

SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® : poisoning cases continue to rise despite warnings



SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® is an insecticide that has been prohibited in France since 2013. Despite this ban, it is imported, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa, to control bedbugs and cockroaches. Responsible for a growing number of poisoning cases, large amounts of it have been trafficked in the Île-de-France region and the problem is now spreading to other major cities in France. ANSES reiterates that this product must not be used, and explains what to do in the event of an infestation of cockroaches or bedbugs.

Once used to control insects in homes, warehouses, crops and on livestock farms, dichlorvos has been banned from sale and use as a biocidal active substance in France and the European Union since 2013, due to its high toxicity.

Despite being prohibited, dichlorvos-based products such as SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® continue to be used to control pests such as bedbugs and cockroaches. These products circulate illegally within the country and are offered for sale at markets, in bazaars or online. The French health authorities regularly issue warnings about the dangers associated with their use, and carry out seizures of bottles across the country¹.

Acute poisoning can be serious and cause respiratory, digestive, neurological or neuromuscular symptoms, which may even be fatal. In a previous review, the poison control centres recorded more than 206 cases of poisoning linked to this product between 2018 and June 2023 [1].

A SHARP RISE IN POISONING CASES OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS

An update of data from poison control centres covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025 has shown a sharp rise in the number of events and cases since the previous review (see Figure 1).

In total, poison control centres recorded 363 events² concerning the product SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® during this period.

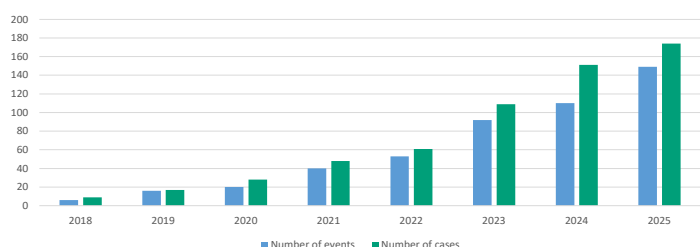


Figure 1 – Annual breakdown of the numbers of events and exposures involving SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP®, recorded by poison control centres (Source SICAP: 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2025).

1. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/actualites-dgccrf/recrudescence-des-saisies-de-sniper-la-douane-et-la-dgccrf-alertent-les-consommateurs-contre-cet-insecticide-interdit-car>

2. Situation in which one or more people have been exposed to the same agent, at the same time and in the same place. When several people have been exposed during the same event, certain information (such as their age or sex, for example) may not be specified for all of them.

Almost 97% (n=351) related to exposure, while 3% (n=12) concerned a request for information on whether or not the product could be used.

The ages of the exposed people ranged from 2 months to 87 years, with a median age of 29 years. As in the previous study, women accounted for 61% of cases.

PRODUCTS MAINLY BOUGHT IN THE ÎLE-DE-FRANCE REGION AND SOMETIMES TAKEN TO OTHER PARTS OF FRANCE

The Île-de-France region continued to account for the vast majority of these accidents: 67% of the events concerned this region alone, with the administrative *département* of Seine-Saint-Denis alone accounting for 22% (see Figure 3). However, unlike in the previous review, the product is now found nationwide, with cases of exposure reported in several major cities (mainly Marseille, Limoges and Lyon), as well as in the overseas territories.

Information on where the product was purchased was available for more than a third of the events (36.1%, n=127). People had mainly bought the product at markets, often from street vendors, or even in small shops (bazaars). The markets and shops identified were mainly located in the 18th *arrondissement* of Paris and in Seine-Saint-Denis.

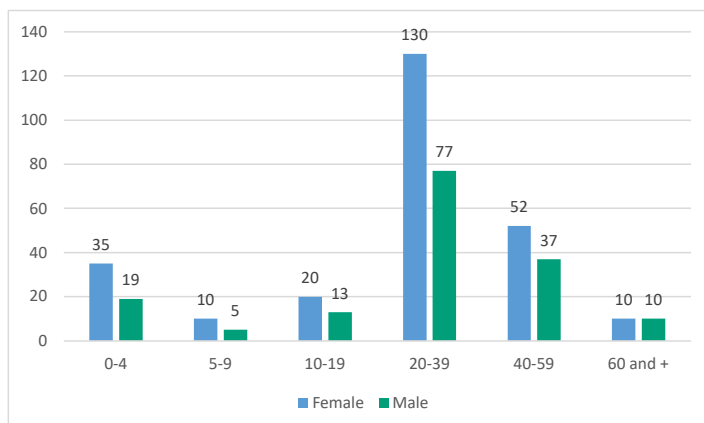


Figure 2 – Breakdown by age group and sex of the number of exposures to SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® recorded by poison control centres. (Source SICAP: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025).

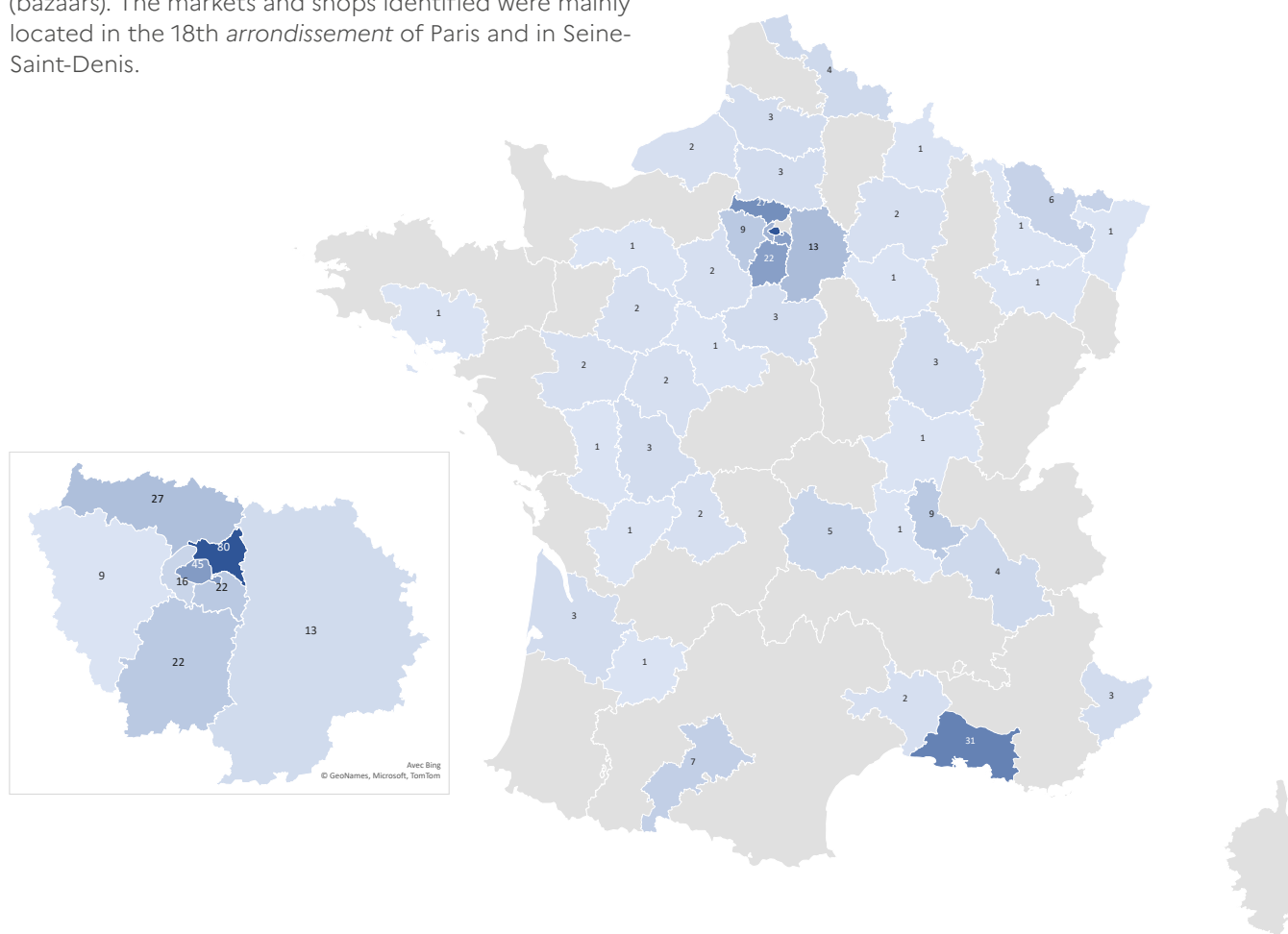


Figure 3: Breakdown by *département* of the number of events involving SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® recorded by poison control centres (Source: SICAP: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025).

Département in Île-de-France	Number of events	Percentage of events	Number of cases	Percentage of cases
Seine-St. Denis	80	34.1	110	36.5
Paris	45	19.2	52	17.3
Val d'Oise	27	11.5	29	9.6
Essonne	22	9.4	25	8.3
Val-de-Marne	22	9.4	31	10.3
Hauts-de-Seine	16	6.8	28	9.3
Seine-et-Marne	13	5.5	16	5.3
Yvelines	9	3.8	10	3.3
Total	234	100.0	301	100.0

Table 1 – Number of events and cases for the Île-de-France region in connection with the use of SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® (Source SICAP: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025).

In nearly 12% of events, the product had been given by an acquaintance and, to a lesser extent, brought back from abroad: mainly Africa, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh (10% of events).

Note: several people had purchased the product in the Île-de-France region and then used it elsewhere in the country.

CHILDREN POISONED AFTER ACCIDENTALLY INGESTING THE PRODUCT

Of the 351 events, 255 (72.6%) involved exposure whilst the product was being used in people's homes for pest control purposes. In 39 events, children had ingested a product that had been left within their reach.

Note: 32 people had deliberately ingested the product with the intention of committing suicide.

Table 3 shows the various circumstances in which exposure to the product occurred.

Of the 434 people exposed, 320 (74%) experienced symptoms.

While most poisoning cases were mild, 10% (n=43) were of moderate severity and 4% (n=18) were very serious, including four deaths.

Of the 18 cases classified as very serious, ten involved a suicide attempt, including three of the four deaths, which occurred following ingestion of the product. The other eight cases of very serious accidental poisoning were:

- four cases of accidental ingestion of the product by two young children and two adults;
- two people suffered poisoning after their cleaner had used the product;
- one person had slept in the room in which they had applied the product;
- in the eighth case, the person died under unclear exposure circumstances, and the extent to which the product contributed to the severity of the poisoning was uncertain.

Place obtained	Événements	
	n	%
Markets/Street vendors	79	62.2
Given by a third party	15	11.8
Small shops	14	11.0
Purchased abroad (outside the EU)	13	10.2
Purchased online	6	4.7
Total	127	100.0

Table 2 – How the SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® was obtained, where this information was available (Source SICAP: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025)

	Number of events	Number of cases
Used in the home to control pests	255 (72.5%)	332 (76.5%)
Product left within reach of children	39 (11.1%)	41 (9.4%)
Suicide attempt	32 (9.1%)	32 (7.4%)
Ingestion of unpackaged product	12 (3.4%)	12 (2.8%)
Ingestion of food on which the product was present	4 (1.1%)	8 (1.8%)
Other	9 (1.6%)	9 (2.1%)
Total	351 (100.0%)	434 (100.0%)

Table 3 – Circumstances of exposure to SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP® reported to poison control centres
(Source SICAP: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025)

A REMINDER OF GOOD PRACTICES

Bed bugs have developed resistance to almost all over-the-counter insecticides. Initially therefore, physical (mechanical and thermal) control should be prioritised over chemical methods³.

If the infestation persists, a trained pest control professional with a "certibiocide"⁴ certificate registered with the Ministry of Ecological Transition should be contacted.

Lastly, as a general rule, biocidal products should not be purchased at markets or from street vendors, due to the risk of buying banned or adulterated products⁵. Preference should be given to conventional distribution channels where advice can be given on product application or storage.

FIND OUT MORE

[1] ANSES. (2023). Exposure to SNIPER 1000 EC DDVP®. Retrospective study of observations recorded by the French poison control and toxicovigilance centres from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2023. (Request No 2023-AUTO-0160). Maisons-Alfort: ANSES, 28p.



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3. https://vigilanses.anses.fr/sites/default/files/VigilAnsesN18_February2023_Bedbugs.pdf
4. Certibiocide is an official individual certificate for the "professional user and distribution of certain types of biocidal products intended exclusively for professionals" activity.
5. These products contain an active substance not listed in their ingredients.