81	0	4	0	42	155	282
Skin Only	33	1	3	0	30	1	68
Eye and Skin	4	0	0	0	8	1	13
Asymptomatic							
Asymptomatic	1	0	2	0	12	99	114
TOTAL	189	4	71	6	307	447	1025⁶

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

² **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.

³ **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.

⁴ **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.

⁵ **Occupational or Non-Occupational:** The relationship between the illness/injury and the individual's work activity at the time of exposure.

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).

⁶ This total includes one case in which the activity could not be determined as occupational or non-occupational.

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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.