



World Health
Organization

WHO/IPCS INCHEM Database

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WHO/IPCS INCHEM

- Collection of 8000+ chemical-safety-related documents from IGOs (WHO, FAO, ILO, UNEP and OECD).
- Freely accessible on Internet (www.inchem.org)
- Database searchable using sophisticated search algorithm
- Included in OECD eChemPortal



IPCS International Programme on Chemical Safety

INCHEM

Chemical Safety Information from Intergovernmental Organizations

Search options:

Full-text Search

Example: Kidney <AND> DDT

Chemical Identity Search

CAS Number

Example: 100-89-3

OR

Chemical Name or Synonym

Example: Toluene

[Advanced Search](#)

Rapid access to internationally peer reviewed information on chemicals commonly used throughout the world, which may also occur as contaminants in the environment and food. It consolidates information from a number of intergovernmental organizations whose goal it is to assist in the sound management of chemicals.

Browse content using links below:

- ▶ Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- ▶ Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) Monographs
- ▶ Harmonization Project Publications
- ▶ Health and Safety Guides (HSGs)



Background

- Developed in response to requests from governments to make information on chemicals RA and RM widely available
- Established in 1997 between IPCS and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS)
- Recognized in SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy as a tool to promote chemicals management, harmonization and burden sharing
- INCHEM identified as a potential contribution from IOMC to SAICM Chemical Clearing house
- Continuing need for this information highlighted at ICCM1



Overview of available documents

- Environmental Health Criteria (EHCs)
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)
- Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)
- WHO Classification of Pesticides by Hazard
- ...

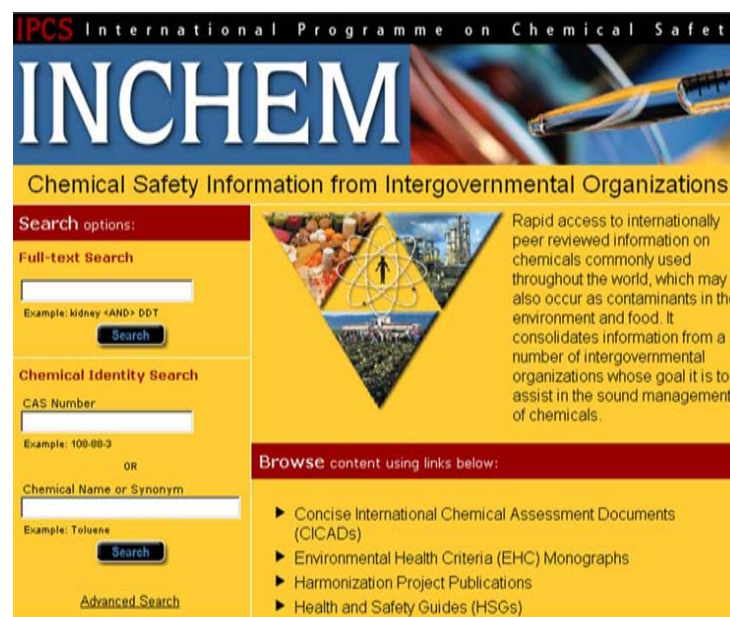


Online portal and search tool

- Advanced search tool, e.g.
 - Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) (mercury AND effect AND acute)
 - Multiple words in the same sentence (thallium <SENTENCE> convulsion)
 - Search keywords only in document titles ((poisoning AND fungi)<IN>title)
 - Search only specific document types

- More information on INCHEM help page <http://www.inchem.org/help/help.html>

<http://www.inchem.org>



The screenshot displays the INCHEM website interface. At the top, it reads 'IPCS International Programme on Chemical Safety' and 'INCHEM'. Below this, it states 'Chemical Safety Information from Intergovernmental Organizations'. The page is divided into several sections:

- Search options:**
 - Full-text Search:** Includes a search input field with the example 'kidney <AND> DDT' and a 'Search' button.
 - Chemical Identity Search:** Includes fields for 'CAS Number' (example: 100-00-3) and 'Chemical Name or Synonym' (example: Toluene), with an 'OR' option between them and a 'Search' button.
 - An 'Advanced Search' link is located at the bottom of the search section.
- Browse content using links below:**
 - ▶ Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
 - ▶ Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) Monographs
 - ▶ Harmonization Project Publications
 - ▶ Health and Safety Guides (HSGs)

On the right side, there is a text box with a background image of a laboratory flask and a biohazard symbol, stating: 'Rapid access to internationally peer reviewed information on chemicals commonly used throughout the world, which may also occur as contaminants in the environment and food. It consolidates information from a number of intergovernmental organizations whose goal it is to assist in the sound management of chemicals.'

INCHEM use statistics

➤ In 2008:

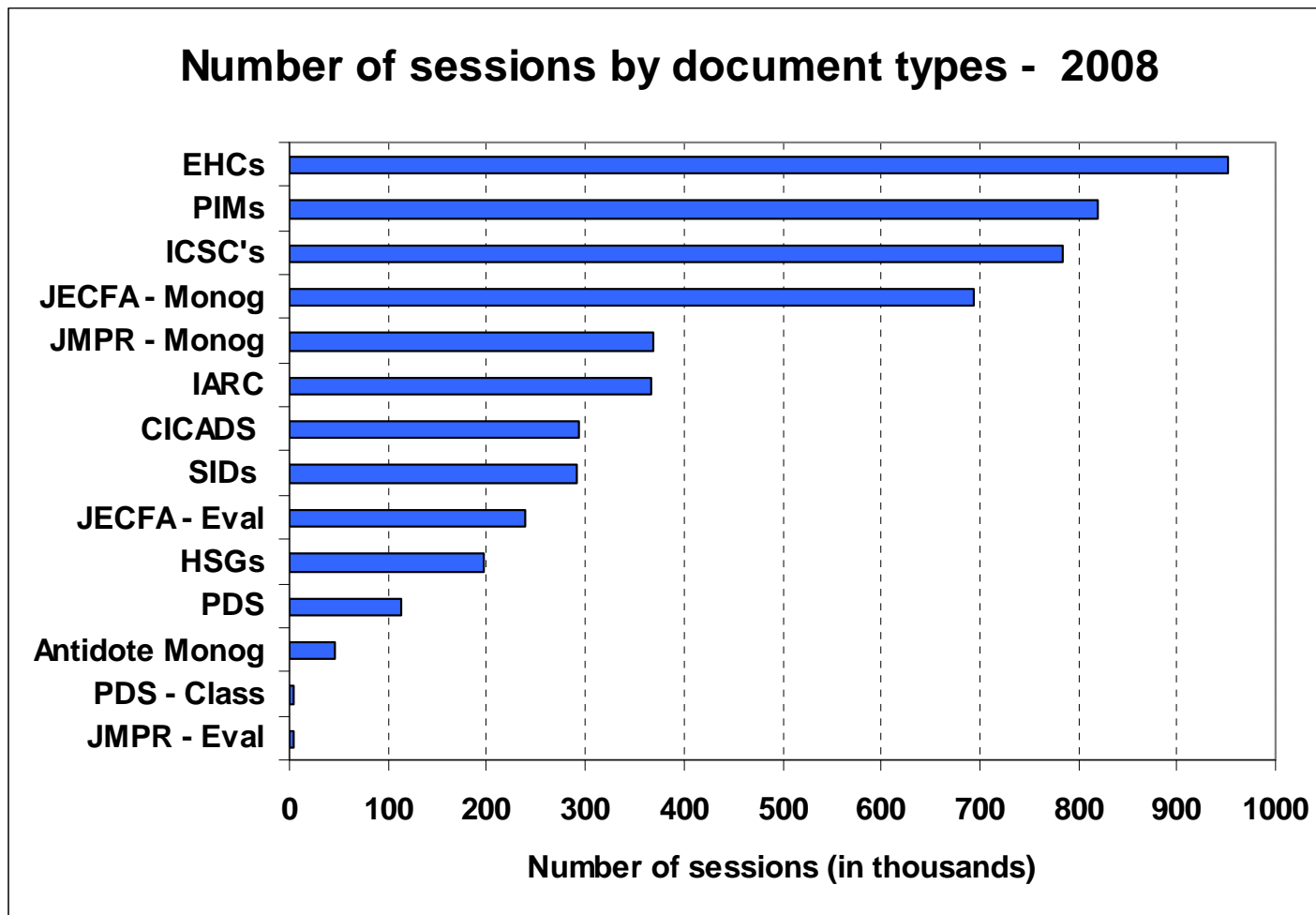
- > 2.5 million visitors (= 5 visitors/minute)
- > 4.6 million sessions (= 9 sessions/minute)

➤ 2006 user survey showed that:

- 91% rated service as useful or very useful
- 43% use service at least monthly; many weekly or daily
- 55% work for Government or Non-profit organizations



Most requested documents



Conclusion

- Cost-effective means of disseminating chemical-safety related information
- Flexible search strategy allows to find specific information
- Widely used in both developing & developed countries
- Very positive feedback from users
- Database regularly updated
- Access through <http://www.inchem.org>



Thank you !

