

PEST

Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas Program

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PEST

Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas

- *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 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

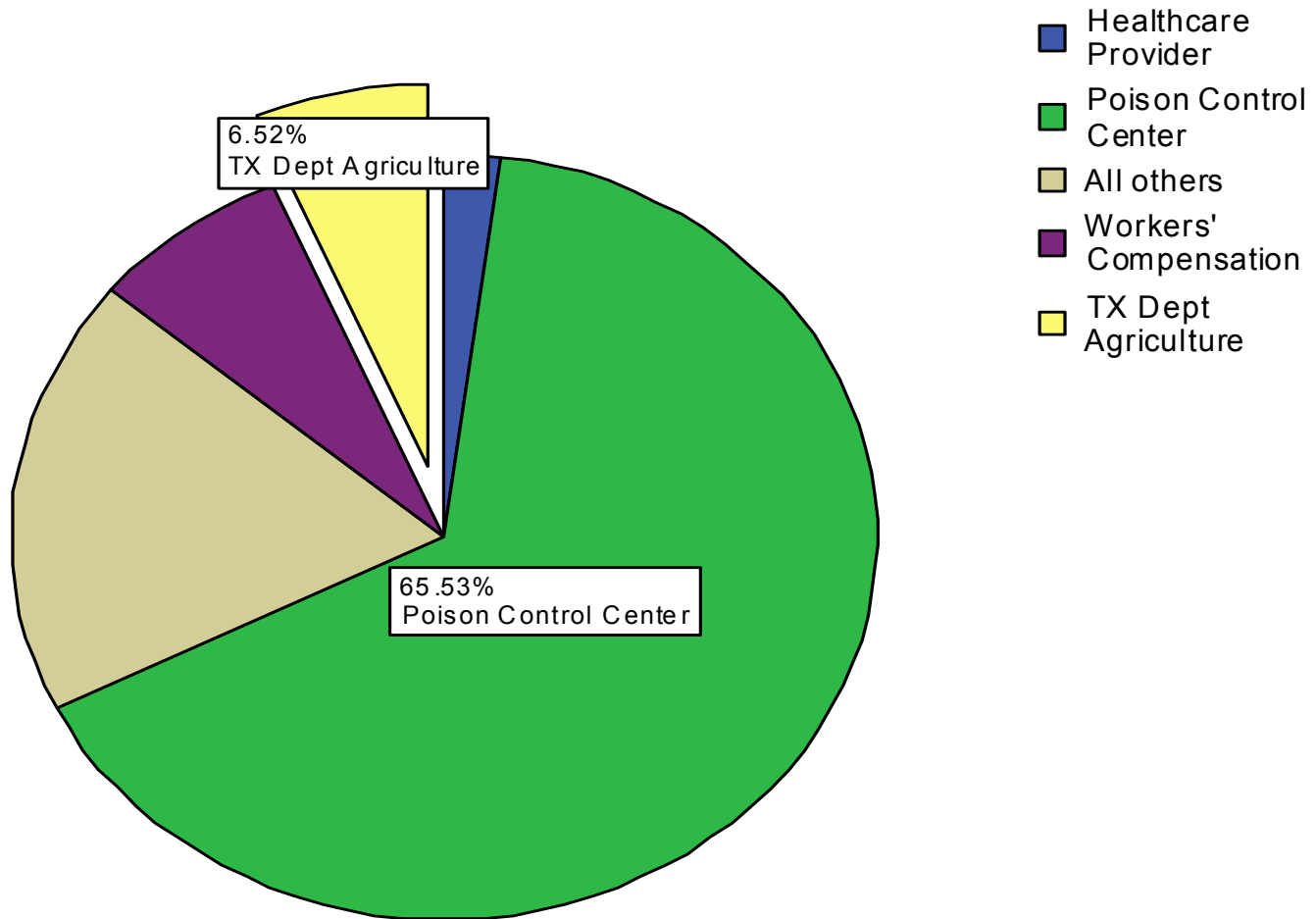
Once We Receive a Report...

- 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

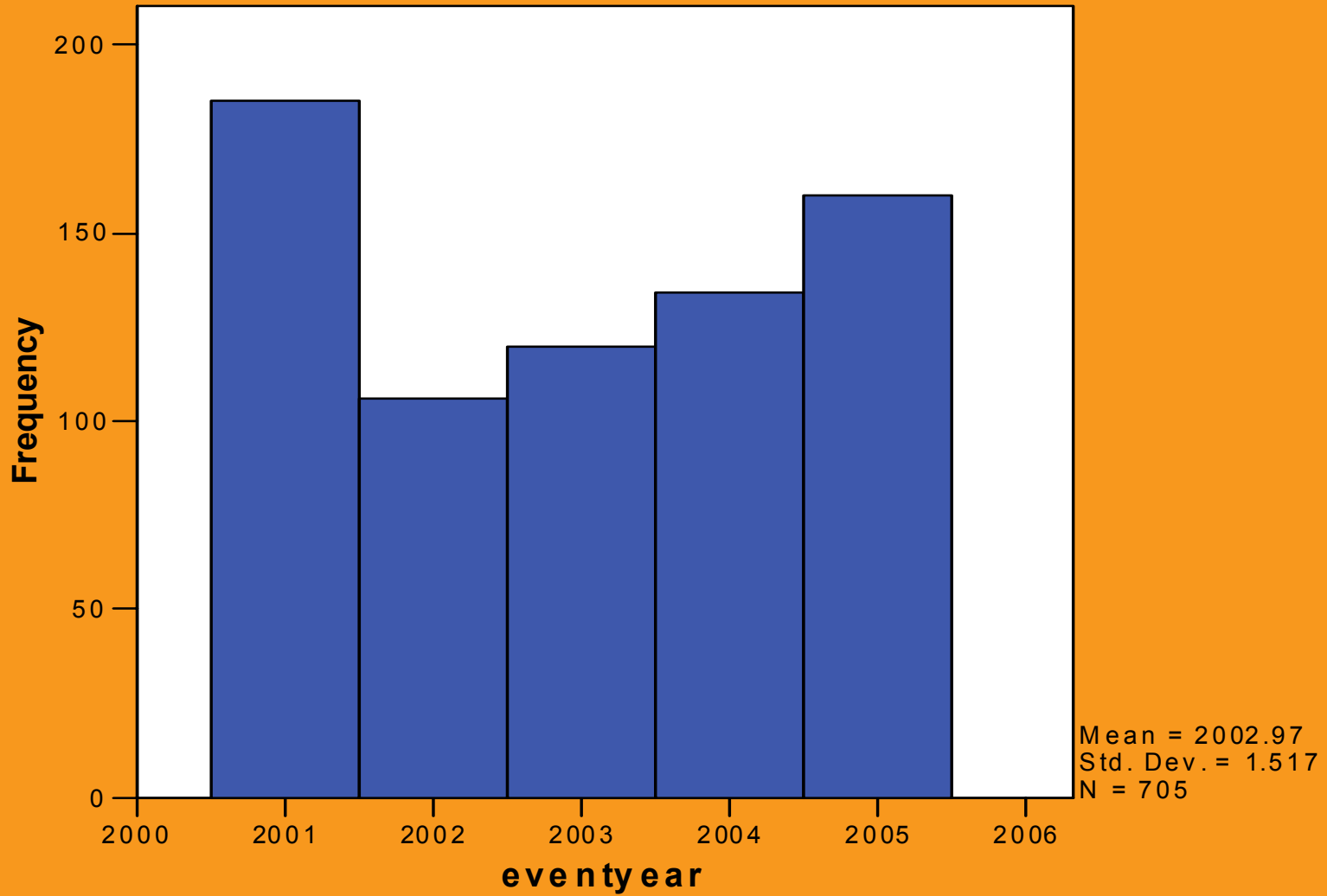
Criteria for field investigation

- An event involving 4 or more workers;
- An event involving hospitalization or death;
- A recurring event with same employer;
- An event involving label compliance

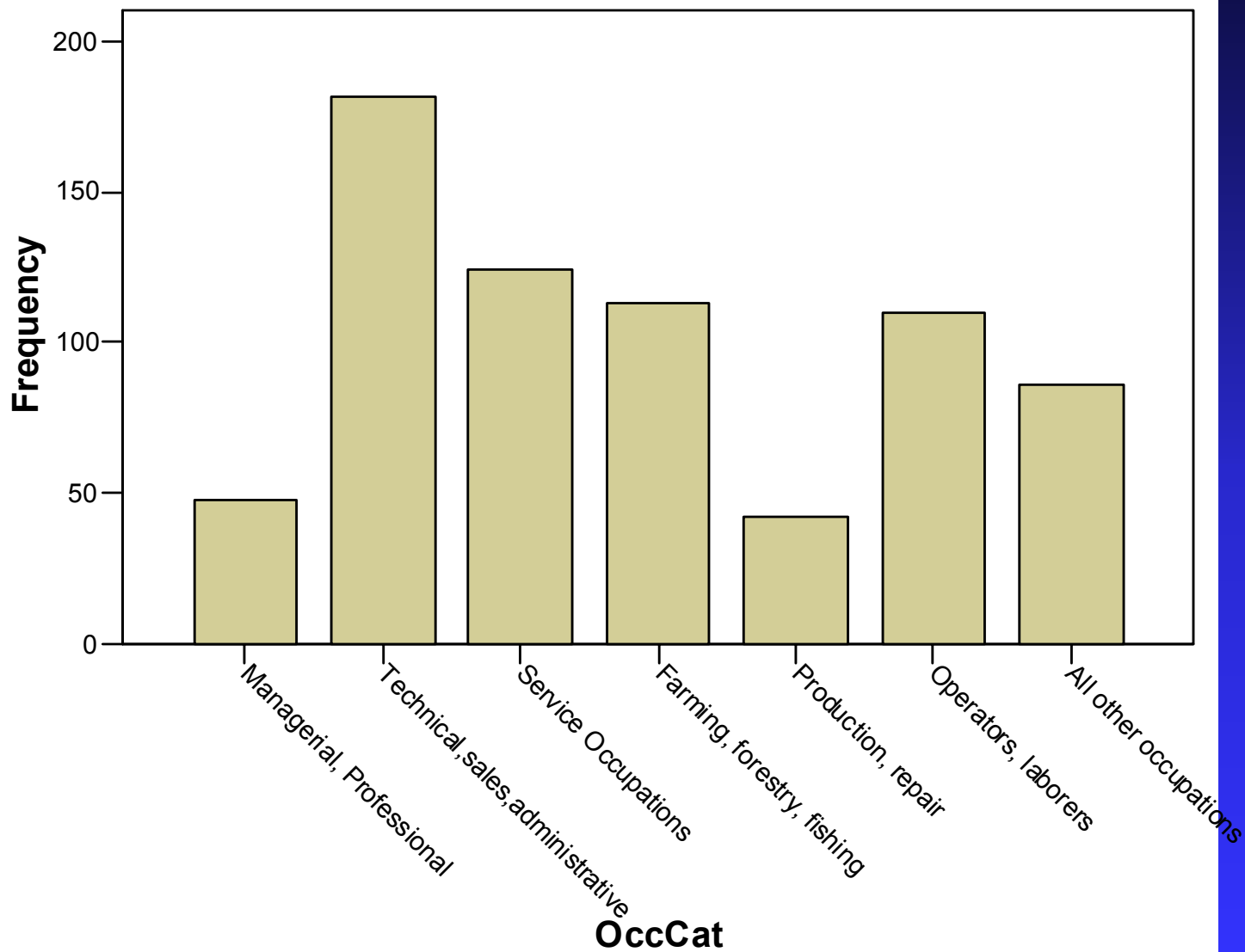
2001-2005 Confirmed Work-Related Pesticide Poisoning in TX by Report Source n=705



Work-Related Pesticide Poisoning in TX 2001-2005 n=705



Pesticide Poisoning by Occupational Category 2001-2005



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