

E-cigarette and e-liquids: national reports received by French Poison Control Centers from July 2019 to December 2020

F. Péliissier¹, J. Bloch², B. Labarbe², C. Solal², N. Franchitto^{1,3,4}
 (1) Centre Antipoison et de Toxicovigilance Occitanie, CHU de Toulouse, Toulouse, France
 (2) ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, France
 (3) Service d'Addictologie Universitaire, CHU Toulouse, Toulouse, France
 (4) CERPOP, Université de Toulouse, France

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Background:

E-liquids are of particularly concern, as a growing body of literature suggested an increased risk of exposure incidents related to e-cigarette use and misuse. Since the early 2000s, electronic cigarettes and their e-liquid refills have been the subject of several studies by poison control centers to describe the circumstances of exposure and their severity.

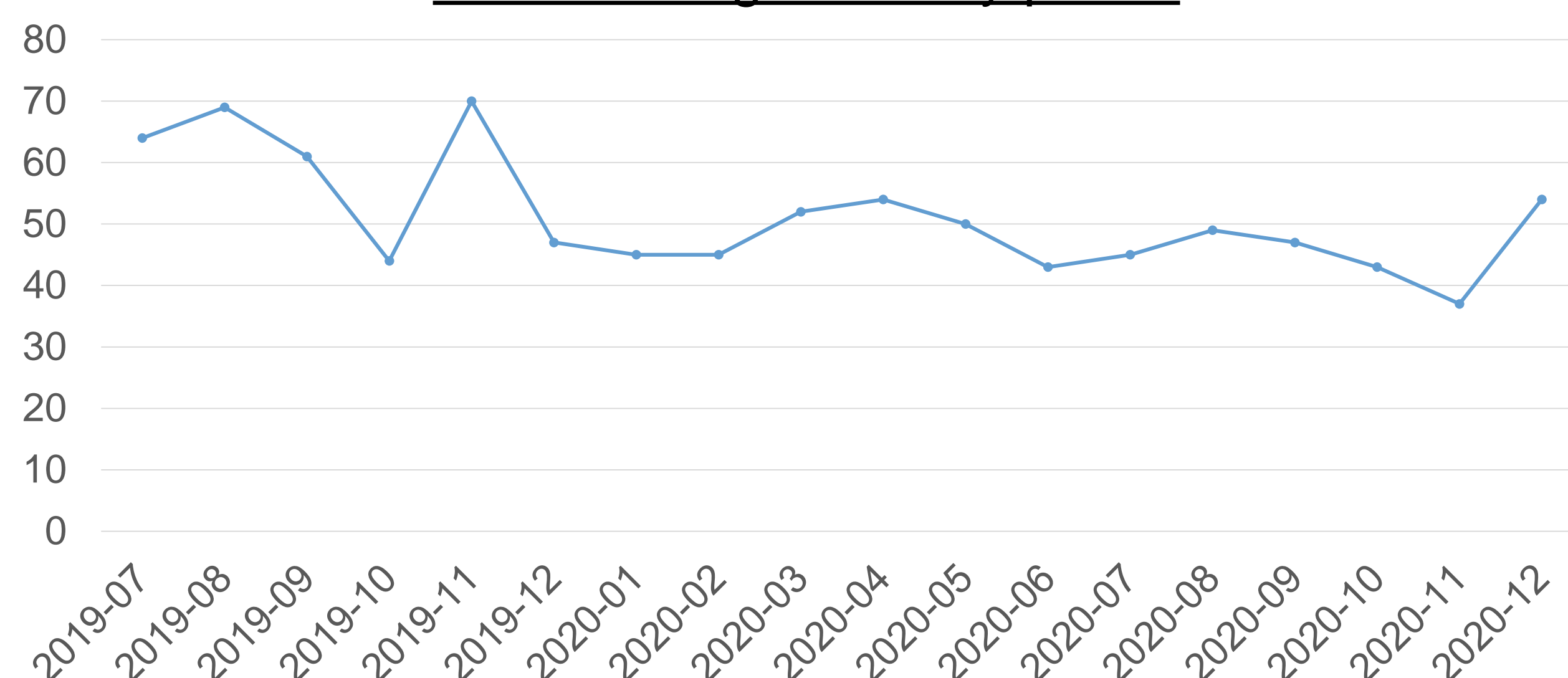
Method:

- All e-liquids exposure cases reported to French PCCs
- From July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020
- Demographic and clinical factors
- Severity defined according to the Poisoning Severity Score (PSS¹)

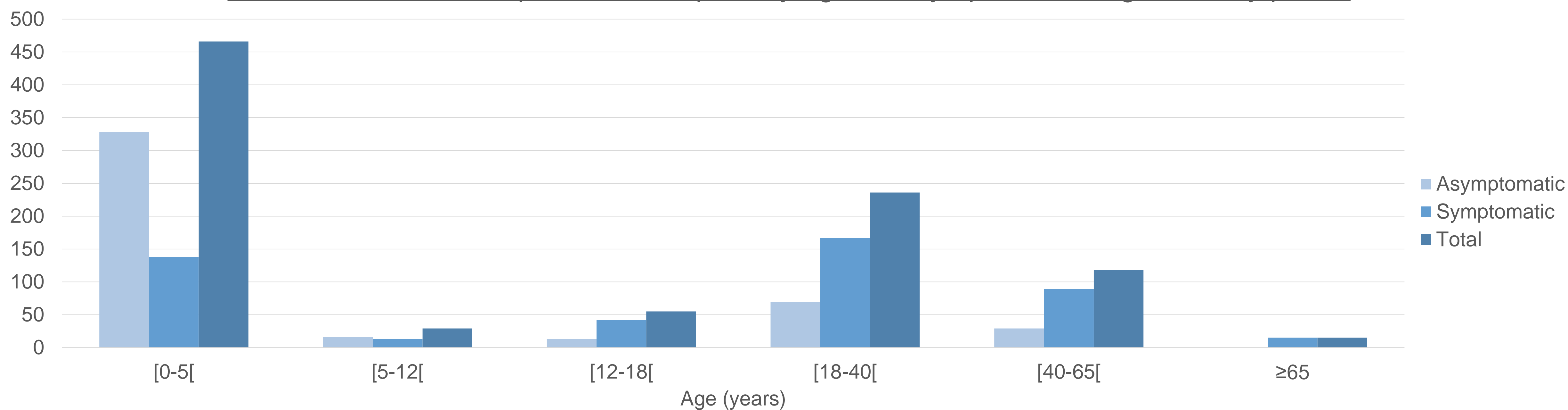
Results:

- 919 cases
- Sex-ratio: 1,2
- Age ranged: 1 month-89 years-old
- Median age: 4 years-old
- Accidental exposures: 95%
- Most common route of exposure: ingestion (73,7%), especially in children <5 years (94,8%)
- Symptoms (50% of patients): nausea/vomiting (31,6%), eye pain (28,2%), abdominal pain (15,7%), headaches (3,8%)
- Severity: null (49,5%), minor (47,5%), moderate (2,6%), severe (0,3%)

Number of cases of exposure to e-liquids per month during the study period

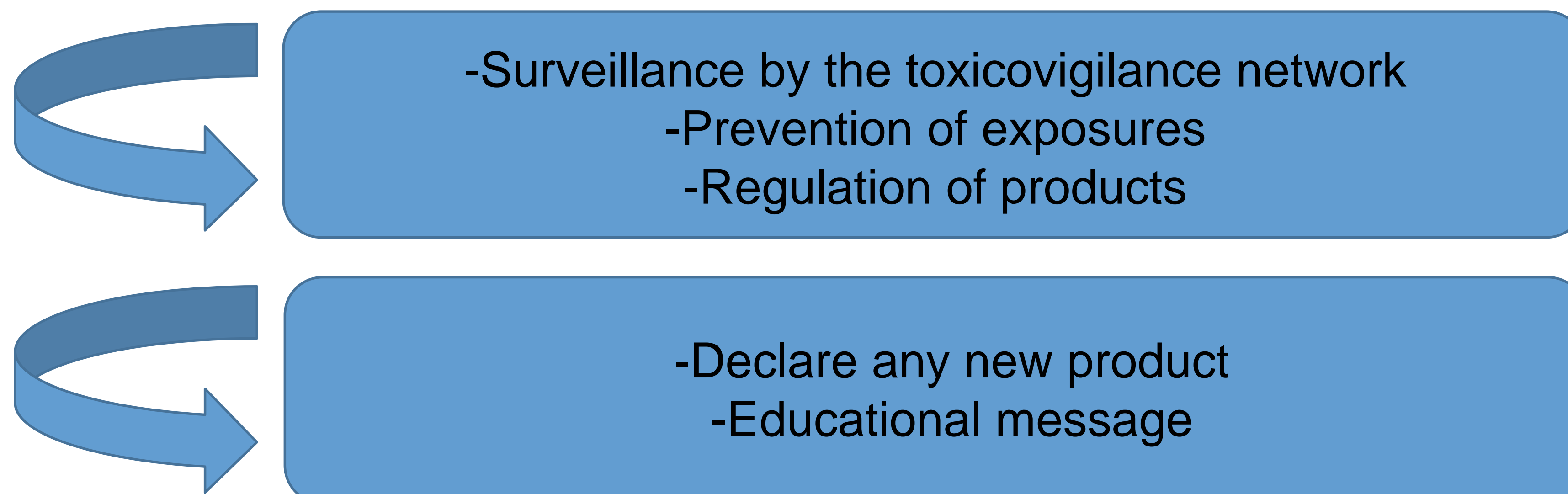


Number of cases of exposure to e-liquids by age and symptoms during the study period



Conclusions:

Involuntary exposures to e-liquids occurred more likely in children less than 5 years of age mainly by ingestion. Severe exposures were uncommon when unintentional conversely to intentional ingestions.



1. <https://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/pss.pdf>