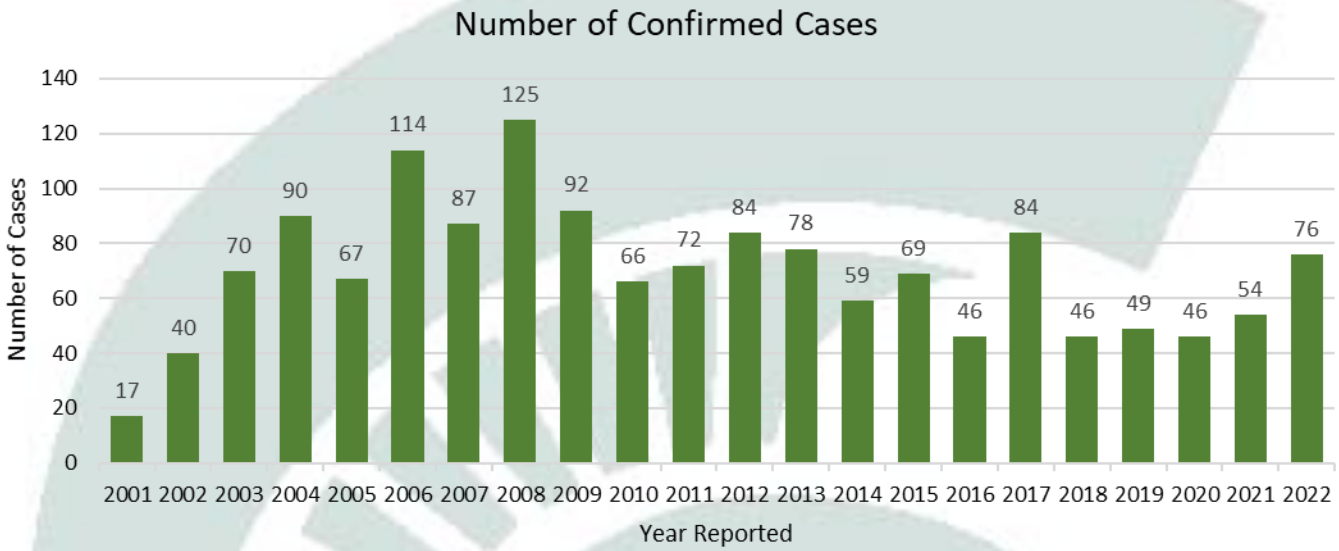
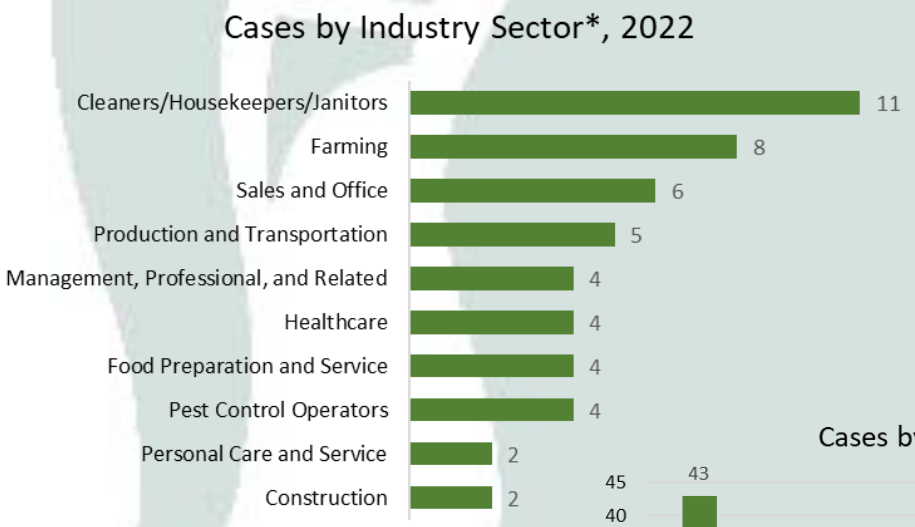
Occupational Pesticide-Related Illnesses and Injuries in Michigan 2022

Additional Information Available at: www.oem.msu.edu

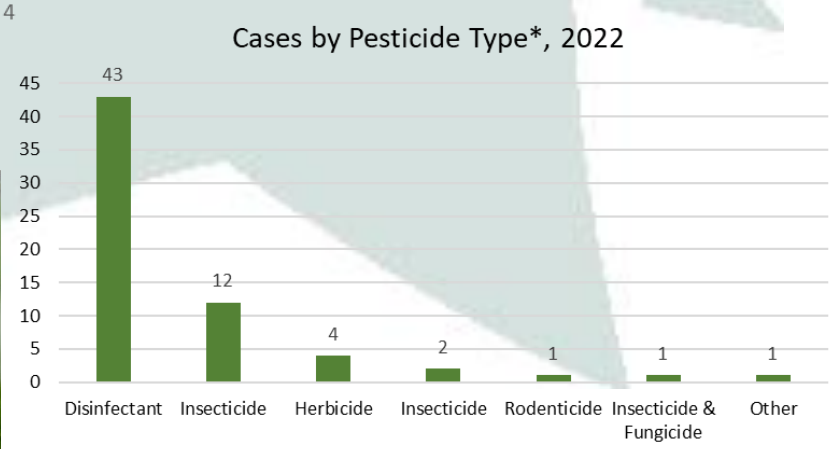
Summary Statistics



The number of confirmed work-related pesticide illness and injury cases in Michigan has varied since the surveillance system became fully operational in 2003, ranging from 46 to 125. Overall, 54% of the cases were men/45% women.



*Industry was missing for 26 cases

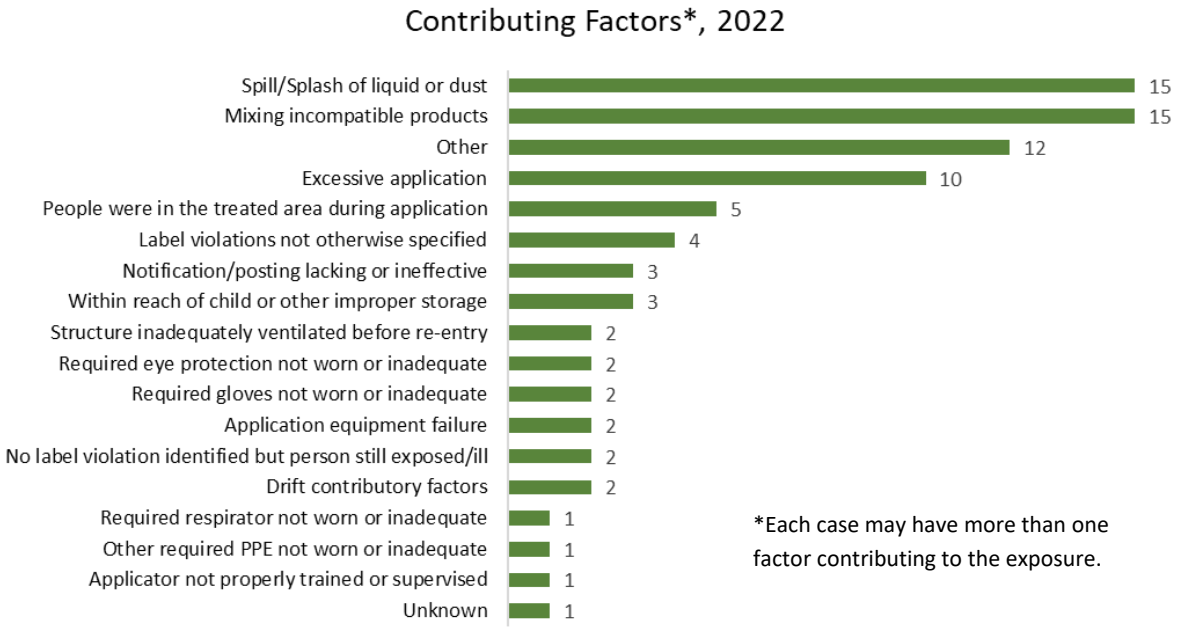


*Type of pesticide was missing for 22 cases

January 18, 2023

Background

The Michigan Occupational Pesticide-related Illness and Injury Surveillance program began in 2001. The goals are to: 1) identify groups at risk for pesticide-related illnesses and injuries, 2) detect trends, 3) identify high-risk active ingredients, 4) identify and refer cases to regulatory agencies as appropriate, and 5) provide information for interventions including education and outreach programs. Pesticide-related Illness and Injury Surveillance is funded under a cooperative agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. The term pesticide can refer to insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, disinfectants, and various other substances. Reported cases are classified based on criteria related to (1) documentation of exposure, (2) documentation of at least two adverse health effects, and (3) evidence supporting a causal relationship between pesticide exposure and health effects. Cases that meet all three criteria are considered confirmed cases.



2022 Work-related Pesticide Illness and Injury Select Narratives

- A female in her late teens was working at a fast-food restaurant when she was exposed for approximately five hours to a mixture of sanitizer, detergent, degreaser, and peroxide. She developed a cough, difficulty breathing, a rash on both arms, vomiting, congestion, a headache, and a fever. Three days after the exposure she sought medical treatment in the emergency department where she was diagnosed with chemical pneumonitis.
- A male in his 20s was working at a car dealership where he cleaned mold with bleach that was diluted 1:1. He developed trouble breathing, a cough, throat irritation, and chest pain. The next morning, he sought medical attention in the emergency department where he was diagnosed with acute chemical pneumonitis. He was prescribed an oral steroid and an antibiotic.
- A male in his 30s was working as a field technician for an extension unit of a university. He was in a potato field and exposed for about an hour to the mist of an herbicide that another worker was applying. He developed a headache, dry mouth, and dry and itchy eyes. He sought medical advice from poison control.
- A male pesticide applicator in his 20s was spraying an overhang with an insecticide when mist of the insecticide landed on him and in his mouth. He developed a headache, lightheadedness, and nausea. Two days after the exposure he vomited and sought medical advice from poison control.