Overview of the National Chemical & Radiological Surveillance Program

Poison Centers (PCs)

- There are 55 poison centers (PCs) in the United States that provide 24-hour coverage using a toll fee number,
 1-800-222-1222
- PC staff remotely assess, triage, manage, and follow-up with people who are exposed to harmful substances
- PCs are staffed by pharmacists and poison information providers who are toxicology specialists

The National Poison Data System (NPDS)

- The National Poison Data System (NPDS) is a national web-based repository of data from calls to PCs
- PC data are uploaded into NPDS in near real-time, every 8 minutes
- NPDS is owned and operated by America's Poison Centers

CDC Use of NPDS

CDC collaborates with America's Poison Centers to use NPDS for public health surveillance activities including the following:

- **Improving** national surveillance capacity for public health threats
- **Identifying** early markers of incidents of potential public health significance
- **Enhancing** situational awareness during an emerging or known public health threat

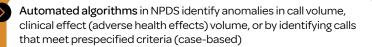
How Incidents of Potential Public Health Significance are **Identified from Public Health Surveillance of PC Data**

Calls to the national poison center (PC) number (1-800-222-1222) are routed to the local PC where staff

- Assess call
- Recommend therapy (as needed)
- Collect information (such as demographic information, signs, symptoms, and exposure)



Data are uploaded into NPDS in near real time, approximately every 8 minutes



- » Call Volume: Algorithm identifies increases in call volume to a PC compared to a threshold based on historical data
- » Clinical Effect Volume: Algorithm identifies increased reports of specific signs and symptoms compared to a threshold based on historical data
- » Case-Based: Algorithm identifies calls meeting prespecified criteria

Toxicologists and epidemiologists from America's Poison Centers and CDC review the data anomaly to determine if it meets prespecified criteria for an incident of potential public health significance

Criteria for Incidents of Potential Public Health Significance

A call or calls involving a reported exposure or illness with <u>at least one</u> of the following:

- An obvious interest to the appropriate state or national public health entity (e.g., a reportable disease, occupational setting)
- Unusual severity of magnitude, involving more than 1 household (or exposure site outside the home), and with clinical effects reported
- Association with a known or suspected terrorism event
- Part of a state or national public health investigation
- A pattern not normally attributable to the implicated exposure
- · An obvious geographic or spatial pattern
- A high index of suspicion, credible threat, or other rationale in the judgment of the NPDS Surveillance Team member



Email Notification

- If the data anomaly meets criteria for an incident of public health significance, CDC determines if an email notification to the state health department and corresponding PC is warranted
- Email contains information about incident that may be needed for public health response



State health department responds to the incident as necessary



