

# 2010 annual report

New South Wales

Poisons Information Centre

13 11 26



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Staff members</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hours of operation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Publications and presentations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Calls received per month</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Victims of poisoning</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Call characteristics</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Reason for calling Poisons Information Centre</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Hourly call Breakdown</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Histogram based on time of calls</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Substance groups which generated the most calls</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Handling of calls - Adults</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Handling of Calls - Children</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Age in years of children</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Calls related to age of children</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Call type</b>	<b>17</b>

# 2010 STAFF MEMBERS

## Administration

**Naren Gunja, MB BS, FACEM**

Acting Medical Director, Poisons Information Centre

**Andrew Dawson MB BS, FRACP, FRCP (Edin)**

Senior Staff Specialist

**Judith Kirby, B Pharm**

Chief Poisons Information Specialist

**Christa Lynch, B Pharm**

Deputy Chief Poisons Information Specialist

**Lorraine Lum**

Secretary

## Poison Information Specialists

Jared Brown, B Pharm (Hons), MPH

Christine Cantlay, B Pharm

Bashir Chakar, B Pharm (Hons)

Jennifer Clifford, B Pharm

Simon Gilmore, B Pharm

Elizabeth Heiner, B Pharm

Jane Jackson, B Pharm

Christopher Johnston, B Pharm (Hons)

Lucy Kuehn, B Pharm

Robyn Lawson, B Pharm

Mario Leong, B Pharm (Hons)

Lorette Mack, B Pharm

Alanna Ngo, B Pharm (Hons)

Elizabeth Nguyen, B Pharm

Jonathan Noonan, B Sc (Hons), B Ec

Sarah Patterson, B Med Sc

Bina Sira, B Sc (Hons)

Janet West, B Med Sc

## Medical Consultants

Dr Sam Alfred, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Jason Armstrong, MB BS, FACEM

Prof Nicholas Buckley, MD, FRACP

Dr Betty Chan, MB BS, FACEM, PhD

Dr Frank Daly, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Michael Downes, MB ChB, FACEM

Dr Robert Dowsett, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Geoffrey Isbister, B Sc, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Fergus Kerr, MB BS, FACEM, MPH

Dr Mark Little, MB BS, FACEM, MPH&TM, DTM&H (Lon)

Dr David McCoubrie, MB BS, FACEM

A/Prof Lindsay Murray, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Colin Page, MBChB, FACEM, M Med Sc (Clin Epid)

Dr Julian White, MB BS, MD FACTM

Prof Ian Whyte, MB BS (Hon), FRACP, FRCPE

## Fellows in Training

Dr Zeff Koutsogiannis, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Ovidiu Pascu, MB BS, FACEM

Dr Jessamine Soderstrom, MB BS, FACEM

### Hours of Operation

The New South Wales Poisons Information centre forms part of a national network of Poisons Information Centres that provides 24 hours per day, seven days a week coverage, including all holidays.

### Telephone Access

The Poisons Information Centre can be reached on 13 11 26 which gives callers access to the Centre from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call (excluding mobile phones).

### Medical Consultants

Medical Toxicology Consultants are provided to physician callers for unusual, complicated or severe poisoning cases. Each day, coverage is provided for both adult and paediatric poisonings. (This service is available 24 hours per day).

### Publications and Presentations

The NSW Poisons Centre is in a unique position to be able to collect data and co-ordinate research into clinical toxicology particularly for rare poisonings and poisoning involving agents newly introduced to the market. These activities contributed to the following publications during 2010:

- Revised *Kids and poisons* leaflet, available at: [http://www.chw.edu.au/parents/kidshealth/poison\\_safety\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.chw.edu.au/parents/kidshealth/poison_safety_brochure.pdf)
- Chan AN, Gunja N, Ryan CJ. A comparison of venlafaxine and SSRIs in deliberate self-poisoning. *Journal of medical toxicology*, 2010; 6(2):116-21.
- Isbister GK, Balit CR, Macleod D, Duffull SB. Amisulpride Overdose is frequently associated with QT prolongation and Torsades de Pointes. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*. 2010; 30(4): 391-395.
- Pirotta M, Kotsirilos V, Brown J, Adams J, Morgan T, Williamson M. Complementary medicine in general practice – a national survey of GP attitudes and knowledge. *Australian Family Physician*. 2010; 39 (12): 946-950.
- Brown JA. Therapeutic errors involving ingestion of clotrimazole pessaries by women (poster and oral presentation). *European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists*, May 11–14 2010. Abstract in *Clinical Toxicology* 2010; 48(3):289.
- Brown JA, Gunja N. A review of calls to an Australian poisons information centre from carers working in group homes (poster). *European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists*, May 11–14 2010. Abstract in *Clinical Toxicology* 2010; 48(3):289.
- Brown JA, Gunja N, Graudins A. Neuropsychiatric and other adverse reactions to oseltamivir (poster). *European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists*, May 11–14 2010. Abstract in *Clinical Toxicology* 2010; 48(3):257.
- Morgan T, Adams J, Brown J, Grunseit A, Williamson M. Interacting with complementary medicines – Challenging and expanding general practitioners' professional role (poster). *National Medicines Symposium*, May 26–28 2010.
- Moles R, Hietbrink E, Bakshi R, Saini B, Williams K, Brown J, Tasker N. Evaluating parents/carers skills in managing fever and cough and cold in children (poster). *National Medicines Symposium*, May 26–28 2010.
- Brown JA, Morgan T, Williamson M, Roufogalis B. Complementary medicines information needs and preferences of community pharmacists (poster). *Pharmacy Australia Congress*, October 28-31 2010.
- Brown JA. Dosing errors with Infacol Wind Drops (simethicone) (poster). *Pharmacy Australia Congress*, October 28-31 2010.

- Brown JA. Therapeutic errors involving ingestion of clotrimazole pessaries by women (poster). *Pharmacy Australia Congress*, October 28-31 2010.
- Brown JA, Gunja N, Graudins A. Neuropsychiatric and other adverse reactions to oseltamivir (poster). *Pharmacy Australia Congress*, October 28-31 2010.
- Brown JA, Gunja N. A review of calls to an Australian poisons information centre from carers working in group homes (poster). *Pharmacy Australia Congress*, October 28-31 2010.
- Moles R, Hietbrink E, Bakshi R, Saini B, Williams K, Brown J, Tasker N. Managing fever and cough and cold in children: an evaluation of parent's skills (poster). *FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 28 August – 2 September 2010.
- Pirotta M, Kotsirilos V, Brown J, Adams J, Morgan T, Williamson M. Integrative Medicine: Results from a National Survey of Family Doctors' Attitudes and Knowledge about Complementary Medicine (oral presentation). *Canadian Interdisciplinary Network for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research*, November 19-21 2010.

## Reports

Reports on various toxicological issues were provided to various public health organisations in 2010. These include:

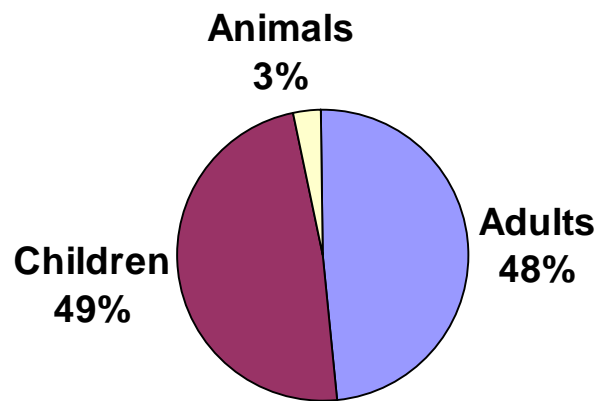
- Mushroom-related calls to the NSW Food Authority
- Infacol therapeutic errors to the Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Clotrimazole pessary therapeutic errors to the Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Liquid ibuprofen dosing errors to the Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Consultation on the Review of Therapeutic Goods Order 80: Child-resistant packaging requirements for medicines to the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Specifically data was provided on exposures to fluoride, mercurochrome, podophyllotoxin, methyl salicylate, cough and cold medicines and topical preparations.
- Adverse reactions and concerns regarding the use of melanotan to the Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Button battery ingestions for NSW Health
- Disinfectant exposures to the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme
- Adverse reactions to Miracle Mineral Solution to the Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Increase in Duck Fresh Disc ingestions reported to NSW Poisons Information Centre
- Therapeutic errors with OTC medications in children for presentation at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference 2010
- Quetiapine exposures to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney
- Benzodiazepine exposures to St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
- Colchicine exposures to St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

# Calls Received Per Month 2010 and 2009

<b>Month</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>January</b>	9631	10235
<b>February</b>	8774	9297
<b>March</b>	9565	10479
<b>April</b>	8491	9221
<b>May</b>	8263	9420
<b>June</b>	7958	8500
<b>July</b>	8044	9045
<b>August</b>	8467	9167
<b>September</b>	8701	8989
<b>October</b>	9262	9212
<b>November</b>	9476	9758
<b>December</b>	9485	9833

## Victims of poisoning

Adults:	47033
Children:	47072
Animals:	2943



Note: these statistics indicate trends in poisoning only, and do not represent all serious poisoning incidents.

## CALL CHARACTERISTICS

### Calls by Geographic Source

Calls are received from all over the country at the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre. A breakdown of these calls appears below. The calls taken from interstate are done so during weekend and overnight.

#### NSW Poisons Information Centre - National Calls

State	No of Calls	% Calls
NSW	72928	68.8
Victoria	7639	7.2
Queensland	9866	9.3
South Australia	3036	2.9
Western Australia	2803	2.6
Tasmania	3950	3.7
Northern Territory	356	0.3
Australian Capital Territory	3477	3.3
International	78	0.1
Other	1	0.0
Unknown	1815	1.7
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS TO NSW</b>	<b>105949</b>	

In addition to calls taken by New South Wales, the other three Australian Poisons Centres handled the following call volumes

State	No of Calls
Victoria	39679
Western Australia	40532
Queensland	32057

## Reason for Calling Poisons Information Centre

### Route of Exposure

Route	No of Calls	% Calls
Ingestion	77255	83.7
Inhalation/Nasal	2797	3.0
Ocular	4273	4.6
Dermal	2489	2.7
Bite Sting	4555	4.9
Parenteral	662	0.7
Unknown Other	291	0.3

Many of the above calls have multiple routes of exposure

### Persons Calling the Poisons Centre

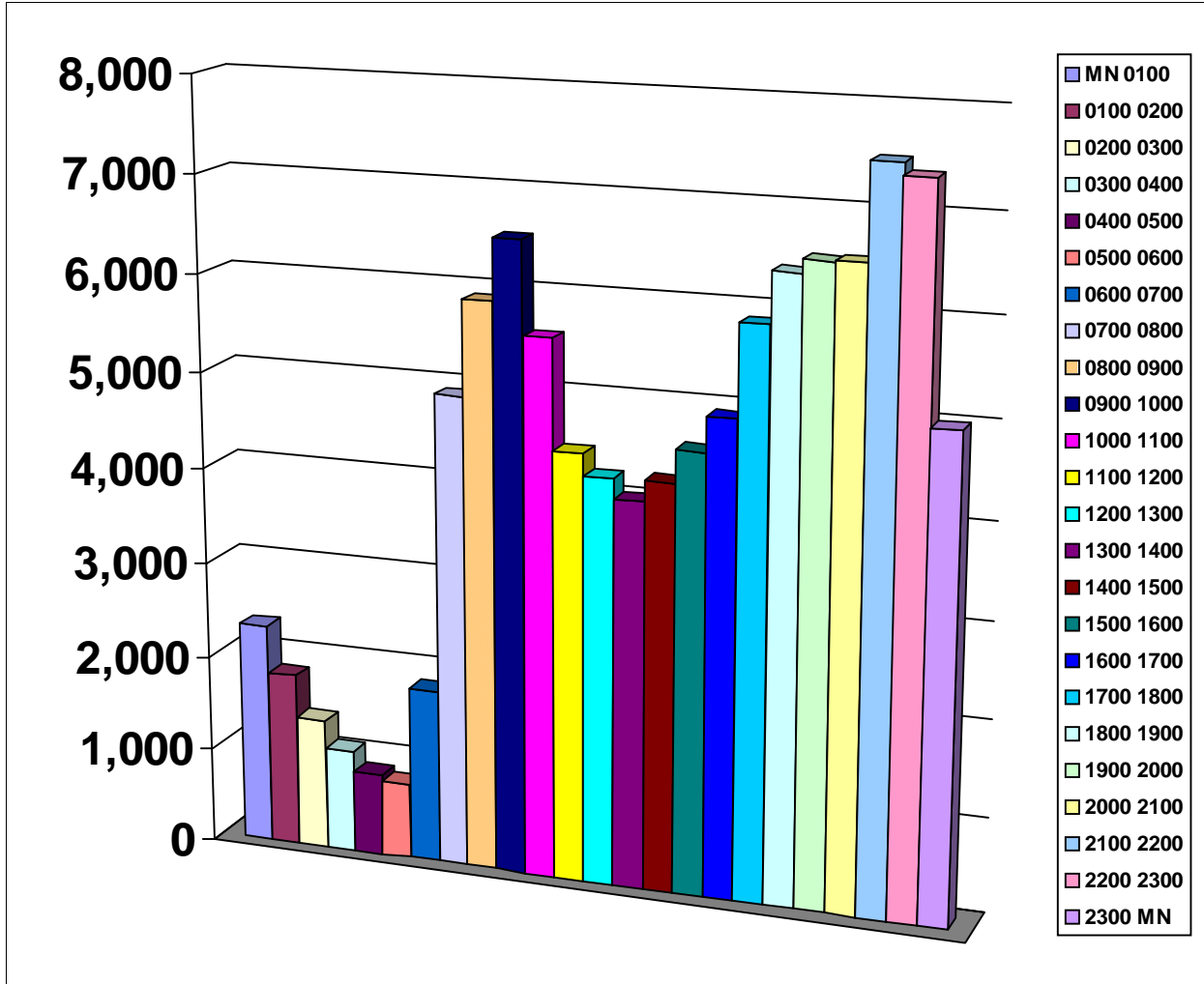
Person Calling	No of Calls	% Calls
Self	23855	23.3
Family Member	48344	47.3
Friend	2477	2.4
Doctor	10654	10.4
Nurse	7133	7.0
Ambulance	2157	2.1
Pharmacist	483	0.5
Other Medical Professional	108	0.1
Vet	529	0.5
Counselling Service	335	0.3
Other	1617	1.6
Group Home	1771	1.7
Carer	2674	2.6
Unknown	1928	1.6

## Hourly Call Breakdown

Route	No of Calls	% Calls
MN-0100	2319	2.3
0100-0200	1818	1.8
0200-0300	1366	1.4
0300-0400	1069	1.1
0400-0500	847	0.8
0500-0600	787	0.8
0600-0700	1823	1.8
0700-0800	4913	4.9
0800-0900	5891	5.9
0900-1000	6526	6.5
1000-1100	5572	5.6
1100-1200	4448	4.4
1200-1300	4223	4.2
1300-1400	4010	4.0
1400-1500	4229	4.2
1500-1600	4562	4.6
1600-1700	4918	4.9
1700-1800	5862	5.9
1800-1900	6378	6.4
1900-2000	6509	6.5
2000-2100	6521	6.5
2100-2200	7485	7.5
2200-2300	7351	7.4
2300-MN	4997	5.0

# Histogram Based on Time of Calls

Time of Day



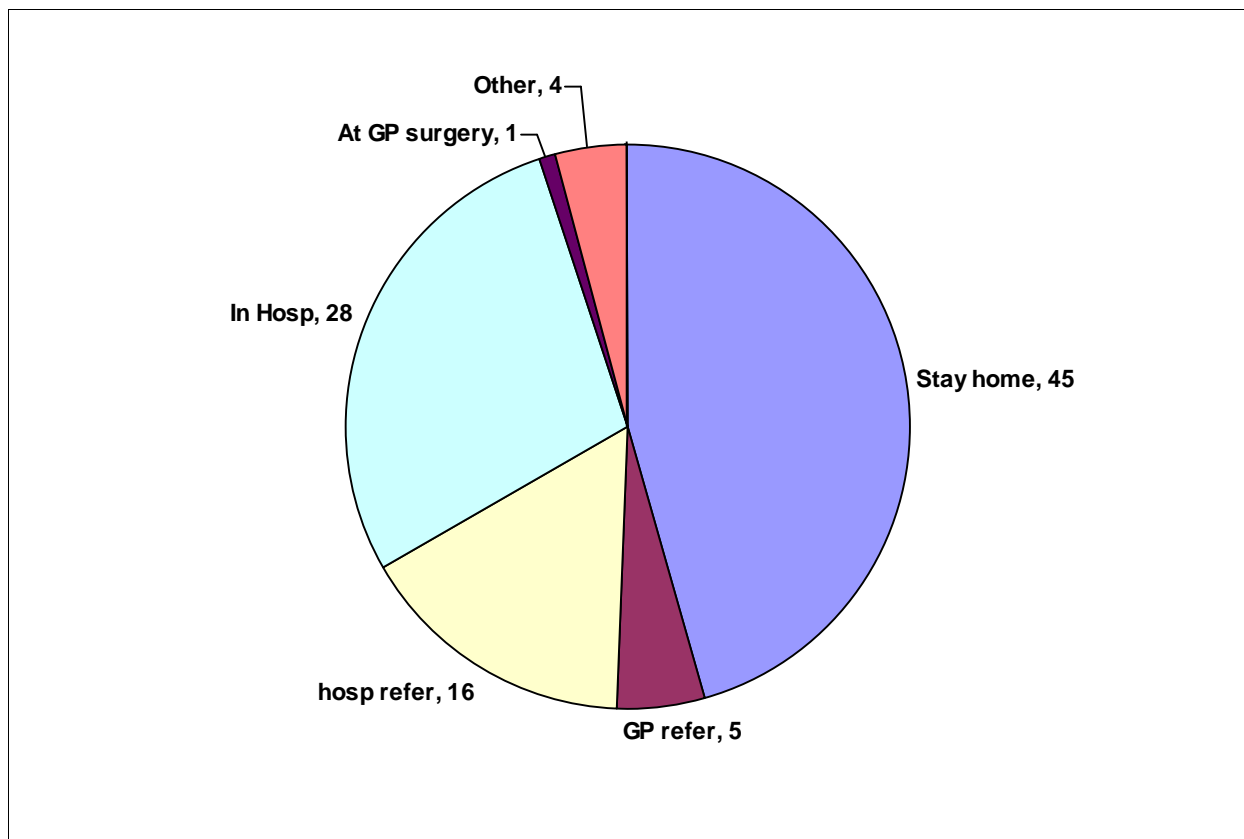
## Substance group which generated the most calls

The following table shows the Top 10 substances that generated the most calls to the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre in 2010

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Total No of Calls</b>
Paracetamol containing product	7723
Benzodiazepines	3576
Detergents	2741
Ibuprofen	2238
Ethanol	2095
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor antidepressants	2063
Spiders	1982
Cleaners (all-purpose/hard-surface)	1668
Paracetamol + narcotic combination analgesic	1667
Quetiapine	1570

# HANDLING OF CALLS - ADULT

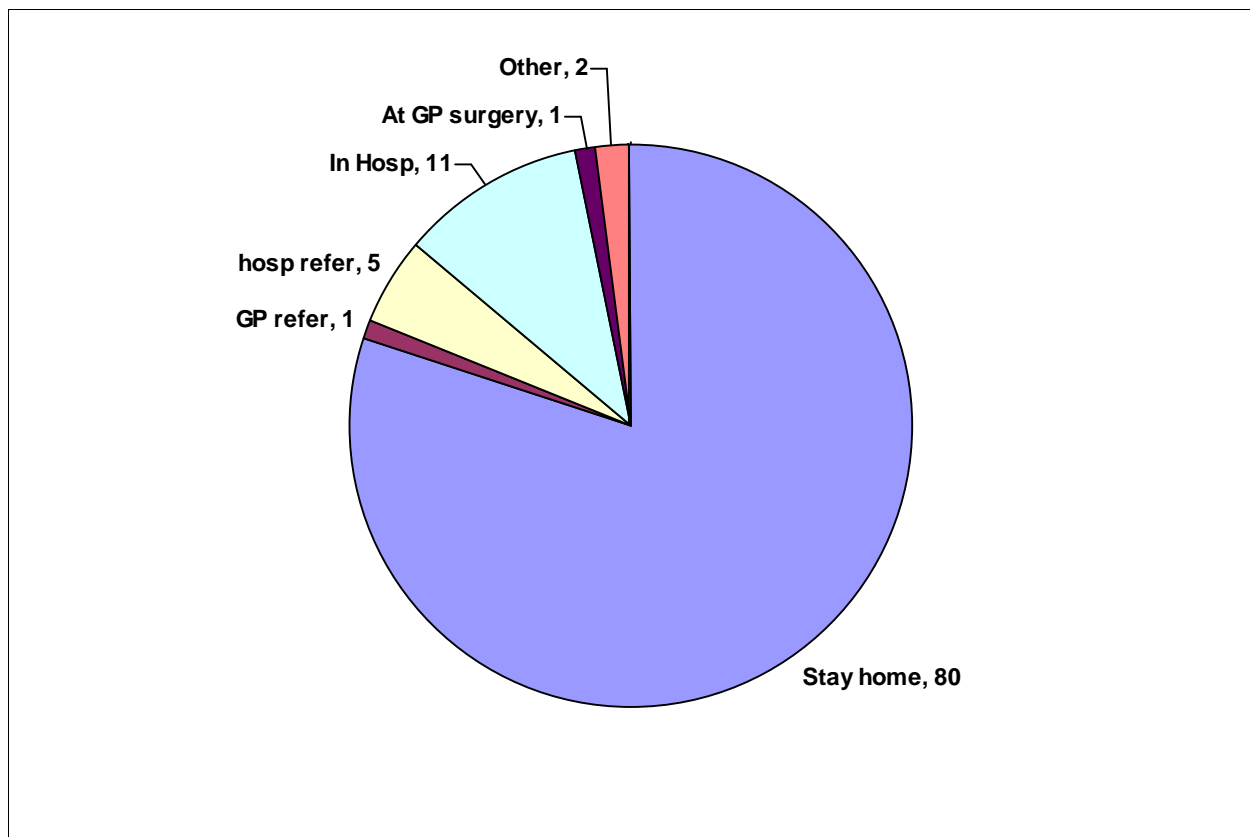
Handling	No of Calls	% Calls
Stay at Home	15801	45.3
GP Referred	1701	4.9
Hospital Referred	5698	16.3
In Hospital	9853	28.2
At GP Surgery	510	1.5
Other	1306	3.7
<b>Total Adult Handling Calls</b>	<b>34883</b>	



Note: This is representative of all calls received for adults.

# HANDLING OF CALLS - CHILDREN

Handling	No of Calls	% Calls
Stay at Home	34964	80.0
GP Referred	566	1.3
Hospital Referred	2312	5.3
In Hospital	4602	10.5
At GP Surgery	374	0.9
Other	886	2.0
<b>Total Children Handling Calls</b>	<b>43711</b>	



Note: This is representative of all calls received for Children.

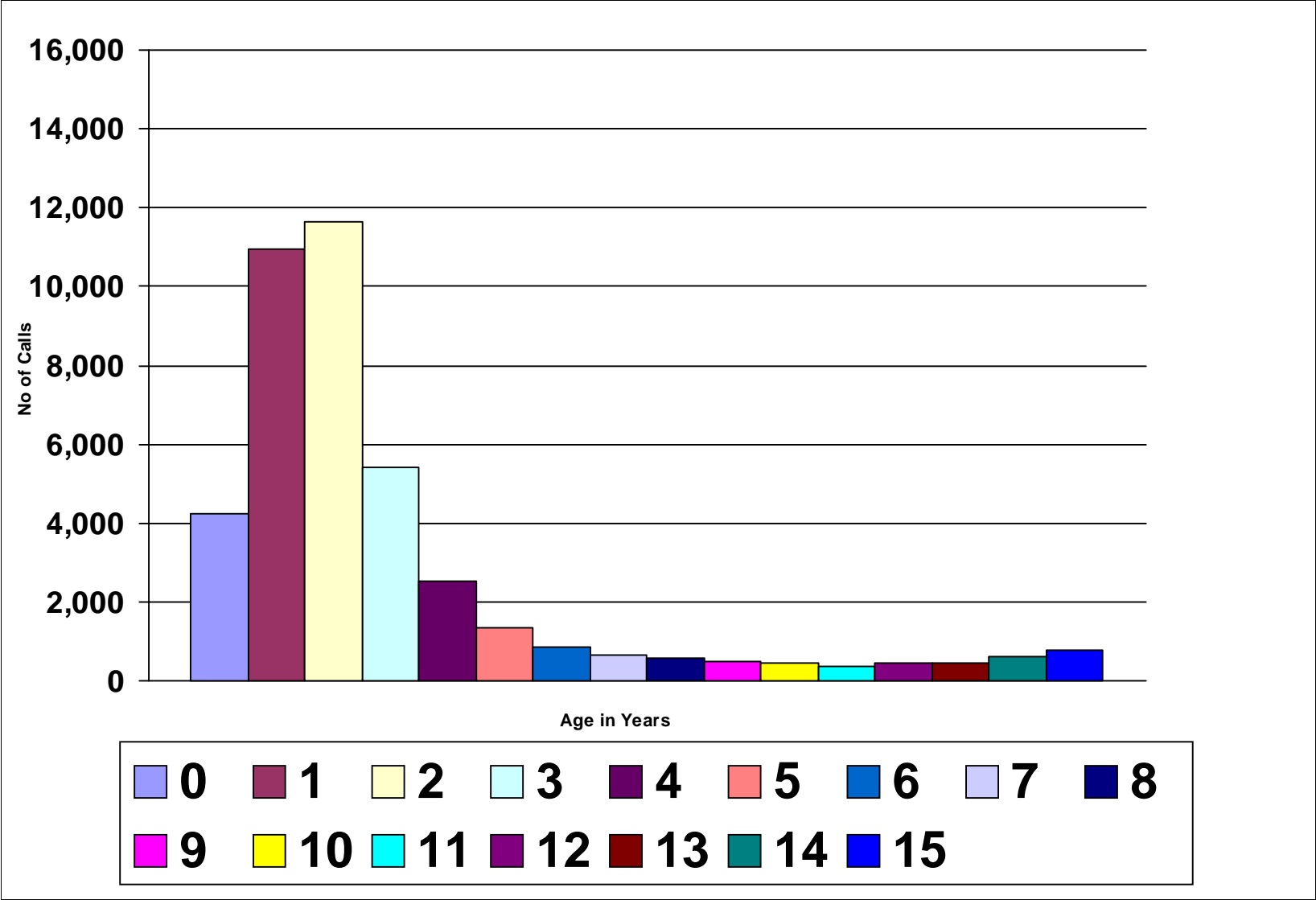
### Age in Years of Children

Age	No of Calls	% Calls
<1	4230	10.1
1	10958	26.3
2	11635	27.9
3	5406	13.0
4	2523	6.1
5	1325	3.2
6	863	2.1
7	653	1.6
8	552	1.3
9	472	1.1
10	434	1.0
11	369	0.9
12	449	1.1
13	456	1.1
14	607	1.5
15	769	1.8

### Calls Regarding Persons Based on Gender

Gender	No of Calls	% Calls
Female	46603	52.5
Male	40780	45.9
Unknown	1451	1.6

# Calls Related to Age of Children



## Call Type

Call Type	No of Calls	% Calls
Exposure	75405	71.2
Query	23644	22.3
Re-Call	5210	4.9

Exposure Type	No of Calls	% Calls
Intentional	13315	16.4
Accidental	53694	66.0
Therapeutic error	11970	14.7
Food Poisoning	86	0.1
Adverse reaction	1168	1.4
Occupational	23	0.0
Other/Unknown	10	0.0
Other	79	0.1
Unknown	1602	1.5
Work place	755	0.9
Pregnancy	46	0.1
Environmental	38	0.0

## Query Type

	No of Calls	% Calls
Drug Information	11264	44.9
Poisons Information	8410	33.6
Environmental	105	0.4
Prevention/Safety	1058	4.2
Medical	1064	4.2
Pregnancy	626	2.5
Occupational	39	0.2
Breast feeding	722	2.9