

CARIBBEAN POISON INFORMATION NETWORK (CARPIN) 2000-2006 JOURNEY

GENESIS AND HISTORY

The concept of a Poison Information Center originated in the year 2000, from the collaborative work of the Authors of a book entitled "Poisonous Plants of Jamaica".

Dr. Henry Lowe, Professor Errol Morrison, Professor Kenneth Magnus and Ellen Campbell-Grizzle were the authors.

In 2001, the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists under the presidency of Ellen-Campbell-Grizzle gave its support to the concept.

During 2001-2002, the concept of regional development and training was further strengthened, when five countries initially committed to gather and disseminate poison information. The five countries were: Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Suriname, Grenada and Jamaica. Other countries expressing interest include: St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Guyana and the Bahamas

Trinidad and Tobago launched their Poison Control Centre in 2002. Dr. Eugenie Brown-Myrie and Dr. Jean Williams-Johnson, who attended the launch, were part of a group trained to use the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)-INTOX software. Since then, IPCS of W.H.O, Switzerland has been providing training and software for data gathering

In the same year, the book Poisonous Plants of Jamaica was launched simultaneously with the Poison Network, in Jamaica.

CARPIN's Management Committee held its first meeting on the 31st January, 2003 at the University of Technology, Jamaica. At that meeting Mr. Michael Tucker, Executive Director of the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) was selected chairman and Dr. Jean Williams-Johnson, Medical Director of the Emergency Unit, University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), was appointed secretary.

The greatest challenge which faced the Committee was funding for the project. Interim suggestions included:

Human Resource

Representatives from the collaborating Organizations could offer personnel as volunteers for three (3) months.

Location

University of Technology committed to housing of the Centre in the Faculty of Health and Applied Science

Contributions and Collaborations

The project was to be reviewed and collaborators commit based on resources, for example, specialized skills.

Collaborating organizations represented at that January meeting were:

- University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)
- Environmental Health Foundation (EHF)
- National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)
- University of Technology (UTech)
- Pesticides Control Authority (PCA)
- University of West Indies (UWI)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ)
- Caribbean Pharmacist Association (CAP)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Blue Cross of Jamaica (BCJ)

Several proposals for funding were prepared and submitted to agencies and donors. The National Health Fund, the last in the series, of funding agencies approached bought into CARPIN's vision, to be the recognized repository and facilitator of poison information within the Caribbean. CARPIN's mission being to make poison information readily available through a network of sentinel sites throughout the region/ countries of the Caribbean and increase awareness of poisoning, the dangers and management of poison cases.

During the interim period, hope remained alive with the use of limited resources available, and the continued support of the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists

Through the kind support of Mr. Glen Christian, Cari-Med Limited, a graduate from the Pharmacy Programme at UTech, Ja., Mr. Carlisle Howsen was employed at the Centre in the summer of 2004.

The Education Sub-committee which had been established earlier in the year, worked hand in hand with Mr. Howsen to plan the first Poison Prevention Week, September 26,-October1, 2004. This event, however, did not take place due to the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

CARPIN was approved by the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica as an internship site for three (3) months rotations, but funding was not in place for salaries. Regrettably, we lost the services of Mr. Howsen when he moved on to another organization for Internship.

In November of 2004, Dr. Ligia Fruchthengarten of IPCS, residing in Brazil, trained a group of persons in the use of the IPCS-INTOX software. This training was held at the University of Technology, Jamaica.

With the National Health Fund approved funding for the project over a three (3) year period, early 2005, the Regional Nerve Centre was launched during Poison Prevention Week May 12-13, 2005. The Management Committee with special support from the representatives from University of Technology, Ja. and National Council on Drug Abuse ensured the success of the week.

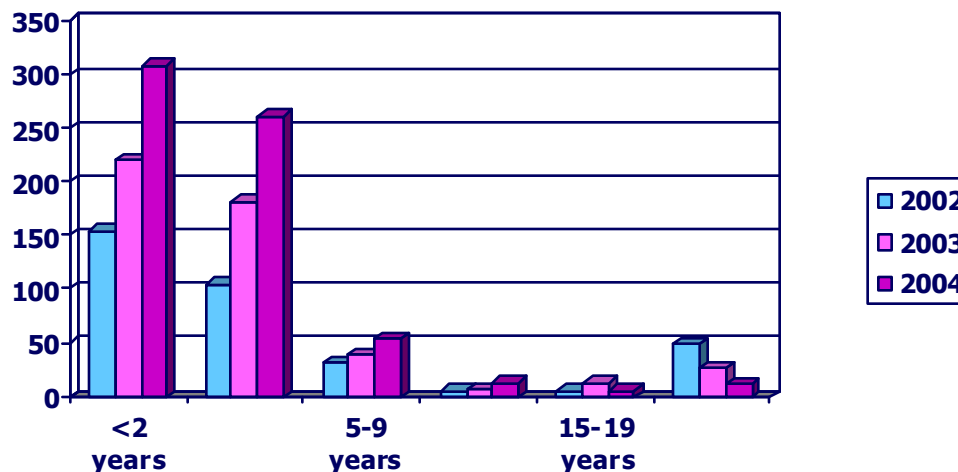
POISONINGS FROM A CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVE

What is the situation in the Caribbean?

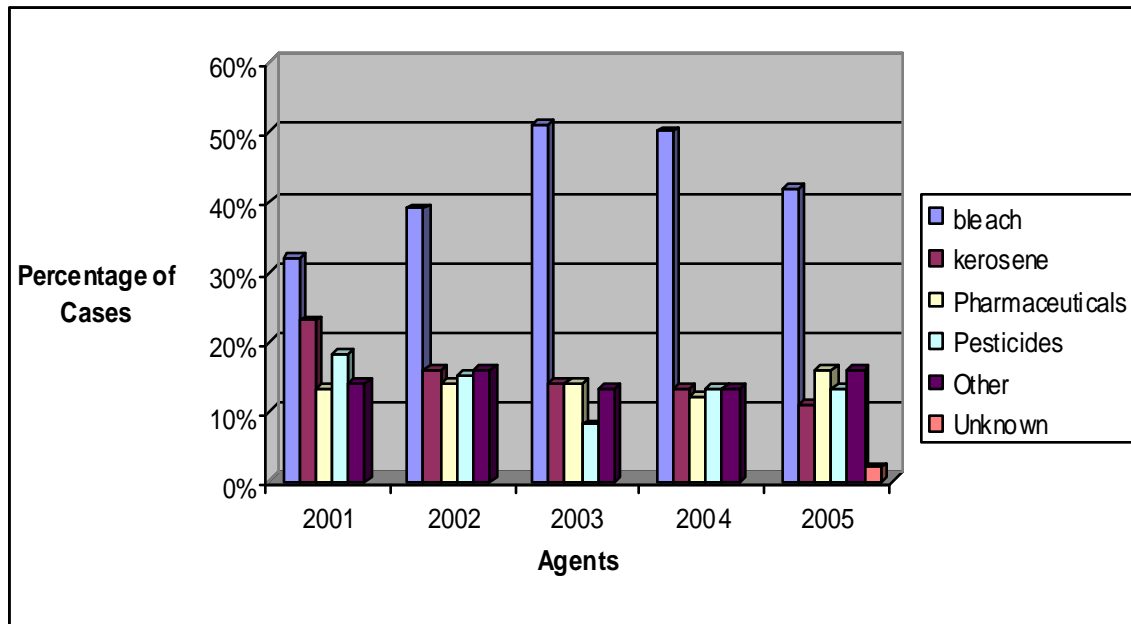
- A retrospective review of the charts of all patients <13 years old admitted to the Children's Ward at Holberton Hospital in Antigua for accidental poisoning between March 1989-1999
- 255 admissions. 115 (45%) were in 1-year-old, 69 (27%) 2-year-old children, and 26 (10%) were in 3-year-old
- Rate of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



Surveillance Report, MOH 2005

CASES REPORTED TO THIS NERVE CENTER

2005 Case Report

- CARPIN receives several reports of poisoning each year both intentional and accidental, as well as from rural and urban areas.
- These include 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.
- 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
Age 29	Male	Accidental	Lannate spray (N-methyl carbamate)	Black river	Hospital	Dr	Mar	W
18 month?		Accidental	Diazinon	Kingston	Hospital	RPh	May	H

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

CARPIN's Management Committee is made of representatives from the following Regional Coordinating Network:

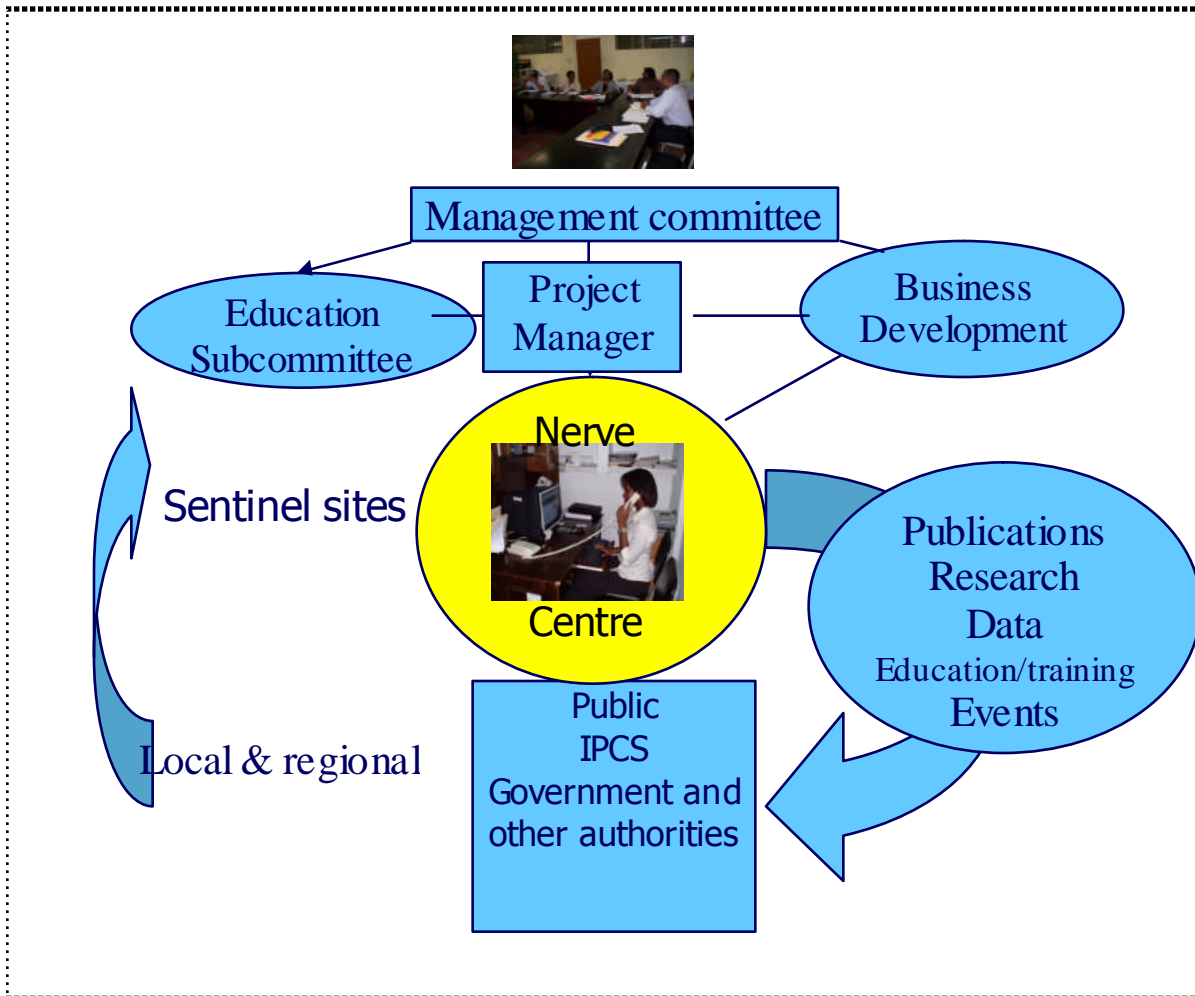
1. University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech)
2. National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)
3. Ministry of Health (MOH)
4. University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)
5. University of the West Indies (UWI)
6. Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP)
7. Environmental Health Foundation (EHF)
8. Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ)
9. Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ)

Mr. Michael Tucker remains Chairman and Dr. Jean Williams-Johnson Secretary.

Sub-Committees are as follows:

- Education
- Finance
- Business Development
- Research

Functional Structure of CARPIN



ACTIVITIES

- The activities at the Nerve Centre include:
- Responding to queries on poisonings.
- Data gathering (some from Sentinel Sites), analysis and generation of reports.
- Disseminating information to the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), the public, governments and other users.
- Generating of publications on issues related to poisonings.
- Carrying out research.
- Initiating of education and training programmes.

SENTINEL SITES

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Funding secured for three (3) years
- Project Manager appointed.
- Six (6) Island States have made commitment to participate in the initiative
- Participation in Public Education Expo.
- Inaugural Poison Prevention Week May 9-13, 2005-schools poster competition, community outreach education, seminar and Network launch.
- Work initiated with schools
- Nerve Centre operations have begun there is collaboration with University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI).
- Nerve Centre approved as an Internship site for Pharmacy Interns (First intern received September-October 2005)
- Training in Posion Management and Data Gathering techniques, conducted January 2006
- Hospitals, Health Centers and Pharmacies have been targeted as Sentinel Sites
- Volunteers have committed to work with CARPIN
- An Administrative Support staff on a full time basis.
- Poison Prevention Week 2006 May 29-June 4,-Competitons, Community Outreach, First Scientific Conference and Inaugural Awards Banquet

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsors/Contributors 2004-2005 included:

- LASCO Pharmaceutical Division
- H.D. Hopwood,
- Wyeth Ayerst
- Astra-Zenecca,
- Ja Pegasus
- Caribbean Association of Pharmacists
- Cari-Med Ltd.
- National Council on Drug Abuse
- University of Technology, Jamaica
- Pesticides Control Authority
- Cable and Wireless Foundation
- IPCS/ INTOX

Our Sponsors/Contributors for 2006, January-June:

- FAVACA- Florida Association for Volunteer Action
- in the Caribbean and the Americas
- LASCO Pharmaceutical Division
- Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts
- Terra Nova All Suites Hotel
- National Council on Drug Abuse
- University of Technology, Jamaica
- Cable & Wireless Foundation
- IPCS/INTOX
- Caribbean Association
- The Book Jungle
- Pesticides Control Authority

CARPIN provides an opportunity for national and regional collaboration among a wide cross section of professionals, individuals and organizations. These include: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists, teachers, farmers, researchers, policymakers, agriculturalists, public and private sector hospitals, pharmacies, medical centers, nursing homes, educational institutions, day care centers, medical laboratories, health centers and many more.

The Nerve Centre will provide services during the following hours:

Monday to Thursday	9:00am-6:00pm
Friday	9:00am-4:00pm

The services will be transferred to the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) Accident and Emergency department after 6:00pm on weekdays, weekends and holidays.

Contact Information:

Contact the Regional Nerve Center:

Telephone: (876) 927-1680-8 ext 2300 or 977-7777

Toll Free: 1-888-POISONS (764-7667)

Cell: (876) 323-8907(9)

Fax: (876) 927-1699

E-mail: carpin@utech.edu.jm

Contact UHWI Emergency Division

Telephone: (876) 927-1620-8 ext 2500

“PROTECTING AGAINST POISONINGS”