

Metadata: Hazardous substances notifications in New Zealand

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Hazardous substances notifications in New Zealand
Domain and topic	Hazardous substances: Health effects of hazardous substances
Indicator definition and units	<p>The number of annual hazardous substances* notifications in New Zealand, excluding cases that were assigned as 'not a case' by the Public Health Units.</p> <p>* A hazardous substance is anything that can explode, catch fire, oxidise, corrode or be toxic to humans, as defined in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. This definition does not include medicines in finished dose form, alcohol other than industrial alcohol, or radioactive materials.</p>
Data source	The Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool (HSDIRT).
Methodology	<p>Diseases or injuries due to exposure of lead or hazardous substances are notifiable in New Zealand. All cases diagnosed by doctors and/or laboratories are required to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health in the region for further investigation.</p> <p>GPs or local Public Health Units notify the cases to the Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool (HSDIRT) which is administered by the Environmental Health Indicators Programme.</p> <p>The Public Health Units will assign a case status based on their investigation. Cases are not included in the analysis if they are assigned as 'not a case'.</p>
Time periods covered	Annual, from 2013 onwards.
Population coverage	All people in New Zealand.
Reporting variables	Results are presented by gender, age group, ethnicity, substance category (e.g. industrial chemical, household chemical and agrichemical), intent of exposure, and place of occurrence.
Limitations of indicator and data source	<p>This indicator only includes cases that were notified and will be underestimating the total burden of diseases or injuries that were caused by hazardous substances or lead exposures. In most cases, diseases or injuries due to hazardous substances or lead exposure will not be diagnosed (i.e. the person who was ill did not see a doctor or the diagnostic test was not performed).</p> <p>Also, a case will not be included in the analysis if the GP is unaware of the tool and does not use it to notify cases.</p>
Created by	Environmental Health Intelligence Programme, Massey University, Wellington

Related indicators	Lead absorption notifications in New Zealand
For more information	Environmental Health Indicators New Zealand: HSDIRT notification tool: http://www.ehinz.ac.nz/our-projects/hazardous-substances/hsdirt-notification-tool/