

# CARPIN



**Event: Pesticides Control Authority One Day  
Consultation on International Trade of Hazardous  
Chemicals**

**Day: May 31, 2006**

**Topic: *Preventing poisoning, protecting  
lives...***

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# What is CARPIN?

- “Caribbean Poison Information Network”
- Collaborative efforts of several stakeholders:
  1. University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech)
  2. National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)
  3. Ministry of Health (MOH)/PCA
  4. University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)
  5. University of the West Indies (UWI)
  6. Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP)
  7. Environmental Health Foundation (EHF)
  8. Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ)
  9. Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ)

**POISON PREVENTION NOW!**

# Genesis and History of CARPIN

- Conceptualized in August, 2000
- Meeting for Poison Center Development in the Caribbean region 2001, 2002
- IPCS INTOX® Data Management system and Poisindex®- 2001 and 2002
- Project launched in October 2002
- Launch of Trinidad and Tobago's Poison Control Center- Nov 29, 2002
- First stakeholders' meeting convened on January 31, 2003 at Utech
- Service launched in May, 2005
  - *Motto: protecting against poisonings*

**POISON PREVENTION NOW!**

# Caribbean involvement

- Countries initially committed to gather and disseminate poison information:

1. Jamaica
2. Trinidad and Tobago
3. Barbados
4. Suriname
5. Grenada

- Expressing interest:

- St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Guyana, Bahamas



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# Specific objectives



1. To provide accurate information on Poison management in a timely manner
2. To collate data, disseminate information and encourage relevant research and publication
3. To provide an opportunity for a close integration of sentinel sites and regional poison centers
4. To increase poison awareness within the Caribbean
5. To implement poison prevention strategies



Functional Structure of CARPIN

# CARPIN as a poison center

- 24-hour Emergency Telephone Treatment Recommendations for all types of poisonings, chemical exposures, and drug overdoses
- Telephone follow-up for hospitalized and non-hospitalized patients to assess progress and recommend additional treatment as necessary
- Research and surveillance of human poison exposures-occupational and environmental exposures as well as those related to chemicals, drugs, and envenomations.
- Community education in poison prevention.
- Education in the recognition and management of poisonings for health care providers.
- Training of future poison information specialists

# Operation of CARPIN nerve center

- Staffing-
  - Project manager
  - Specialist- Toxicologists, Pharmacists, Physicians, Nurses
  - Data entry personnel
  - Administrative support
- Funding
  - Grants
  - Subscription from participating companies, regional governments
  - Private contracts- post marketing surveillance
  - Services rendered to MOH, research-based institutions
  - Sale of publications
  - Audio-text 1-888 poisons (764667) service

# The role of Sentinel Sites

- Receive enquires about poisoning
- Make referral where necessary
- Recommend first aid management where appropriate
- Data collection and forwarding to nerve center
- Participation in public education and prevention projects

# Why CARPIN?

- A profession is only justified if it solves a set of problems
  - CARPIN--> ↓ poisoning
- Acute poisoning is a medical emergency
- Poison events are largely under-reported in the Caribbean
- CARPIN will facilitate documentation, identification and poison prevention

# Anticipated benefits of CARPIN

- Creation of designated center for the document and reporting of poison case relative and indigenous to the Caribbean
- Foster Caribbean cooperation and integration
- Increase cooperation and capacity building
- To support national/regional programmes developed to regulate the use of poisonous substances and set strategies prevent toxic exposures
- Reduce overall healthcare cost
- Decrease morbidity and mortality
- Revenue generation- sale of services and publications
- Augment in drug-abuse prevention programmes in the region

## What is the situation in the Caribbean?

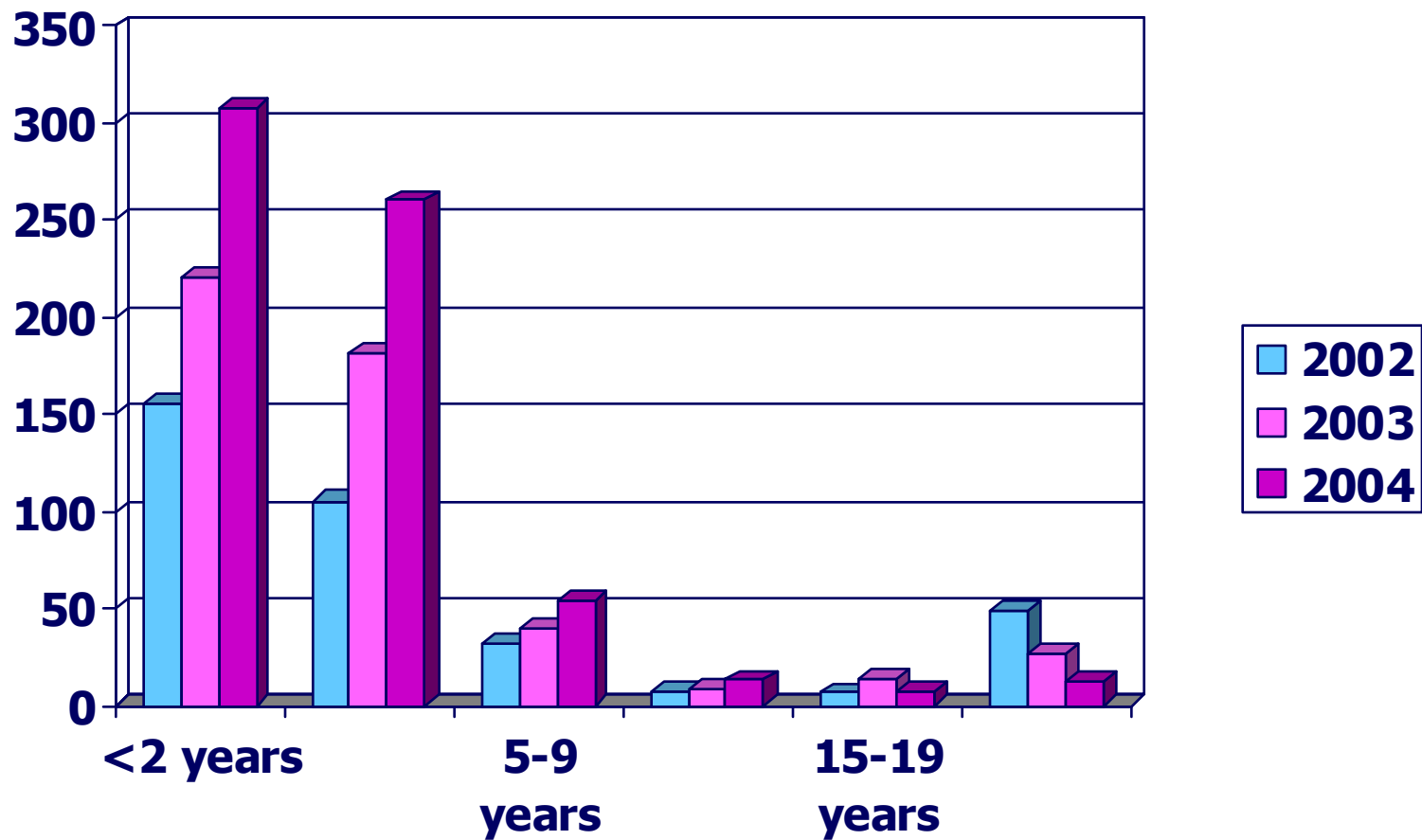
- A retrospective review of the charts of all patients <13 years old admitted to the Children's Ward at Holberton Hospital in Antigua for accidental poisoning between March 1989-1999
- 255 admissions. 115 (45%) were in 1-year-old, 69 (27%) 2-year-old children, and 26 (10%) were in 3-year-old
- Rate of admission 1.3 per 1,000

## What is the situation in the Caribbean?...

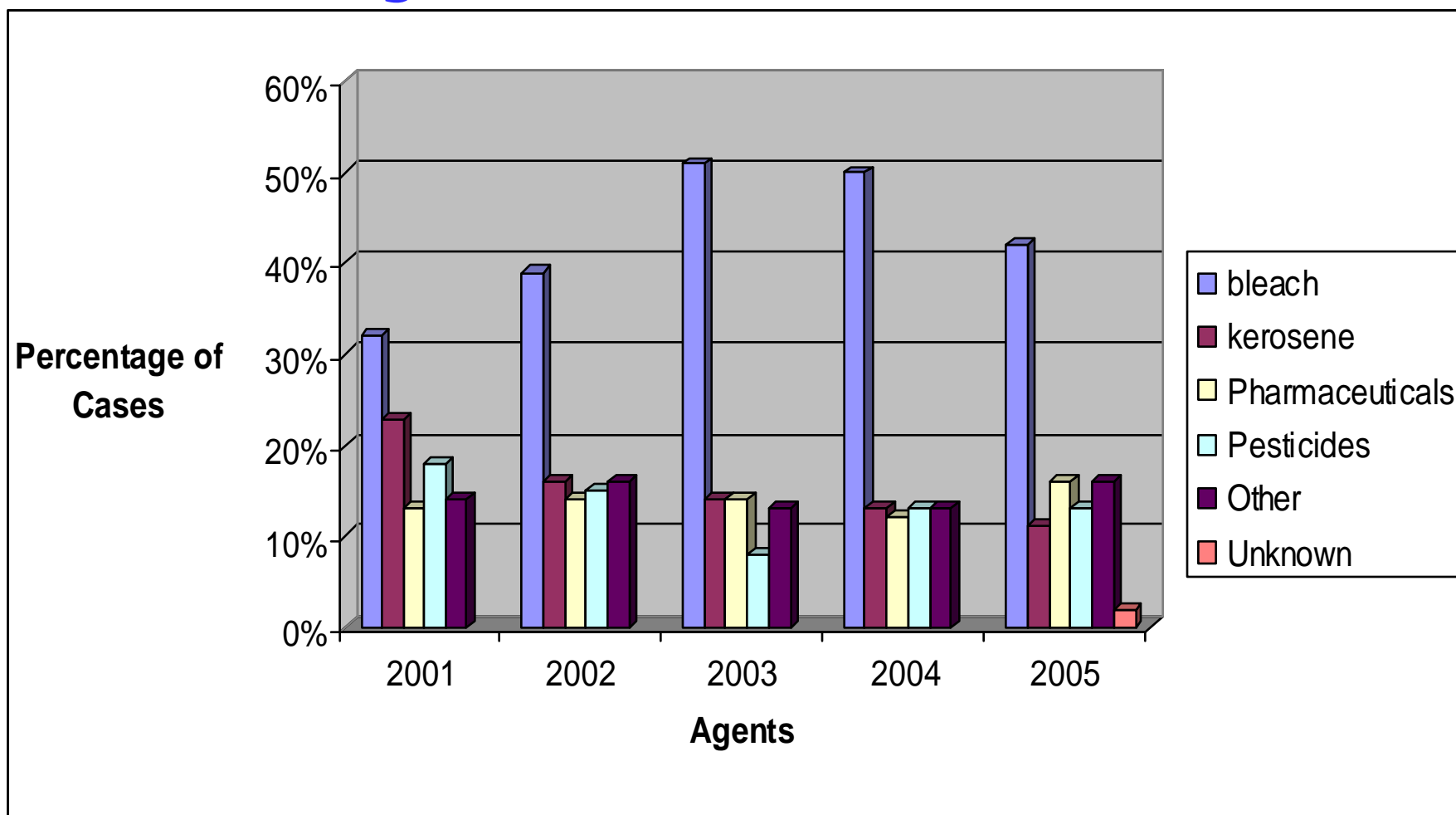
- Data were compared with data from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and the USA
- Similar to the age patterns seen in the other countries
- They also found that as economic levels rose, there was a shift in the substances ingested, (from hydrocarbon and plant--> chemical and medication)
- The recommendation called for establishment of a poison control center for the English-speaking Caribbean.

Martin T.C.; Brinkman W. *Pan-American Journal of Public Health*. 2002;12(5):313-16(4)

## Jamaica's trend of accidental poisoning by age from 2002-2004



# Confirmed Accidental Poisoning Cases by Causative Agent 2001-2005



# What has CARPIN done so far?

- Launch of service May 13, 2005
- Received funding for 3 years from NHF
- Operational Nerve Center
- Jamaica's first Poison Prevention Week May 9-16, 2005
- An approved pharmacy internship site
- Health Fairs
- Appointment of a project manager
- Accepted its first intern
- Presentation to several schools and institution on poison prevention
- Training- in INTOX® database November 27-28, 2004
- Poison info leaflets- lead, ackee, bleach, preventing childhood poisoning

# 2005 Case Reports

- CARPIN receives several reports of poisoning each year both intentional and accidental, as well as from rural and urban areas.
- These includes pesticides, herbs, drugs, food poisoning and even insect bites.
- From August-December 2005 a total of 13 cases of poisoning were reported.
- Five (5) of these were reported to the UHWI while eight (8) were reported to the CARPIN.

## 2005 Case Reports...

- Three (3) were intentional and the others were accidental.
- Five (5) of the cases were children <4 years old while five (5) were adults ages 18-60 yrs.
  - No age was recorded for the other three (3) cases.
- CARPIN also gets requests from health care providers such as doctors and pharmacists regarding patient management in cases of poisonings as well as information on statistics of poisonings.

# 2006 Case Reports..

Age	Gen	Exposure	Agent	Location	Type	Call	Mth	Loc
14 months	Fem	Accidental	Betnosel/ amoxil	Kingston	Mother	G	Jan	H
51 years	Male	Accidental	Car paint	Kingston	UHWI	Pt	Jan	W
58 years	Fem	Intentional	alcohol	Kingston	„	Pt	Jan	H
21 years	Fem	Intentional	Paxil, lexotan	Kingston	Hospital	Dr	Jan	H
45 years	Male	Intentional	acid	St Ann	Hospital	Dr	Jan	H
5 years	Male	Given by adult	gramoxone	Kingston	Hospital	Dr	Jan	H
18 month	Fem	Accidental	Silica gel	MoBay	Hospital	Dr	Feb	H
26 years	Fem	Accident	Marijuana cake	Kingston		Pt	Feb	sch
17 years	Fem	Intentional	NSAID/ atenolol whiskey	Kingston	Hospital	Dr.	Feb	H

# 2006...

<b>Age</b>	<b>Gen</b>	<b>Exposure</b>	<b>Agent</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Call</b>	<b>Mth</b>	<b>Loc</b>
Age 29	Male	Accidental	Lannate spray (N-methyl carbamate)	Black river	Hospital	Dr	Mar	W
18 month	?	Accidental	Diazinon	Kingston	Hospital	RPh	May	H

# CARPIN- Fulfilling its Mission

- CARPIN has aided health professionals and members of the general public in treating, reducing and preventing poisonings.
- We offer advice on the storage and use of harmful chemicals in various situations such as in the cases previously mentioned.
- CARPIN hopes to increase poison awareness thus stemming the prevalence and incidence of poisonings.
- We plan to achieve our goals through future activities such as our first Scientific Conference to be held on June 3-4, 2006.

# The Future for CARPIN?



- Coordinator/poison information specialist on staff
- Website
- Space expansion
- Recruitment of Sentinel centers
- Increased promotion and visibility
- Greater public awareness
- Poison Prevention Week 2006: May 28-June 4