PEST
Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas Program

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Program began in 1988

Reportable Condition in Texas since ‘88

Grant funded by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/Centers for Disease Control) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
Program Objectives

Conduct population-based surveillance on acute occupational-related pesticide poisoning

- Estimate the magnitude of the problem
- Identify trends with work-related illness
- Implement strategies for workplace intervention
- Educate target populations to prevent pesticide exposure
- Disseminate findings to stakeholders
Surveillance Outcomes

- Extensive case exposure information is collected and shared with NIOSH and EPA contributing to a nationwide assessment of a given issue
  - Pesticide exposure in schools: risks to children and employees
    - IPM strategies strongly recommended
    - Prevent drift from agricultural applications; enforce buffer zones
  - Exposures in retail establishments
  - Accidental lindane ingestions and cough medicine-shaped bottle
  - First Responders
PEST Reporting Partners

- Reporting sources
  - Texas Department of Agriculture
    - [www.agr.state.tx.us](http://www.agr.state.tx.us)
    - Telephone: 1-800-TELLTDA
  - Texas Poison Control Network
    - 24-hr hotline for chemical inquiries and assistance
    - Telephone: 1-800-POISON 1
  - Structural Pest Control Board
  - Workforce Commission Outreach Staff
  - Healthcare Providers and others
Once We Receive a Report…

- Contact individual for brief interview
- Provide chemical and health-related information
- Collect medical information
- Contact employer (case by case)
- Conduct field investigation (case by case)
- Enter data into database
- Use data for targeted prevention and education
Criteria for field investigation

- An event involving 4 or more workers;
- An event involving hospitalization or death;
- A recurring event with same employer;
- An event involving label compliance
2001-2005 Confirmed Work-Related Pesticide Poisoning in TX by Report Source n=705

- 65.53% Poison Control Center
- 6.52% TX Dept Agriculture
- All others
- Workers' Compensation
- TX Dept Agriculture
- Healthcare Provider
Work-Related Pesticide Poisoning in TX 2001-2005 n = 705

Mean = 2002.97
Std. Dev. = 1.517
N = 705
Pesticide Poisoning by Occupational Category 2001-2005

Frequency

OccCat

Managerial, Professional
Technical, sales, administrative
Service Occupations
Farming, forestry, fishing
Production, repair
Operators, labores
All other occupations

0 50 100 150 200

0 50 100 150 200
Event Description

- PEST received a poison control report of work-related exposure to aluminum phosphide
- Immediate referral to Structural PCB; then referred to TDA.
- Workers lived in homeless shelter and most had moved on at time of investigation
- TDA investigation resulted in fines to employer for improper training & information shared with workers regarding pesticide
Current Focus

• Workplace Interventions
• Disinfectant Exposures
• Respiratory Illness in Poultry Processing Facilities
• Share Occupational Report Data with TDA and EPA Region 6
• Increase Educational Outreach
• Disseminate Information