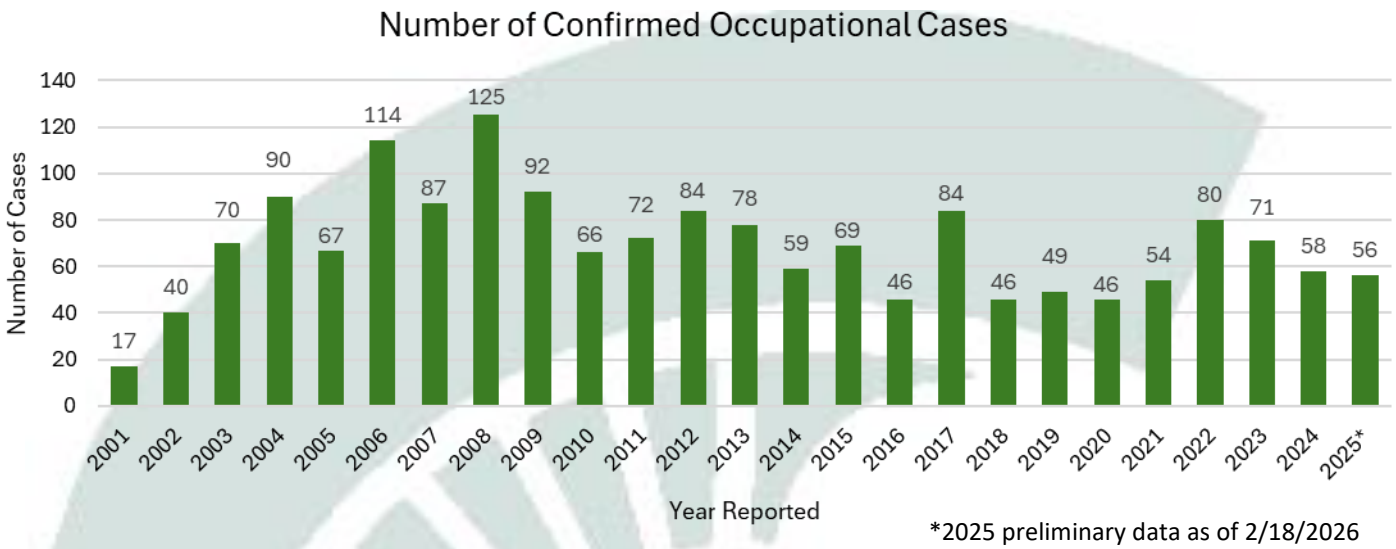
Occupational Pesticide-Related Illnesses and Injuries in Michigan 2025

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

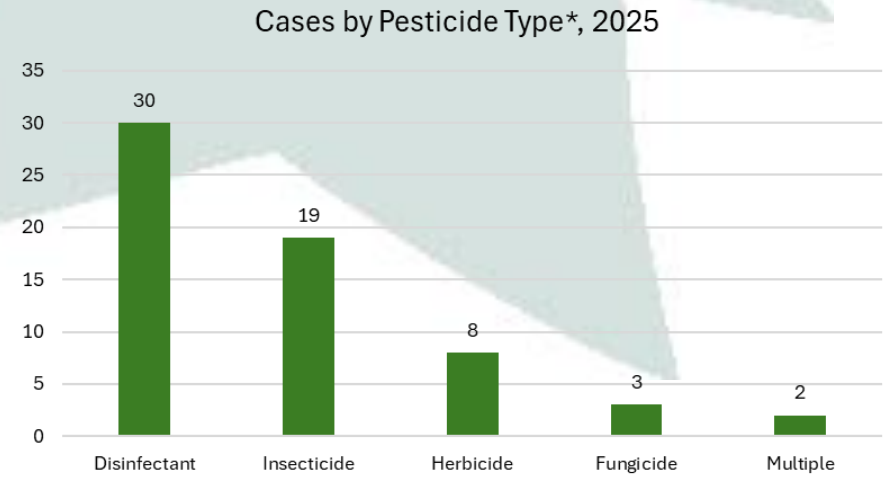
Summary Statistics



*2025 preliminary data as of 2/18/2026

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. In 2025, 57% of the cases involved men and 43% involved women. Disinfectants were the most common cause (48%). Of the 33 cases where race of the exposed individual was known, 73% were white, 21% were Black, 3% were Indigenous American, and 3% were of another unspecified race. Of the 24 cases where the ethnicity of the exposed individual was known, 13% were Hispanic.

*Occupation was missing for 27 cases.

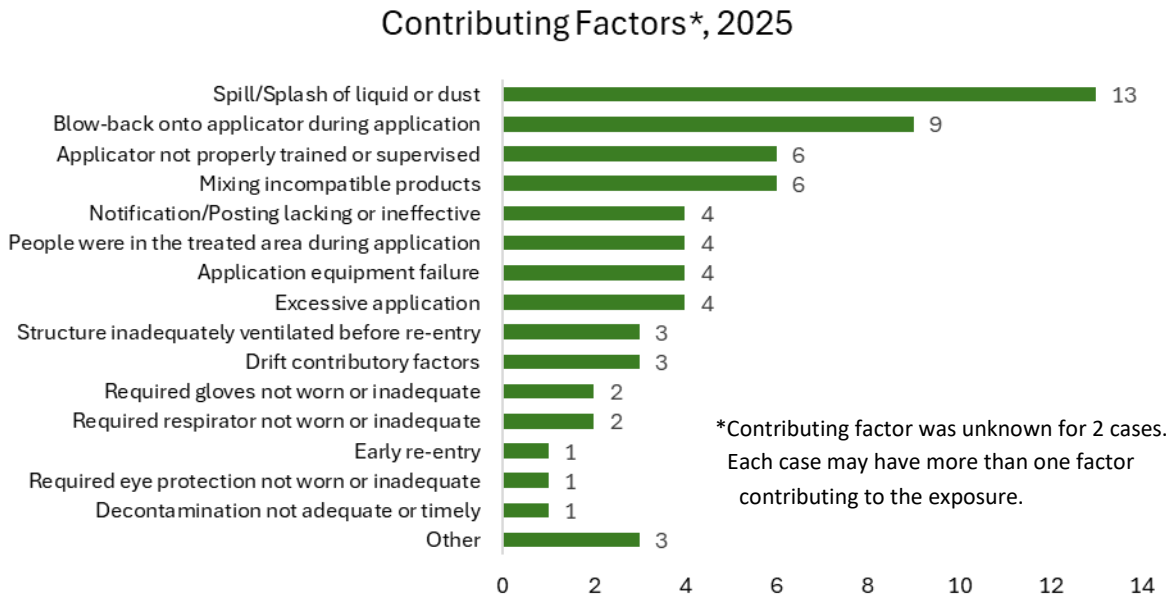


*Type of pesticide was missing for 2 exposures.
There may be more than one type of pesticide per exposure.

February 18, 2026

Background

The Michigan Occupational Pesticide-related Illness and Injury Surveillance program began in 2001. 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.



2025 Work-related Pesticide Illness and Injury Select Narratives

- A male in his 40s was working at a turkey farm when he went to check the alarms sounding in the chemical tanks. He was using his phone as a flashlight and dropped the phone in a chemical tank containing chlorine dioxide and calcium phosphate. He entered the tank to retrieve the phone but was unable to get out of the tank. A co-worker was able to help extract him from the tank after 15-20 minutes. He developed shortness of breath, throat irritation, and hypoxia. EMS was called and transported him to the emergency department where he stayed overnight. He was prescribed a bronchodilator and home oxygen. This case was referred to MIOSHA.
- A male correctional officer in his 40s confiscated an item an inmate was preparing to smoke. He extinguished the item and brought it to his office which he shared with another correctional officer in his 30s. Both officers noticed a smell and that smoke was filling the room. They believe they were exposed to wasp spray that inmates have been known to smoke on paper letters sent to prisoners via the mail. The officer in his 40s developed shortness of breath, a cough, chest tightness, nausea, dizziness, and tingling in his hands and vomited once. The officer in his 30s developed nausea, dizziness, and a headache. They both sought medical assistance in the emergency department.
- A female in her 20s was applying an herbicide while at work when it blew back in her face. She developed burns to her face and hands and a blister on her face. When her symptoms had not subsided two days after the exposure she sought medical assistance at an urgent care facility.
- A female in her 20s was working as a custodian when she was cleaning with bleach while in a small room without ventilation. She developed shortness of breath and throat irritation. She left her workplace and then called EMS for medical assistance.
- A male in his 40s was working as a trimmer in a cannabis growing and processing facility. He sprayed an alcohol-based disinfectant between each batch of product being trimmed. He developed a dry cough and wheezing and sought medical attention in the emergency department.