



Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives

A38 National Poisons Information Centre Database

Data owner	National Poisons Information Centre (www.poisons.ie)
Brief description	Data are collected on all enquiries to the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC). These are usually telephone enquiries, but some are received by e-mail or post.
Primary function of data	To monitor and report on trends in poisoning in Ireland.
Key classificatory variables	ID Other; Sex; Age Yr; County
Themes/domains	Health; Demographics
Unit of observation	Enquiry, primarily from doctors and healthcare professionals. The public can enquire through the Public Poisons Information Line (Tel: (01) 809 2166).
Start date of data collection	Aggregate data (annual reports) available from 1966. Computerised data available from 1993.
Frequency of data collection	Continuous
Data format	A separate record is created for each enquiry. Some enquiries are about multiple patients, while some patients may generate multiple enquiries.
Method of data collection	Paper-based forms initially, then transferred to computer.
Access/further information	National Poisons Information Centre, Beaumont Hospital: www.poisons.ie E-mail: patriciacasey@beaumont.ie Publications available at: http://www.poisons.ie/publications.asp
Notes	<p>The NPIC collects national data, but is not contacted about every case of poisoning. All hospital emergency departments have access to an online clinical toxicology database and may not need to telephone the NPIC for advice. For the period 2000-2009 inclusive, the NPIC have complete data on enquiries received between 8am-10pm. Enquiries made between 10pm-8am are outsourced, so that the NPIC has limited data only on these calls. Complete data on all enquiries are available since 2010. A total of 130,955 enquiries were received between 1966 and 1992 inclusive, and 244,147 between 1993 and 2012 inclusive. In 2012, 53% of enquiries concerned children under 10 years old.</p> <p>Poisons Centres in many countries publish annual reports. The EAPCCT website has links to many European Poisons Centres: www.eapcct.org/show.php?page=links</p> <p>The American Association of Poison Control Centres publishes its annual report in the journal <i>Clinical Toxicology</i>. Abstract of <i>Annual Report 2012</i> available at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24359283</p>