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Toxicoepidemiology of Poisoning Exhibited in Indian population from 2010 to 2020: A Systematic review and Meta-analysis

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Title of the article: Toxicoepidemiology of Poisoning Exhibited in Indian population from 2010 to 2020: A Systematic review and Meta-analysis

Running title: Prevalence of poisoning in India.

Authors: Chaitanya Mittal¹, Surjit Singh², Praveen Kumar³, Shoban Babu Varthya^{4*}

Affiliations:

¹Senior Resident, department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, India. Email id: chaitanya_sog@yahoo.co.in. ORCID id: 0000-0002-1842-5627.

²Additional Professor, Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, India. Email id: sehmbys_ss@yahoo.com. ORCID id: 0000-0002-8990-3235.

³Senior Resident, Department of Pharmacology, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. Email Id: praveenkumarpigiindia@gmail.com. ORCID id: 0000-0002-9318-1167.

^{4*}Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, All India institute of medical sciences, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. Email Id: drshobanpgimer@gmail.com. ORCID id: 0000-0002-7163-0400

Corresponding Author:

Dr Shoban Babu Varthya*

Assistant Professor

Department of Pharmacology

AIIMS, Jodhpur, Rajasthan - 342005

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E-mail – drshobanpgimer@gmail.com

Phone – 8437726777

Telephone No. 02912833229

Fax no. 0291-2740531

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Abstract:

Objectives: Prevalence of pesticide, corrosives, drugs, venom and miscellaneous poisoning in India.

Settings: Systematic literature search was done in PubMed Central, Cochrane and google scholar databases for studies satisfying inclusion criteria. Systematic review and meta-analysis of all observational studies published in English language between 2010-May 2020 were included in this review.

Participants: Patients exposed to poisoning reported to hospitals were included.

Primary and Secondary outcome measures: Prevalence of Pesticides poisoning. Prevalence of corrosives, venom, drugs and miscellaneous agents along with subgroup analysis based on age and region. Odds ratio was calculated in two groups along with 95% CI. Percentage of person with poisoning along with 95% CI will be analyzed.

Results: Pooled analysis of studies revealed that pesticide poisoning constitutes to be the main cause of poisoning with incidence of 63%(95%CI–63% to 64%) in adults and miscellaneous to be the main cause in children with incidence of 45.0%(95%CI–43.1% to 46.9%), presenting to hospital. Pesticide was most prevalent in north India (79.1%,95%CI–78.4% to 79.9%) followed by south (65.9%,95%CI–65.3% to 66.6%), central (59.2%,95%CI–7.9% to 60.4%), west (53.1%,95%CI–51.9% to 54.2%), north east (46.9%,95%CI–41.5% to 52.4%) and eastern (38.5%, 95%CI–37.3% to 39.7%) part of India. The second most common cause of poisoning was with miscellaneous (18%, 95%CI – 18% to 19%) agents, followed by drugs (10%, 95% CI – 10% to 10%), venoms (6% (95%CI– 6% to 6%) and corrosives (2%, 95%CI–1% to 2%).

Conclusions: Pesticide poisoning is the most common type of poison used in adults while miscellaneous agent remain main cause of poisoning in children.

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Key words: Prevalence, Poisoning, Pesticides, Drugs, India.

Article Summary
<p>The study provides comprehensive overview of poisoning in India as analyzed from 134 observational studies from 2010-2020.</p> <p>Data shows types, modes, demographic patterns and prevalence rates of poisoning cases as well as the identification of high-risk people.</p> <p>The data presented in this study may be underreported as moderate to severe poisoning cases reports to hospital.</p> <p>There was no analysis on medical outcome of patients thereby restricting the study’s scope of analysis.</p>

Introduction:

A poison is a substance that is capable of causing illness or harm to living organisms on contact or upon introduction into the body and may be used deliberately with this intent. Toxins and venoms are poisons of biological origin, with the latter term usually reserved for those injected by the bite or sting of a poisonous animal. Poisoning has become an increasing cause of concern over the past decade, not only a major medical issue in India but also a significant global health problem ^[1].

Deaths due to suicide stands out to be around 793 thousand in the year 2016. It implies that the annual world suicide rate of 10.5 per lakh population but in India its rate was almost double (18.5 suicide deaths for 1 lakh population). Suicide by consuming poison is a leading cause death in emerging countries (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/suicide>). Among the poison, agricultural pesticides constitutes major mode of poisoning in India ^[2]. Other modes of poisons are household agents, envenomation, or drugs. It is observed that agricultural or household pesticides and drugs are taken intentionally and corrosives, kerosene, bites, and other miscellaneous agents are taken accidentally. Pesticide poisoning in India is highly prevalent because of its widespread use for agricultural and household activities ^[3, 4].

The aggravating or predisposing factors in developed countries like India, varies from financial stress to psychiatric illness, along with socio-cultural practices like patriotism, only men involved in economic activities etc. ^[5-7]

Due to lack of comprehensive scientific data on their prevalence and variation with age and region, the preventive, curative and rehabilitation measures are poorly implemented in India. This study planned to do systematic review and meta-analysis from published articles in India about prevalence of various poisons in India and their variation with age and region.

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Methods: In this review, we have surveyed and evaluated various studies across India regarding the prevalence of poisoning. In this, a poison could be pesticide, corrosives, venom, drugs and other miscellaneous agents. This study aims to analyze the prevalence of poisoning in India and in different region of the country and its difference in poisoning with age.

Eligibility criteria: study participants, who exposed to acute poisoning, irrespective of outcome of patients included in analysis. We had included observational studies (retrospective/prospective/cross-sectional) published between the year 2010-2020 in English language with prevalence of poisoning of poisoning in India. This analysis helps in generating overall prevalence of poisoning in India and their variation with age and region.

Information sources: A literature search done using the MeSH terms, such as ‘prevalence’ ‘poison’, ‘poisoning’ , ‘pesticides’, ‘organophosphate’, ‘corrosives’, ‘drugs’ and ‘India’, from three databases (PubMed Central, Cochrane and google scholar). Additional studies were identified through cross-references of selected article.

Search: Search strategy of PubMed provided in **Supplementary file 1**. Last search was done on May 2020.

Study selection and data collection process: studies were selected based on predefined eligibility criteria. All eligible articles taken for further screening after removing duplicates and unrelated to study inclusion criteria. Studies which are included after review of abstracts were evaluated by screening the full text. All data with regard to authorship, year of publication, study design, study population (patients consumed poison), baseline characteristics (age, sex,

marital status, educational status, type of family etc.), list of poisons included in the study, total study population, and any other relevant outcomes essential for data synthesis were extracted from the selected studies. Study selection and data collection was done by two authors independently and compiled after complete data retrieval. If any conflict exists than third author revised and resolved the conflict.

Summary measures: The data on prevalence was presented in percentages across the age group and regions.

Meta-analysis (quantitative synthesis)

Dichotomous data i.e. percentage of subjects having particular poisoning were analysed and reported along with 95% confidence interval (CI). The meta-analysis of proportions was done using R software. R software packages used were meta and metafor. The results of both random effect model as well as fixed effect model were calculated. Fixed effect model assumes that the between study variance is zero, whereas random effect model takes both within- and between-study variances into account. If the heterogeneity is greater than 40%, the results of random effect model will be more representative of the data. To prevent the underestimation of size of the confidence interval around the weighted average proportion and an overestimation of the degree of heterogeneity across the observed proportions, we used Freeman Tukey double arcsine transformation (DAT). This will help the data to conform to the normal distribution as much as possible, enhancing the validity and generalizability of statistical analyses.

Heterogeneity was estimated using tau (τ). Sub-group analysis was done to estimate whether there is difference in percentage of individuals ingested pesticide poisoning with regard to geographical area and among children and adults. This was done with the assumption that there is common between study variance component across studies, thereby pooling the within group estimates of τ^2 , estimated using Freeman Tukey DAT.

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GRADE Pro analysis to Assess the Quality of Evidence: The overall quality of evidence for each of the outcomes would have been assessed using GRADE pro GDT (guideline development tool) software based on the principles of Grades of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations (GRADE) [8], [4]. GRADE pro doesn't recommend for analysis of grading the evidence if it is a single group analysis. Hence no Grading of evidence was done for endpoints.

Patient and Public involvement

No patients involved

Results:

Study selection: An initial search of all the databases yielded a total of 859 articles. After removal of duplicates, 626 articles remained, which were subjected to the inclusion and exclusion criteria laid down. A thorough screening of the papers based on their title and abstract reduced the search results to 214 and in the final analysis 137 articles included. Authors of the one article was contacted with requests to help us access their specific poisoning data, which was excluded as it was not provided. The final qualitative and quantitative synthesis was performed on 134 research articles. Given below, **Figure 1** illustrates a flow chart with the various steps of the Systematic Review.

Study characteristics: Study characteristics of included studies enumerated in **Table 1** and description of each study along with their references along with various poisonous agents taken by study population listed in **supplementary Table S1a and S1b**.

Demographic distribution: The manner of poisoning shows that, the suicidal poisoning more common than the accidental poisoning. The highest prevalence of poisoning was observed in persons between the age group of 19-40 years (105 studies). Overall sex ratio was 1.7. Male to female ratio was highest in northern region of India (2.35) and lowest in eastern region of India (1.28).

Agents responsible for poisoning: we have broadly classified poisons into 5 categories, pesticides, corrosives, venom, drugs and others. Overall, pesticide poisoning stands to be more common in India and across the region and then miscellaneous (18%), than drugs (11%) and venom (10%), and corrosives (3%). (Details of poisonous agent in each group enumerated in **supplementary Table 1S b**)

Study type: Majority of the studies were retrospective observational studies (retrospective studies: 75, prospective studies: 47, cross-sectional studies: 12).

Outcomes: the pooled data prevalence of various poisons enumerated in **Table 2**

Percentage of Pesticide and Corrosives poisoning

Pooled analysis of studies revealed pesticide poisoning to be the main cause of poisoning in 63%(95%CI–63% to 64%; $I^2=100\%$, $p<0.01$) presenting to hospital, using fixed effect model. The random effect model prevalence of pesticide poisoning among individual to be around 62% (95%CI–56% to 68%) (**Supplementary Figure 1**). In adults, pesticide poisoning is main cause of poisoning in 65.3% (95%CI–64.8% to 65.7%) and 66.8% (95%CI–61.4% to 71.9%) of individuals, using fixed and random effect models. In children, pesticide is responsible for 22.4% (95%CI–20.7% to 24.0%; $I^2=100\%$, $p<0.01$) and 23.2%(95%CI–11.4% to 37.6%) of children, with fixed and random effect, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 1**). Prevalence of pesticide poisoning in Central, east, north-east, north, south and west regions of India were among 59.2%(95%CI–57.9% to 60.4%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$), 38.5%(95% CI–37.3% to 39.7%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$), 46.9%(95%CI–41.5% to 52.4%; $I^2=0\%$, $p=0.64$), 79.1%(95%CI–78.4% to 79.9%; $I^2=100\%$, $p<0.01$), 65.9%(95%CI–65.3% to 66.6%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$), 53.1%(95%CI–51.9% to 54.2%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$) with fixed effect model analysis (**Supplementary Figure 1**). The random effect results were given in **Supplementary Figure 1**. Pesticide was most prevalent poisoning in North India followed by south, central, west, north east and eastern part of India.

Pooled analysis of studies revealed corrosives to be the cause of poisoning in 2% (95%CI – 1% to 2%; $I^2=96\%$, $p<0.01$) and 3% (95% CI – 2% to 3%) in patients, using fixed effect and random effect model, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 2**).

Percentage of Venom and Drugs poisoning

Pooled analysis of studies revealed cause of poisoning to be snake bites in 6% (95%CI–6% to 6%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$) of individuals presenting to hospital, using fixed effect model. The

random effect model prevalence of snake bite poisoning among individual to be around 3% (95% CI–2% to 5%) (**Supplementary Figure 2**).

The fixed and random effect model predicts prevalence of drugs poisoning among individuals to be around 10% (95%CI–10% to 10%, $I^2 = 98\%$, $p<0.01$) and 9% (95%CI–7% to 11%), respectively (**Supplementary Figure 2**).

Percentage of Miscellaneous causes of poisoning

Pooled analysis of studies revealed poisoning with miscellaneous agents in 18% (95%CI–18% to 19%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$) in individuals presenting to hospital, using fixed effect model. The random effect model prevalence of miscellaneous agents poisoning among individual to be around 15% (95%CI–13% to 18%) (**Supplementary Figure 3**). In adults, miscellaneous agents are second most common cause of poisoning with 16.9% (95%CI–16.6% to 17.3%) and 12.8% (95%CI–10.3% to 15.6%) of individuals, using fixed and random effect models. In children, miscellaneous agents are most common cause of poisoning, responsible for 45.0% (95% CI–43.1% to 46.9%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p<0.01$) and 39.6% (95%CI–12.7% to 18.1%) of children, with fixed and random effect, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 3**).

Subgroup analysis of Corrosive and Venom poisoning

In adults, prevalence of corrosive poisoning was 1.3% (95% CI–1.1% to 1.4%; $I^2=95\%$, $p<0.01$) and 1.7% (95%CI–1.1% to 2.5%) of individuals, using fixed and random effect models. In children, prevalence of corrosive poisoning was 10.8% (95%CI–9.6% to 12%; $I^2=91\%$, $p<0.01$) and 11.2% (95%CI–7.2% to 15.8%) of children, with fixed and random effect, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 4**). Corrosives was most prevalent poisoning in childrens than adults in India. Prevalence of venom poisoning in east and west regions of India were among 24.6%(95% CI–23.6% to 25.7%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$), 15.1%(95%CI–14.3% to 16%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p<0.01$) with fixed effect model analysis (**Supplementary Figure 4**). The fixed effect

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model analysis of other regions and the random effect results of all regions were given in **Supplementary Figure 4**. Venom was most prevalent poisoning in East and West India than other parts of India.

Publication Bias

Publication bias was low, as the funnel plot of 134 studies appears to be asymmetrical around the intervention effect estimate for percentage of individuals having pesticide poisoning (**Figure 2**). We applied Egger’s regression test for funnel plot asymmetry which showed the value of $t = 0.9137$ and p -value of 0.3609 , indicating low publication bias.

Discussion:

To understand the poisoning trends in India, a comprehensive analysis of various poisons and their distribution among different age group and regions is essential. The epidemiological data on poisoning available in India is either from government sources (NCRB) or independent studies conducted at the tertiary care hospitals. It has been observed that, about 25% in males and 36% in female deaths underreported in NCRB [2]. Therefore, we conducted this study to analyse the prevalence of various poisoning in India from the published observational studies.

Suicidal deaths constitutes to be the leading cause of death in individual between 15–39 years in India by consuming poisonous agents or by hanging^[9]. Death by poisoning constitutes to be major public health issue in India ^[10]. Pesticides poisoning constitutes to be the leading cause of poisoning because of coexistence of poverty, agricultural farming and patriarchal society in India^[11].

Present review showed that highly vulnerable age group was 19-40 years (45%), the finding supported by Kamaruzaman et al., who concluded that about 44.6% of poisoning patients aged between 20-39 years ^[12]. This was relatively different from the findings of Patel et al., who observed that suicide was most common between 15-29 years of age ^[2]. This difference may be due to design of the study. People of this age group, has burden of being more responsible in society due to social transformation^[13]. The sex ratio in our study shows that, males 1.7 times more commonly exposed to poisoning than the females and this was higher than the earlier study conducted (1.7 vs 1-1.5)^[2]. This difference may be because of inclusion of all cases of suicides instead of poisons, as done in our study. Men of low socio-economic status and farmers faces severe stress and strain because of their inability to live up to the expectations of others in the rapid urbanizing society. Increased risk taking behaviour and inability to support themselves and family responsibilities due to low income from farming, often leads to increases

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in the suicidal ideation^[14, 15]. In India, women after marriage has to migrate to men house and she has to adopt new traditions, rituals and customs ^[16]. This sort of migration and prevalent patriarchal behaviour increases the conflict and mistreatment of women^[17]. Factors like family quarrels, dowry, cruelty by in-laws, etc. along with lack of independent source of income of house wives results in their over dependence on men leading to self-harm^[18, 19]. This leads to increased suicides by consuming poisons.

Pesticide poisoning stands out to be most common type of poison with overall prevalence of 62%(2 in every 3 poison cases) and it contributes to be 68% in adult population and 32% in children. Region wise, the proportion of pesticide poison in north India is about 79%(more than 3/4th of total poison cases), south India 65%, central India 60%, western India 53% and less than 50% in east and north east India. World health organisation (WHO) and its member countries initiation to safe access of pesticides resulted in decrease in prevalence of fatal poisoning by 10% across the world but it is still the leading cause of poisoning in South Asian countries including India, South East Asia and China^[1, 20-22].

Strict restriction of highly lethal pesticides by legal or policy actions drastically reduces the deaths ^[6, 23, 24]. Preventive measure must be developed for high-risk groups identified in the study. Legislative control on the sale and use of pesticides, and stress management are recommended along with better health care facilities to prevent poisoning related death.

The prevalence of corrosive poisoning in India found to be around 2% of total poisoning cases and their age wise distribution showed that in adult population it constitutes around 1.3% and in children's around 10.8%. Higher prevalence of poisoning by corrosives in children's may due to their inquisitive nature as they tend to explore household items which may include corrosive cleaning products^[25]. In USA, corrosive ingestions constitutes about 8%–9% of total

poisoning in all patients^[26]. This difference may be because of underreporting of events in India^[25].

Snake bite remains a major challenge in rural India as 71% of total population lives in rural India and primarily depend on agriculture. The overall prevalence of venom poisoning in India stands to be 6% of all poisoning cases. We have seen that there was large scale regional variation in the total number of cases reported with different poisons. Among all poisons, snake bites constitutes around 24% and 15% of poisoning in eastern and western part of India respectively. This regional distribution may be because of topography of eastern and western Ghats. The spatial distribution cases were similar to Suraweera et al. in the eastern part but not in the western part. This difference is due to exclusion of studies reporting only snake bites from analysis ^[27].

Drug over dosage constitutes about 10% of poison cases in India, may be due to easy availability of drugs and alcohol. In India, many prescription drugs are available over the counter. Though we haven't performed sex wise distribution of drug poisoning but evidence from earlier literature showed that females used drugs more commonly to commit suicide ^[13]. In agricultural societies, males typically work at the field during daytime, whereas women look after household chores. Therefore, the choice of pesticides among men and drugs or chemicals among women may be explained partially by occupational proximity^[28]. Most commonly used drugs were alcohol, antipsychotics and antiepileptic's, due to easy accessibility and over the counter sale of drugs.

Miscellaneous agents accounts for about 18% cases among all causes of poison. In children's, its prevalence was 45% whereas in adults 16%. This may be due to accidental exposure to miscellaneous agents because of exploratory behaviour in children. Negligence of parents and caretakers may also be contributing factor ^[29-31]. Poisoning in preschool or toddler age group

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is primarily unintentional or accidental. Poisoning in adolescent age group is mostly of suicidal nature. Most commonly kerosene and other household products and less commonly drugs and pharmaceuticals are the cause of poisoning in adults [32-34].

The purpose of present study was primarily to determine the prevalence of various poisonous agents, the corresponding area-wise distribution of type of poisoning in the demographic area. Overall, men in the age group of 19-40 years commonly consume pesticide poisons and housewives and children's consumes either drugs or miscellaneous agents intentionally or accidentally. Establishment of specialized toxicological units for detection and management of poisoning cases at all hospitals and primary health care centres could considerably minimize the morbidity and mortality due to poisoning. Similar to USA, India must develop a central database on national poisoning statistics. Adequate preventive measures with stable employment opportunities and bridging the socio cultural gaps between male and female along with proper supervision and care for children's can reduce the poisoning incidences in India.

Strengths and limitations of this study: The study provides comprehensive overview of poisoning in India as analyzed from observational studies published from 2010 to 2020. Data showed types, modes, demographic patterns and prevalence rates of various poisoning cases. In addition, persons at high-risk of poisoning with particular agent. The data presented in this study may be underreported as moderate to severe poisoning cases reports to hospital. There was no analysis on medical outcome of patients, thereby restricting the scope of analysis.

Conclusion: Pesticide is the most common type of poison used in adults while miscellaneous agent remains the main cause of poisoning in children. Overall, pesticides poisoning was most commonly used poison, observed among male farmers of rural India. This information will be useful for government of India for its decentralized and people centric policy decisions to meet

its target under United Nations Sustained Developmental Goals (SDG) for substantially reducing illness and death due to poisoning.

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Author Contributions.

Study design and planning of systematic review - All of the authors

Literature search – SBV, CM, SS

Figures - PKM, SS

Tables – SBV, PKM, CM

Data collection and analysis - SS, SBV, PKM

Data interpretation – SS, CM, SBV, PKM

Writing – All authors

Corrections and Final approval of Manuscript - All of the authors

Data statement section: we will submit preliminary data once study gets accepted.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1 PRISMA Flow Chart of selection of studies for systematic review

Figure 2: Publication Bias

Supplementary Figure: Percentage of patients with Pesticide poisoning (1Sa - Overall, 1Sb - Age wise and 1Sc - Region wise)

Supplementary Figure 2: Prevalence of poisoning with Corrosives (2Sa), Venom (2Sb), and Drugs (2Sc)

Supplementary Figure 3: Prevalence of poisoning with Miscellaneous agents (3Sa) and Age wise distribution (3Sb)

Supplementary Figure 4: Age wise distribution of corrosives (4Sa) and Region wise distribution of venom (4Sb).

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of study population included in the analysis

Table 2: Percentage pooled data of various poisoning encountered in India

Supplementary Table S1a and S1b: Characteristics of all studies (1Sa), List of Poisons consumed in the included studies (1Sb).

Supplementary File: Search strategy.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of study population included in the analysis

Study characteristics	Percentage of study population
Type of studies (N=134)	
1. Retrospective	56%
2. Cross sectional	9%
3. Prospective	35%
Regional distribution study population (%)	
1. Central (N=21; n=5854)	11%
2. East (N=9; n=6684)	13%
3. North East (N=2; n= 330)	1%
4. North (N=21; n=11628)	22%
5. South (N=61; n=21212)	40%
6. West (N=20; n=7123)	13%
Male female Ratio	
1. Central (N=21; n=5854)	1.51
2. East (N=9; n=6684)	1.28
3. North East (N=2; n= 330)	1.66
4. North (N=21; n=11561)	2.35
5. South (N=61; n=21279)	1.77
6. West (N=20; n=7123)	1.87
7. India (N=134; n=52831)	1.74
Age wise distribution	
1. >18 years (n=12642)	26%
2. 19-60 (n=34653)	70%
3. >60 (n=2228)	4%
Marital status(N=62)	
1. Married (n=12027)	65%
2. Unmarried (n=6499)	35%
Educational status(N=31)	
1. Literate (n=5467)	70%
2. Illiterate (n=2373)	30%
Type of family(N=13)	
1. Nuclear (n=1248)	41%
2. Joint (n=1780)	59%
Area wise distribution(N=80)	
1. Rural (n=15896)	62%
2. Urban (n=9726)	38%
Occupational distribution(N=61)	
1. Farmers (n=9404)	56%
2. House wives (n=2481)	15%
3. Students (n=1686)	10%
4. Labourers (n=1448)	9%
5. Service (n=609)	4%
6. Unemployed (n=704)	4%
7. Self-employed (n=385)	2%
Manner of poisoning (N=111)	
1. Suicidal (n=30652)	71%
2. Accidental (n=11616)	27%
3. Others (n=926)	2%

N-total number of studies; n-sample size

Table 2: Percentage pooled data of various poisoning encountered in India

Outcome	% of pooled data	95% CI	I ²	p-value
Percentage Pesticide poisoning				
Overall	FEM -63% REM - 62%	63% to 64% 56% to 68%	100%	<0.01
Adults	FEM-65.3% REM- 66.8%	64.8% to 65.7% 61.4% to 71.9%	100%	<0.01
Childrens	FEM-22.4% REM- 23.2%	20.7% to 24.0% 11.4% to 37.6%	94%	<0.001
Region wise				
Central	FEM-59.2% REM- 60%	57.9% to 60.4% 46.5% to 74.2%	99%	<0.01
East	FEM-42.3% REM- 60%	37.3% to 39.7% 22% to 64%	99%	<0.01
North East	FEM-46.9% REM- 47.5%	41.5% to 52.3% 8.2% to 88.8%	0%	=0.64
North	FEM-79.1% REM- 56.4%	78.4% to 79.9% 42% to 70%	100%	<0.01
South	FEM-65.9% REM- 68.6%	65.3% to 66.6% 60% to 76%	99%	<0.01
West	FEM-63.1% REM- 61.9%	62.7% to 63.5% 56.3% to 67.4%	99%	<0.01
Percentage Corrosive poisoning				
Overall	FEM- 2% REM -3%	1% to 2 % 2% to 3%	96%	<0.01
Adults	FEM- 1.3% REM-1.7%	1.1% to 1.4% 1.1% to 2.5%	95%	<0.01
Childrens	FEM-10.8% REM-11.2%	9.6% to 12% 7.2% to 15.8%	91%	<0.01
Percentage Venom poisoning				
Overall	FEM- 6% REM- 3%	6% to 6% 2% to 5%	99%	<0.01
Region wise				
Central	FEM-1.4% REM- 2.3%	1% to 1.7% 0.3% to 5%	97%	<0.01
East	FEM-24.6% REM- 12%	23.6% to 25.7% 4.9% to 21%	99%	<0.01
North East	FEM-10.9% REM- 6.2%	7.7% to 14% 0% to 25%	98%	<0.01
North	FEM-0.07% REM- 1.2%	0% to 0.2% 0% to 4.2%	95%	<0.01
South	FEM-3.5% REM- 1.9%	3.2% to 3.8% 0.6% to 3.7%	98%	<0.01
West	FEM-15.1% REM- 10%	14.3% to 16% 5.2% to 16%	99%	<0.01
Percentage Drug poisoning				
Overall	FEM-10% REM- 9%	10% to 10% 7% to 11%	98%	<0.01
Percentage of Miscellaneous causes of poisoning				

Overall	FEM-18% REM- 15%	18% to 19% 13% to 18%	99%	<0.01
Adults	FEM- 16.9% REM-12.8%	16.6% to 17.3% 10.3% to 15.6%	99%	<0.01
Childrens	FEM- 45% REM- 39.6%	43.1% to 46.9% 29.1% to 50.5%	94%	<0.01

FEM: Fixed Effect Model, REM: Random Effect Model.

For peer review only

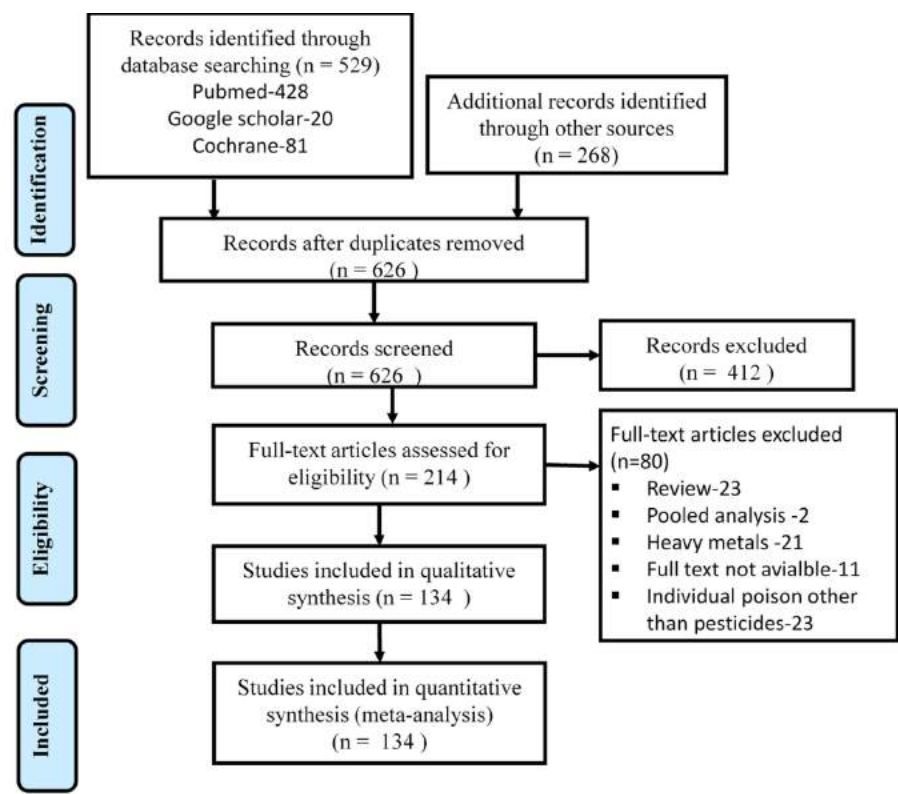


Figure 1 PRISMA Flow Chart of selection of studies for systematic review

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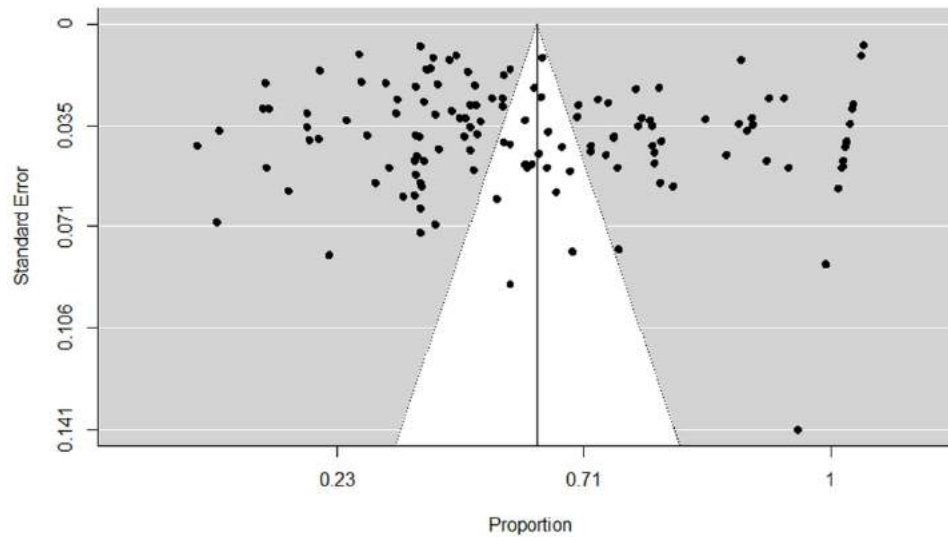
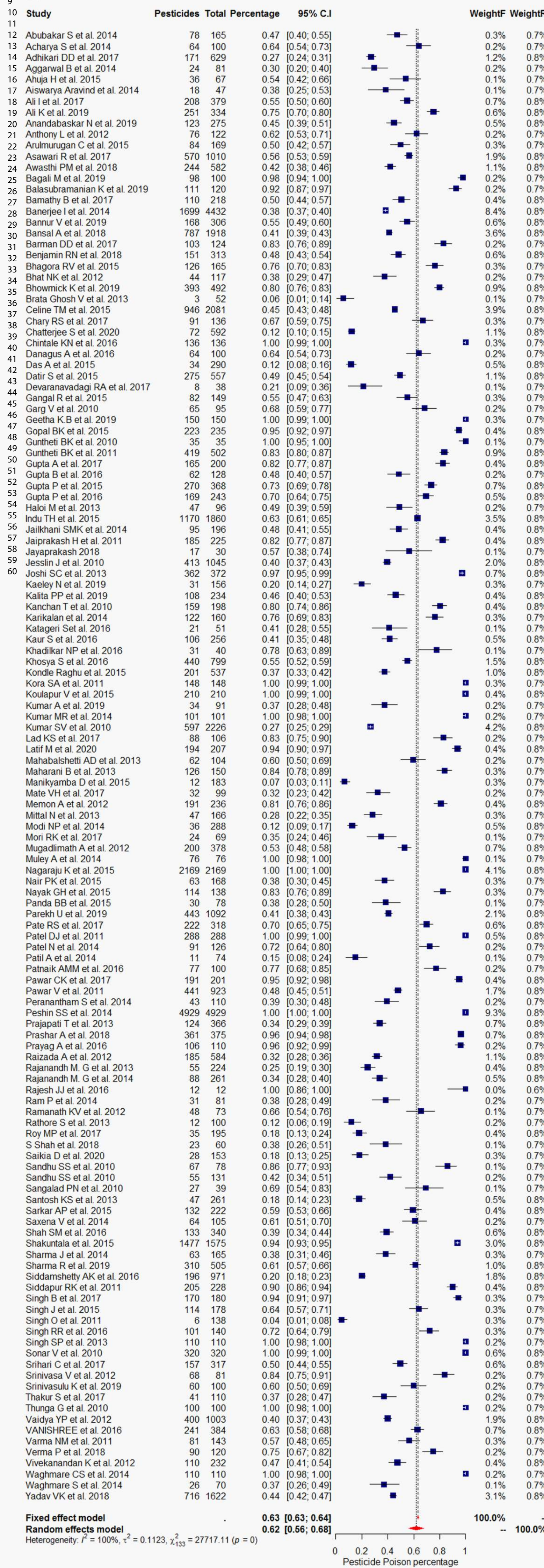


Figure 2: Publication Bias
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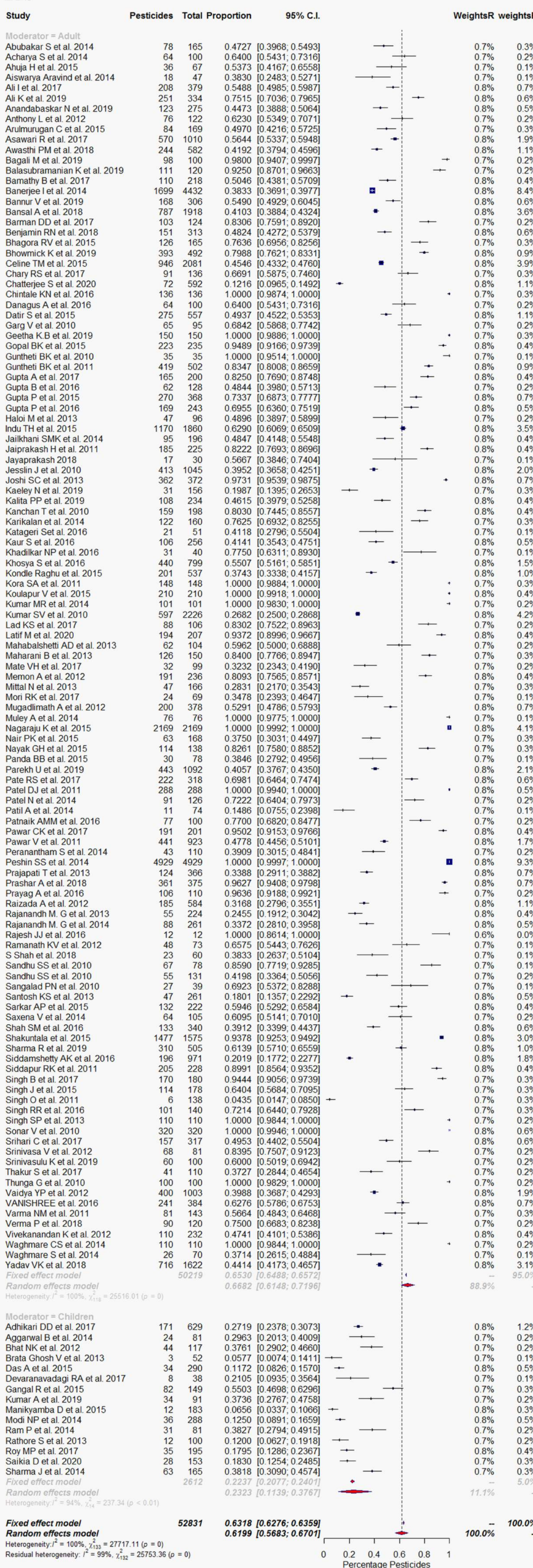
Supplementary Figure 1Sabc: Percentage of patients with Pesticide poisoning (1Sa - Overall, 1Sb Age wise and 1Sc - Region wise)

1Sa



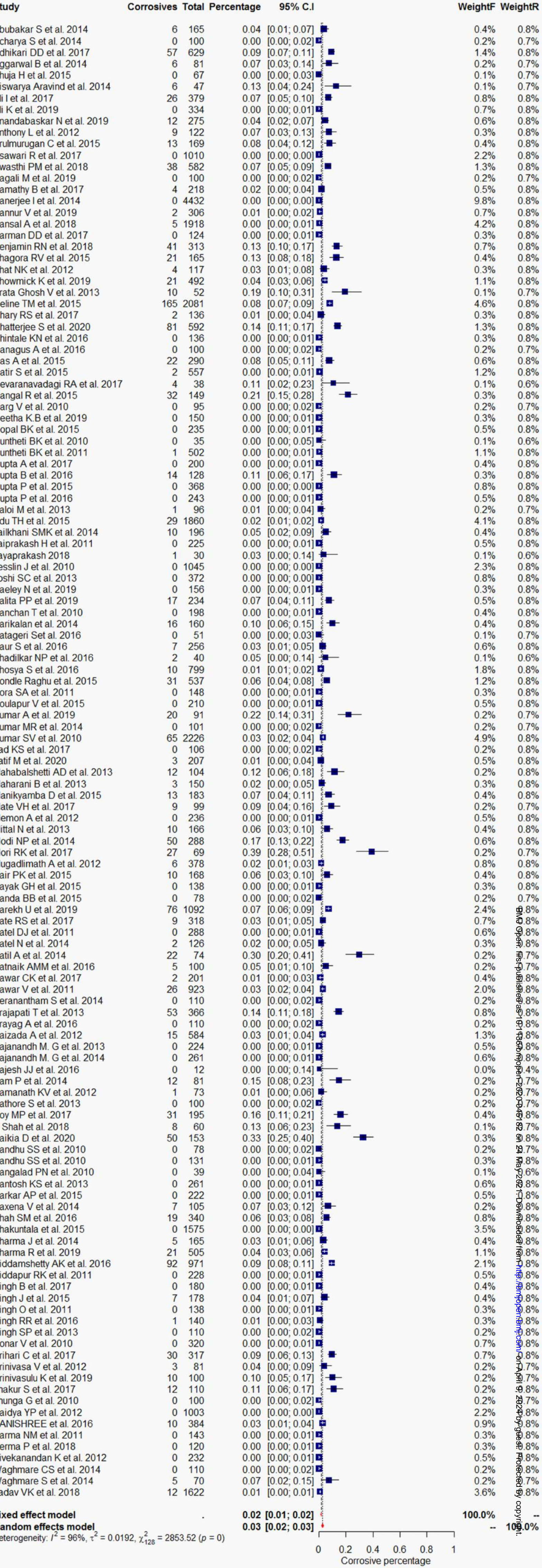
BMJ Open: first published as 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-045182 on 24 May 2021. Downloaded from <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/> on April 9, 2024 by guest. Protected by copyright.

1Sb

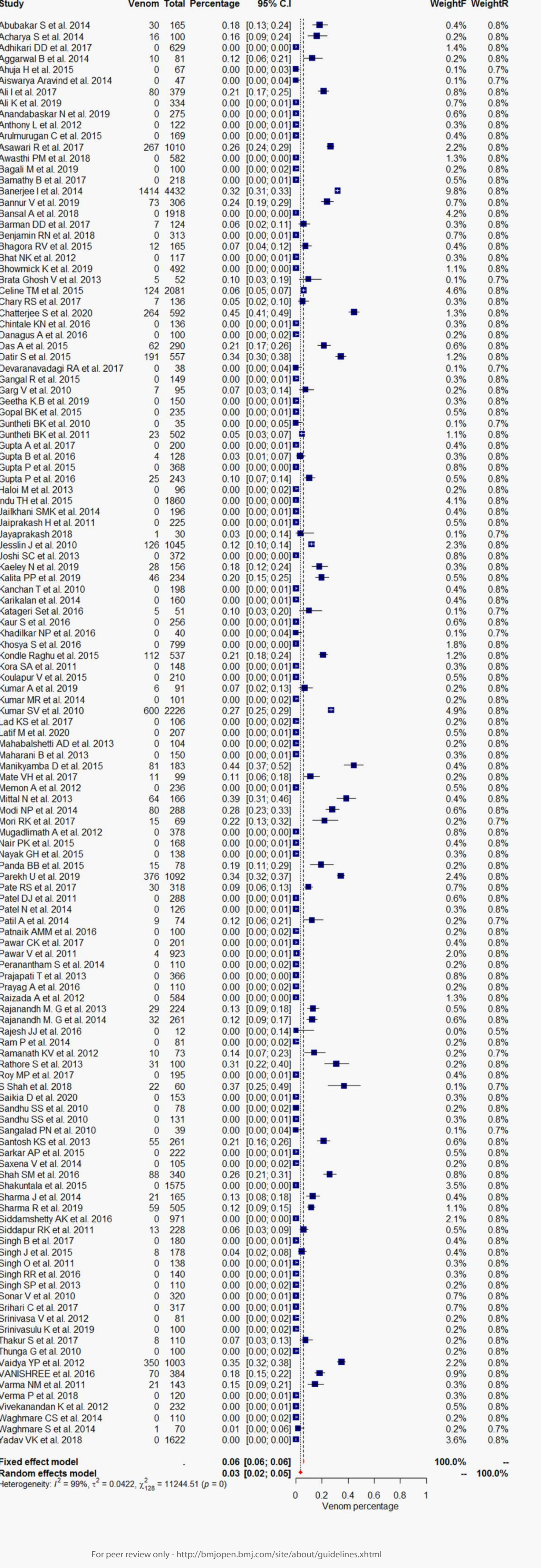


Supplementary Figure 2Sabc: Prevalence of poisoning with Corrosives (2Sa), Venom (2Sb), and Drugs (2Sc)

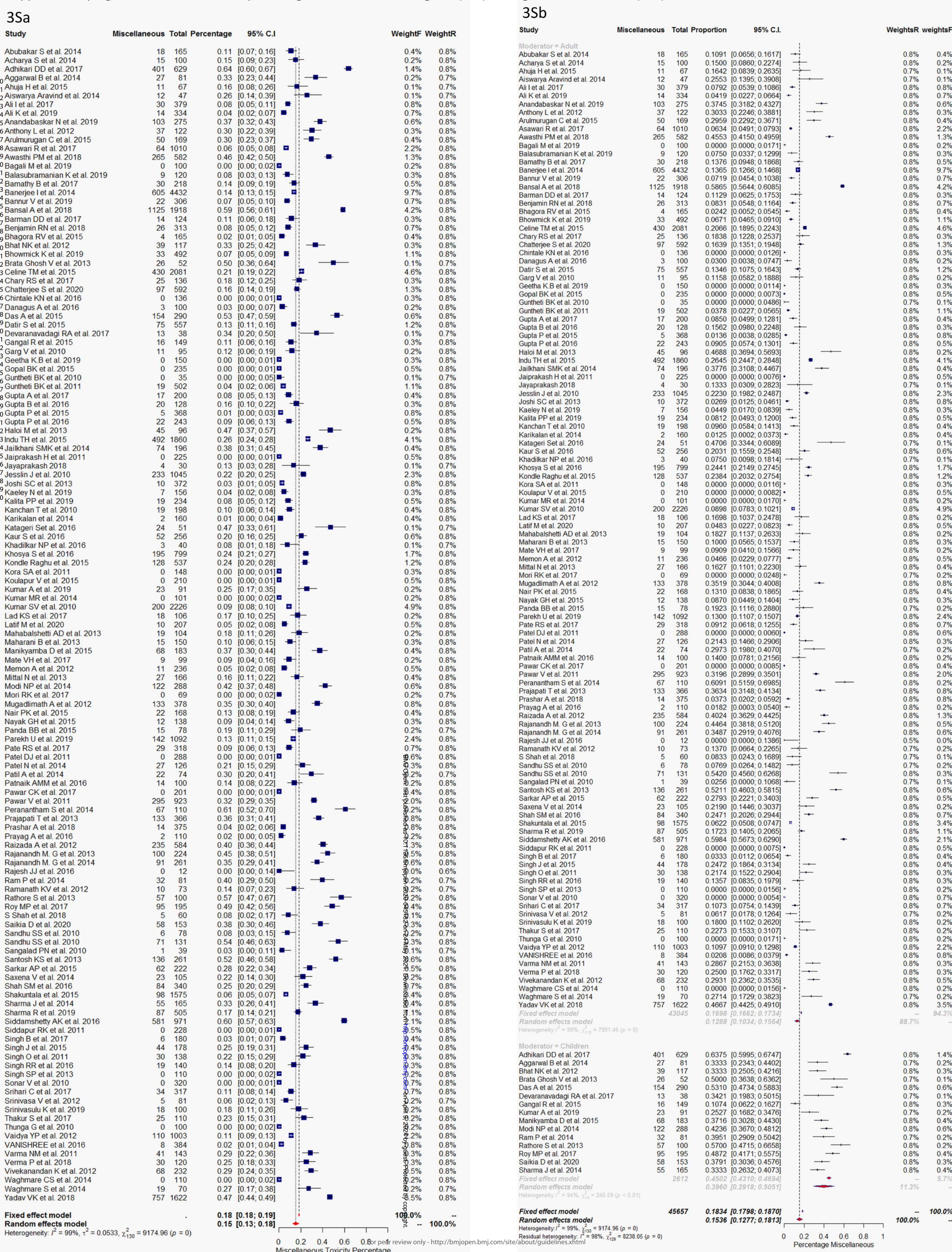
2Sa



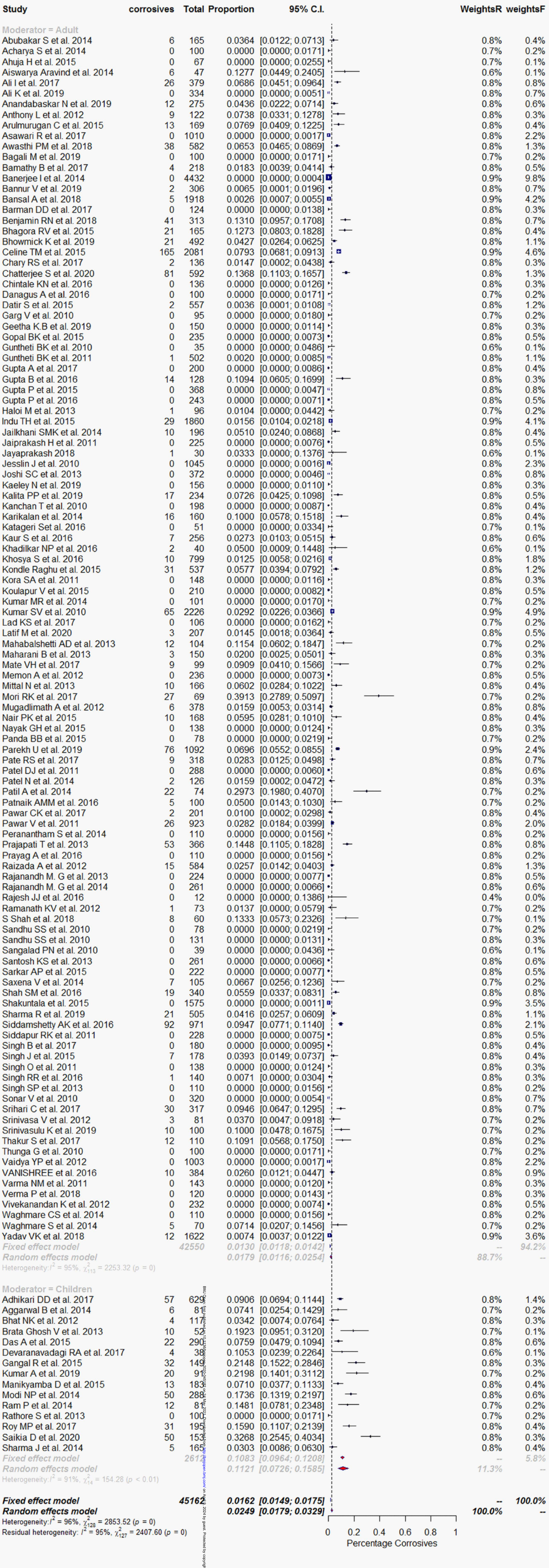
2Sb



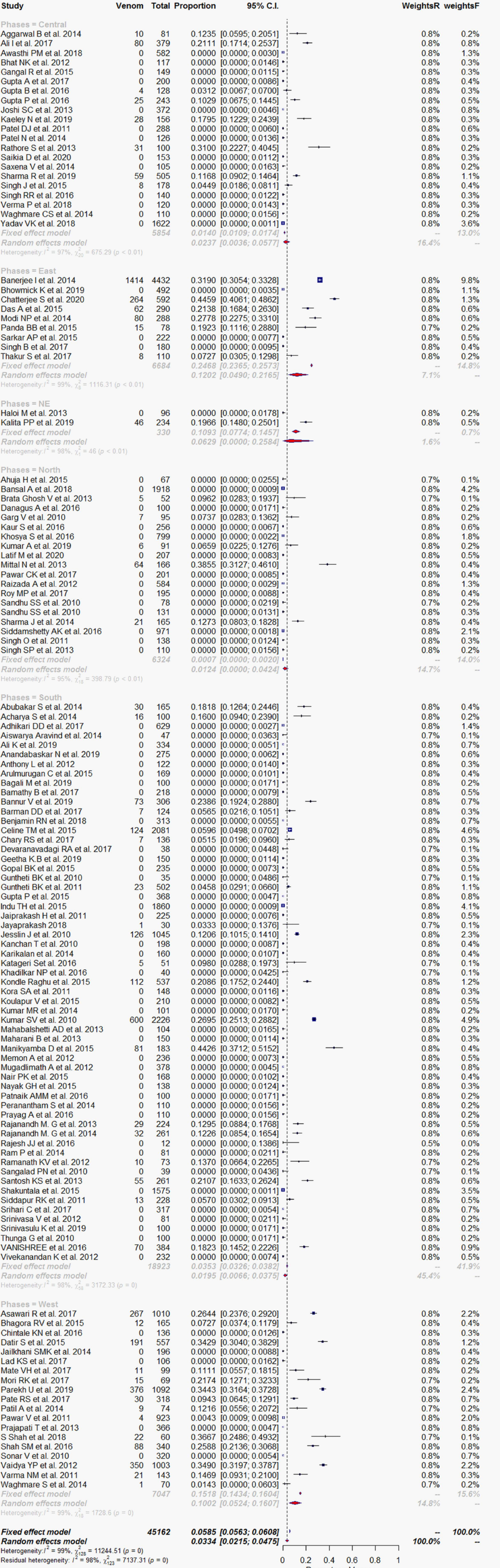
Supplementary Figure 3Sab: Prevalence of poisoning with Miscellaneous agents (3Sa) and Age wise distribution (3Sb)



4Sa



4Sb



Supplementary File 1: Search strategy:

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india) of all studies -57417.

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india) in humans 23303

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india)-428

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india)of observational studies - 460

Search: (((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india) Filters: in the last 10 years-428

((((((((((("epidemiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields]) OR "prevalence"[All Fields]) OR "prevalence"[MeSH Terms]) OR "prevalence"[All Fields]) OR "prevalences"[All Fields]) OR "prevalence s"[All Fields]) OR "prevalent"[All Fields]) OR "prevalently"[All Fields]) OR "prevalents"[All Fields]) AND (((((((("poisoned"[All Fields] OR "poisoning"[MeSH Terms]) OR "poisoning"[All Fields]) OR "poisonings"[All Fields]) OR "poisoning"[MeSH Subheading]) OR "poisonous"[All Fields]) OR "poisons"[Pharmacological Action]) OR "poisons"[MeSH Terms]) OR "poisons"[All Fields]) OR "poison"[All Fields])) OR (("organophosphate poisoning"[MeSH Terms] OR ("organophosphate"[All Fields] AND "poisoning"[All Fields])) OR "organophosphate poisoning"[All Fields])) OR (((("pesticidal"[All Fields] OR "pesticide s"[All Fields]) OR "pesticides"[Pharmacological Action]) OR "pesticides"[MeSH Terms]) OR "pesticides"[All Fields]) OR "pesticide"[All Fields])) OR (((((((("caustics"[Pharmacological Action] OR "caustics"[MeSH Terms]) OR "caustics"[All Fields]) OR "corrosive"[All Fields]) OR "corrosives"[All Fields]) OR "corrosion"[MeSH Terms]) OR "corrosion"[All Fields]) OR "corrosions"[All Fields]) OR "corrosiveness"[All Fields]) OR "corrosivity"[All Fields])) OR (((((((("venom s"[All Fields] OR "venome"[All Fields]) OR "venomic"[All Fields]) OR "venomics"[All Fields]) OR "venomous"[All Fields]) OR "venoms"[MeSH Terms]) OR "venoms"[All Fields]) OR "venom"[All Fields])) OR (((("drug s"[All Fields] OR "pharmaceutical preparations"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("pharmaceutical"[All Fields] AND "preparations"[All Fields])) OR

"pharmaceutical preparations"[All Fields]) OR "drugs"[All Fields])) AND (((("india"[MeSH Terms] OR "india"[All Fields]) OR "india s"[All Fields]) OR "indias"[All Fields])

Translations

prevalence: "epidemiology"[Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields] OR "prevalence"[All Fields] OR "prevalence"[MeSH Terms] OR "prevalance"[All Fields] OR "prevalences"[All Fields] OR "prevalence's"[All Fields] OR "prevalent"[All Fields] OR "prevalently"[All Fields] OR "prevalents"[All Fields]

poisoning: "poisoned"[All Fields] OR "poisoning"[MeSH Terms] OR "poisoning"[All Fields] OR "poisonings"[All Fields] OR "poisoning"[Subheading] OR "poisonous"[All Fields] OR "poisons"[Pharmacological Action] OR "poisons"[MeSH Terms] OR "poisons"[All Fields] OR "poison"[All Fields]

organophosphate poisoning: "organophosphate poisoning"[MeSH Terms] OR ("organophosphate"[All Fields] AND "poisoning"[All Fields]) OR "organophosphate poisoning"[All Fields]

pesticides: "pesticidal"[All Fields] OR "pesticide's"[All Fields] OR "pesticides"[Pharmacological Action] OR "pesticides"[MeSH Terms] OR "pesticides"[All Fields] OR "pesticide"[All Fields]

corrosives: "caustics"[Pharmacological Action] OR "caustics"[MeSH Terms] OR "caustics"[All Fields] OR "corrosive"[All Fields] OR "corrosives"[All Fields] OR "corrosion"[MeSH Terms] OR "corrosion"[All Fields] OR "corrosions"[All Fields] OR "corrosiveness"[All Fields] OR "corrosivity"[All Fields]

venom: "venom's"[All Fields] OR "venome"[All Fields] OR "venomic"[All Fields] OR "venomics"[All Fields] OR "venomous"[All Fields] OR "venoms"[MeSH Terms] OR "venoms"[All Fields] OR "venom"[All Fields]

drugs: "drug's"[All Fields] OR "pharmaceutical preparations"[MeSH Terms] OR ("pharmaceutical"[All Fields] AND "preparations"[All Fields]) OR "pharmaceutical preparations"[All Fields] OR "drugs"[All Fields]

india: "india"[MeSH Terms] OR "india"[All Fields] OR "india's"[All Fields] OR "indias"[All Fields]

Supplementary Table S1a: Characteristics of all studies

Study Id with year	Sample Size	Most common age group(Y)	Sex Ratio (M/F)	Geographical Region of India	Types of Poison
Abubakar S et al. 2014 ¹	165	21-30	1.46	South	Pesticides-78, Corrosives-6, Venom-30, Drugs-33, Others-18
Acharya S et al. 2014 ²	100	21-30	0.9	South	Pesticides-64, Corrosives-10, Venom-16, Drugs-5, Others-15
Adhikari DD et al. 2017 ³	629	0-16	NA	South	Pesticides-171, Corrosives-57, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-401
Aggarwal B et al. 2014 ⁴	81	1-18	1.25	Central	Pesticides-24, Corrosives-6, Venom-10, Drugs-14, Others-27
Ahuja H et al. 2015 ⁵	67	20-40	2.2	North	Pesticides-36, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-20, Others-11
Aiswarya A et al. 2014 ⁶	47	25-44	1.35	South	Pesticides-18, Corrosives-6, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-12
Ali I et al. 2017 ⁷	379	21-30	1.5	Central	Pesticides-208, Corrosives-26, Venom-80, Drugs-35, Others-30
Ali K et al. 2019 ⁸	334	19-29	NA	South	Pesticides-251, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-69, Others-14
Anandabaskar N et al. 2019 ⁹	275	21-30	0.7	South	Pesticides-123, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-37, Others-103
Anthony L et al. 2012 ¹⁰	122	21-30	1.1	South	Pesticides-76, Corrosives-9, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-37
Arulmurugan C et al. 2015 ¹¹	169	10-30	1.5	South	Pesticides-84, Corrosives-13, Venom-0, Drugs-22, Others-50

Asawari R et al. 2017 ¹²	1010	20-35	1.3	West	Pesticides-570, Corrosives-0, Venom-267, Drugs-109, Others-64
Awasthi PM et al. 2018 ¹³	582	21-30	1.7	Central	Pesticides-244, Corrosives-38, Venom-0, Drugs-35, Others-265
Bagali M et al. 2019 ¹⁴	100	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-98, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-2, Others-0
Balasubramanian K et al.2019 ¹⁵	120	20-30	1.2	South	Pesticides-111, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-9
Bamathy B et al. 2017 ¹⁶	218	19-30	1.1	South	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-4, Venom-0, Drugs-74, Others-30
Banerjee I et al. 2014 ¹⁷	4432	21-30	0.56	East	Pesticides-1699, Corrosives-0, Venom-1414, Drugs-714, Others-605
Bannur V et al. 2019 ¹⁸	306	21-30	1.5	South	Pesticides-168, Corrosives-2, Venom-73, Drugs-41, Others-22
Bansal A et al. 2018 ¹⁹	1918	NA	NA	North	Pesticides-787, Corrosives-5, Venom-0, Drugs-41, Others-22
Barman DD et al. 2017 ²⁰	124	21-30	0.7	South	Pesticides-103, Corrosives-0, Venom-7, Drugs-0, Others-14
Benjamin RN et al. 2018 ²¹	313	25-44	1.6	South	Pesticides-151, Corrosives-41, Venom-0, Drugs-95, Others-26
Bhagora RV et al. 2015 ²²	165	21-30	1.36	West	Pesticides-126, Corrosives-21, Venom-12, Drugs-2, Others-4
Bhat NK et al. 2012 ²³	117	1-18	1.4	Central	Pesticides-44, Corrosives-4, Venom-0, Drugs-30, Others-39
Bhowmick K et al. 2019 ²⁴	492	21-28	1.5	East	Pesticides-393, Corrosives-21, Venom-0, Drugs-45, Others-33

Brata Ghosh V et al. 2013 ²⁵	52	0-11	1.9	North	Pesticides-3, Corrosives-10, Venom-5, Drugs-8, Others-26
Celine TM et al. 2015 ²⁶	2081	26-45	1.3	South	Pesticides-946, Corrosives-165, Venom-124, Drugs-416, Others-430
Chary RS et al. 2017 ²⁷	136	21-30	1.96	South	Pesticides-91, Corrosives-22, Venom-7, Drugs-11, Others-25
Chatterjee S et al. 2020 ²⁸	592	21-30	1.3	East	Pesticides-72, Corrosives-81, Venom-264, Drugs-78, Others-97
Chintale KN et al. 2016 ²⁹	136	21-30	2.9	West	Pesticides-136, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Danagus A et al. 2016 ³⁰	100	31-40	4.6	North	Pesticides-64, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-33, Others-3
Das A et al. 2015 ³¹	290	0-12	1.5	East	Pesticides-34, Corrosives-22, Venom-62, Drugs-18, Others-154
Datir S et al. 2015 ³²	557	21-30	1.4	West	Pesticides-275, Corrosives-2, Venom-191, Drugs-14, Others-75
Devaranavadagi RA et al. 2017 ³³	38	1-18	0.7	South	Pesticides-8, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-13, Others-13
Gangal R et al. 2015 ³⁴	149	0-10	1.3	Central	Pesticides-82, Corrosives-32, Venom-0, Drugs-19, Others-16
Garg V et al. 2010 ³⁵	95	21-30	4	North	Pesticides-65, Corrosives-20, Venom-7, Drugs-12, Others-11
Geetha K.B et al. 2019 ³⁶	150	21-30	2.7	South	Pesticides-150, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Gopal BK et al. 2015 ³⁷	235	21-30	2.1	South	Pesticides-223, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-12, Others-0

Guntheti BK et al. 2010 ³⁸	35	15-30	2.2	South	Pesticides-35, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Guntheti BK et al. 2011 ³⁹	502	21-30	6.1	South	Pesticides-419, Corrosives-1, Venom-23, Drugs-40, Others-19
Gupta A et al. 2017 ⁴⁰	200	21-30	0.6	Central	Pesticides-165, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-18, Others-17
Gupta B et al. 2016 ⁴¹	128	21-30	1.4	Central	Pesticides-62, Corrosives-14, Venom-4, Drugs-28, Others-20
Gupta Pet al. 2015 ⁴²	368	21-30	NA	South	Pesticides-270, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-93, Others-5
Gupta P et al. 2016 ⁴³	243	21-30	1.4	Central	Pesticides-169, Corrosives-0, Venom-25, Drugs-27, Others-22
Haloi M et al. 2013 ⁴⁴	96	20-29	1.66	North-East	Pesticides-47, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-3, Others-45
Indu TH et al. 2015 ⁴⁵	1860	21-30	1.6	South	Pesticides-1170, Corrosives-29, Venom-0, Drugs-169, Others-492
Jailkhani SMK et al. 2014 ⁴⁶	196	21-30	1.1	West	Pesticides-95, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-17, Others-74
Jaiprakash H et al. 2011 ⁴⁷	225	21-30	1.6	South	Pesticides-185, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-40, Others-0
Jayaprakash 2018 ⁴⁸	30	20-40	0.6	South	Pesticides-17, Corrosives-1, Venom-1, Drugs-7, Others-4
Jesslin J et al. 2010 ⁴⁹	1045	18-29	1.51	South	Pesticides-413, Corrosives-0, Venom-126, Drugs-273, Others-233
Joshi SC et al. 2013 ⁵⁰	372	21-30	1.2	Central	Pesticides-362, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-10

Kaeley N et al. 2019 ⁵¹	156	NA	3.2	Central	Pesticides-31, Corrosives-20, Venom-28, Drugs-90, Others-7
Kalita PP et al. 2019 ⁵²	234	18-30	1.66	North-East	Pesticides-108, Corrosives-17, Venom-46, Drugs-44, Others-19
Kanchan Tet al. 2010 ⁵³	198	20-29	2.5	South	Pesticides-159, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-20, Others-19
Karikalan et al. 2014 ⁵⁴	160	11-20	0.4	South	Pesticides-122, Corrosives-16, Venom-0, Drugs-20, Others-2
Katageri Set al. 2016 ⁵⁵	51	21-30	3.6	South	Pesticides-21, Corrosives-20, Venom-5, Drugs-1, Others-24
Kaur S et al. 2016 ⁵⁶	256	18-25	1.2	North	Pesticides-106, Corrosives-7, Venom-0, Drugs-91, Others-52
Khadilkar NP et al. 2016 ⁵⁷	40	21-30	2.1	South	Pesticides-31, Corrosives-2, Venom-0, Drugs-4, Others-3
Khosya S et al. 2016 ⁵⁸	799	21-30	1.26	North	Pesticides-440, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-154, Others-195
Kondle Raghu et al. 2015 ⁵⁹	537	20-30	0.92	South	Pesticides-201, Corrosives-31, Venom-112, Drugs-65, Others-128
Kora SA et al. 2011 ⁶⁰	148	21-30	0.78	South	Pesticides-148, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Koulapur V et al. 2015 ⁶¹	210	21-30	2.6	South	Pesticides-210, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Kumar A et al. 2019 ⁶²	91	0-12	1.6	North	Pesticides-34, Corrosives-20, Venom-6, Drugs-8, Others-23
Kumar MR et al. 2014 ⁶³	101	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-101, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0

Kumar SV et al. 2010 ⁶⁴	2226	21-30	1.1	South	Pesticides-597, Corrosives-65, Venom-600, Drugs-764, Others-200
Lad KS et al. 2017 ⁶⁵	106	21-30	1.4	West	Pesticides-88, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-18
Latif M et al. 2020 ⁶⁶	207	20-30	2.3	North	Pesticides-194, Corrosives-3, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-10
Mahabalshetti AD et al. 2013 ⁶⁷	104	20-29	1.1	South	Pesticides-62, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-19
Maharani B et al. 2013 ⁶⁸	150	21-30	1.6	South	Pesticides-126, Corrosives-3, Venom-0, Drugs-6, Others-15
Manikyamba D et al. 2015 ⁶⁹	183	1-15	1.56	South	Pesticides-12Corrosives-3, Venom-81, Drugs-9, Others-68
Mate VH et al. 2017 ⁷⁰	99	21-30	2.5	West	Pesticides-32, Corrosives-9, Venom-11, Drugs-38, Others-9
Memon A et al. 2012 ⁷¹	236	21-30	0.8	South	Pesticides-191, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-34, Others-11
Mittal N et al. 2013 ⁷²	166	19-39	2.3	North	Pesticides-47, Corrosives-10, Venom-64, Drugs-18, Others-27
Modi NP et al. 2014 ⁷³	288	0-14	2.3	East	Pesticides-36, Corrosives-50, Venom-80, Drugs-0, Others-122
Mori RK et al. 2017 ⁷⁴	69	NA	NA	West	Pesticides-24, Corrosives-27, Venom-15, Drugs-3, Others-0
Mugadlimath A et al. 2012 ⁷⁵	378	21-30	1.2	South	Pesticides-200, Corrosives-6, Venom-0, Drugs-39, Others-133
Muley A et al. 2014 ⁷⁶	76	15-25	1.5	West	Pesticides-76, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0

Nagaraju K et al. 2015 ⁷⁷	2169	21-40	1.7	South	Pesticides- 2169,Corrosives-NA,Venom-NA, Drugs-NA, Others-NA
Nair PK et al. 2015 ⁷⁸	168	21-30	0.7	South	Pesticides-63, Corrosives-10,Venom-0, Drugs-73,Others-22
Nayak GH et al. 2015 ⁷⁹	138	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-114, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-12, Others-12
Panda BB et al. 2015 ⁸⁰	78	21-30	1.4	East	Pesticides-30, Corrosives-0, Venom-15, Drugs-18, Others-15
Parekh U et al. 2019 ⁸¹	1092	21-30	1.5	West	Pesticides-443, Corrosives-76, Venom-376, Drugs-55, Others-142
Pate RS et al. 2017 ⁸²	318	21-30	1.8	West	Pesticides-222, Corrosives-9, Venom-30, Drugs-28, Others-29
Patel DJ et al. 2011 ⁸³	288	21-30	1.3	Central	Pesticides-288, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Patel N et al. 2014 ⁸⁴	126	21-30	1.6	Central	Pesticides-91, Corrosives-2, Venom-0, Drugs-6, Others-27
Patil A et al. 2014 ⁸⁵	74	20-29	1.1	West	Pesticides-11, Corrosives-22, Venom-9, Drugs-10, Others-22
Patnaik AMM et al. 2016 ⁸⁶	100	NA	1.86	South	Pesticides-77, Corrosives-5, Venom-0, Drugs-4, Others-14
Pawar CK et al. 2017 ⁸⁷	201	21-30	3.67	North	Pesticides-191,Corrosives-2, Venom-0, Drugs-8, Others-0
Pawar V et al. 2011 ⁸⁸	923	20-29	1.4	West	Pesticides-441, Corrosives-26, Venom-4, Drugs-157, Others-295
Peranantham S et al. 2014 ⁸⁹	110	21-30	3.1	South	Pesticides-43, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-67

Peshin SS et al. 2014 ⁹⁰	4929	18-35	1.6	North	Pesticides-4929, Corrosives-NA, Venom-NA, Drugs-NA, Others-NA
Prajapati T et al. 2013 ⁹¹	366	21-30	2.4	West	Pesticides-124, Corrosives-53, Venom-0, Drugs-56, Others-133
Prashar A et al. 2018 ⁹²	375	21-30	3.2	North	Pesticides-361, Corrosives-NA, Venom-NA, Drugs-NA, Others-14
Prayag A et al. 2016 ⁹³	110	18-28	1.68	South	Pesticides-106, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-2, Others-2
Raizada A et al. 2012 ⁹⁴	584	20-30	2.5	North	Pesticides-185, Corrosives-15, Venom-0, Drugs-149, Others-235
Rajanandh M. G et al. 2013 ⁹⁵	224	21-35	1.1	South	Pesticides-55, Corrosives-0, Venom-29, Drugs-40, Others-100
Rajanandh M. G et al. 2014 ⁹⁶	261	21-35	1.35	South	Pesticides-88, Corrosives-0, Venom-32, Drugs-50, Others-91
Rajesh JJ et al. 2016 ⁹⁷	12	20-29	5	South	Pesticides-12, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Ram P et al. 2014 ⁹⁸	81	1-15	1.02	South	Pesticides-31, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-6, Others-32
Ramanath KV et al. 2012 ⁹⁹	73	21-40	1.7	South	Pesticides-48, Corrosives-1, Venom-10, Drugs-4, Others-10
Rathore S et al. 2013 ¹⁰⁰	100	1-15	2.3	Central	Pesticides-12, Corrosives-0, Venom-31, Drugs-0, Others-57
Roy MP et al. 2017 ¹⁰¹	195	0-12	1.7	North	Pesticides-35, Corrosives-31, Venom-0, Drugs-34, Others-95
S Shah et al. 2018 ¹⁰²	60	21-40	3.5	West	Pesticides-23, Corrosives-8, Venom-22, Drugs-2, Others-5

Saikia D et al. 2020 ¹⁰³	153	0-12	1.86	Central	Pesticides-28, Corrosives-50, Venom-0, Drugs-17, Others-58
Sandhu SS et al. 2010 ¹⁰⁴	78	21-30	2.9	North	Pesticides-67, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-5, Others-6
Sandhu SS et al. 2010 ¹⁰⁵	131	21-30	3.1	North	Pesticides-55, Corrosives-50, Venom-0, Drugs-5, Others-71
Sangalad PN et al. 2010 ¹⁰⁶	39	41-50	3.9	South	Pesticides-27, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-1
Santosh KS et al. 2013 ¹⁰⁷	261	21-35	1.35	South	Pesticides-47, Corrosives-50, Venom-55, Drugs-23, Others-136
Sarkar AP et al. 2015 ¹⁰⁸	222	20-29	0.96	East	Pesticides-132, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-28, Others-62
Saxena V et al. 2014 ¹⁰⁹	105	21-30	1.2	Central	Pesticides-64, Corrosives-17, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-23
Shah SM et al. 2016 ¹¹⁰	340	21-30	1.74	West	Pesticides-133, Corrosives-19, Venom-88, Drugs-16, Others-84
Shakuntala et al. 2015 ¹¹¹	1575	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-1477, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-98
Sharma J et al. 2014 ¹¹²	165	1-18	1.2	North	Pesticides-63, Corrosives-15, Venom-21, Drugs-21, Others-55
Sharma R et al. 2019 ¹¹³	505	21-30	1.4	Central	Pesticides-310, Corrosives-21, Venom-59, Drugs-28, Others-87
Siddamshetty AK et al. 2016 ¹¹⁴	971	21-30	2.1	North	Pesticides-196, Corrosives-92, Venom-0, Drugs-102, Others-581
Siddapur RK et al. 2011 ¹¹⁵	228	21-30	2.3	South	Pesticides-205, Corrosives-10, Venom-13, Drugs-10, Others-0

Singh B et al. 2017 ¹¹⁶	180	15-29	1.2	East	Pesticides-170, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-4, Others-6
Singh J et al. 2015 ¹¹⁷	178	21-30	1.28	Central	Pesticides-114, Corrosives-7, Venom-8, Drugs-5, Others-44
Singh O et al. 2011 ¹¹⁸	138	21-30	1.02	North	Pesticides-6, Corrosives-61, Venom-0, Drugs-102, Others-30
Singh RR et al. 2016 ¹¹⁹	140	21-30	1.6	Central	Pesticides-101, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-19, Others-19
Singh SP et al. 2013 ¹²⁰	110	20-30	2.67	North	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Sonar V et al. 2010 ¹²¹	320	21-30	2.7	West	Pesticides-320, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Srihari C et al. 2017 ¹²²	317	15-24	0.8	South	Pesticides-157, Corrosives-30, Venom-0, Drugs-96, Others-34
Srinivasa V et al. 2012 ¹²³	81	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-68, Corrosives-3, Venom-0, Drugs-5, Others-5
Srinivasulu K et al. 2019 ¹²⁴	100	21-40	1.6	South	Pesticides-60, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-12, Others-18
Thakur S et al. 2017 ¹²⁵	110	21-30	0.8	East	Pesticides-41, Corrosives-12, Venom-8, Drugs-24, Others-25
Thunga G et al. 2010 ¹²⁶	100	21-30	2.1	South	Pesticides-100, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Vaidya YP et al. 2012 ¹²⁷	1003	21-30	1.8	West	Pesticides-400, Corrosives-0, Venom-350, Drugs-143, Others-110
Vanishree et al. 2016 ¹²⁸	384	21-30	2.2	South	Pesticides-241, Corrosives-10, Venom-70, Drugs-55, Others-8

Varma NM et al. 2011 ¹²⁹	143	21-30	1.86	West	Pesticides-81, Corrosives-10, Venom-21, Drugs-0, Others-41
Verma P et al. 2018 ¹³⁰	120	21-30	1.66	Central	Pesticides-90, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-30
Vivekanandan K et al. 2012 ¹³¹	232	16-30	1.5	South	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-54, Others-68
Waghmare CS et al. 2014 ¹³²	110	NA	NA	Central	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Waghmare S et al. 2014 ¹³³	70	21-30	2.3	West	Pesticides-26, Corrosives-5, Venom-1, Drugs-19, Others-19
Yadav VK et al. 2018 ¹³⁴	1622	22-32	1.2	Central	Pesticides-716, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-137, Others-757

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Supplementary Table S1b: List of Poisons consumed in the included studies

Classification of poison consumed in our study				
Pesticides	Corrosives	Venom	Drugs	Miscellaneous
Organophosphates: Chlorpyrifos, Dimethoate, Malathion, Monocrotophos, Parathion, Quinolphos, Phorate Organochlorines: Endosulphan. Lindane, DDT Carbamates-Aldicarb, Aminocarb, Propoxur Rodenticides: Aluminium Phosphide, Zinc Phosphide, Bromodialone Pyrethroids- Cypermethrine, Imidacloprid, Transfluthrine, Prallethrine Herbicides: Paraquat, Pretilachor	Acids- Mineral-Boric Acid, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Nitric acid Organic-Carboic acid (phenol) Alkalis- Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic soda), Button Battery Ingestion	Snake Bite (Cobra, Krait, Russel's Viper, Saw scaled Viper), Scorpion stings, Spider bite, Hymenoptera stings (Ants, Bees, Wasps)	Alcohol- Ethyl Alcohol, Methanol Pharmacologic Active Ingredient: Agents-Analgesics, Antidepressants, Antiepileptic Antiretroviral drugs, Anti-tuberculosis, Antipsychotics, Antihypertensives, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Beta blockers, Calcium channel blockers, Salicylates, Ointments Opioids, Paracetamol, Diazepam, NSAIDs, Narcotics, Alprazolam, Chloroquine Sedative overdose,	Hydrocarbons- Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene Plant Origin- Castor Oil, Cannabis Indica, Bhang, Opium, Dhatura, Oleander, Tobacco, Jatropha Curcas, Food Poisoning Inorganic Irritants-Copper Sulphate, Iron, Mercury, Lithium, Lead, EDTA, Potassium Permanganate Industrial Chemical- Aniline dyes, Cyanide, Toxic Fumes, Dettol, Disinfectant, House cleaner, Detergents Hair dye, Herbal, Thinner Turpentine Oil Unknown Chemical analysis report awaited.

Fumigants -Camphor, Naphthalene, Nitrobenzene			Amlodipine+Atenolol, Haloperidol, Valproate Ibuprofen, Phenytoin, Thyroxine and Ear Drops	
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PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	1
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	3-4
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	5
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	5
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and if available, provide registration information including registration number.	4/6
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	6
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	6
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	6
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	6
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	6
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	6
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	-
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	7
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., I^2) for each meta-analysis.	7



PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).	-
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	-
RESULTS			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	9
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	9, Table 1 and Table 1S
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	-
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	9-11
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	9-11
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).	-
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).	-
DISCUSSION			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).	12-
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	15
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	15
FUNDING			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	16

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097



PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Page 2 of 2

For peer review only

BMJ Open

Toxicoepidemiology of Poisoning Exhibited in Indian population from 2010 to 2020: A Systematic review and Meta-analysis

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Running title: Prevalence of poisoning in India.

Authors: Chaitanya Mittal¹, Surjit Singh², Praveen Kumar-M³, Shoban Babu Varthya^{4*}

Affiliations:

¹Senior Resident, department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, India. Email id: chaitanya_sog@yahoo.co.in. ORCID id: 0000-0002-1842-5627.

²Additional Professor, Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, India. Email id: sehmbys_ss@yahoo.com. ORCID id: 0000-0002-8990-3235.

³Senior Resident, Department of Pharmacology, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. Email Id: praveenkumarpigiindia@gmail.com. ORCID id: 0000-0002-9318-1167.

^{4*}Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, All India institute of medical sciences, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. Email Id: drshobanpgimer@gmail.com. ORCID id: 0000-0002-7163-0400

Corresponding Author:

Dr Shoban Babu Varthya*

Assistant Professor

Department of Pharmacology

AIIMS, Jodhpur, Rajasthan - 342005

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E-mail – drshobanpgimer@gmail.com

Phone – 8437726777

Telephone No. 02912833229

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Abstract:

Objectives: Prevalence of pesticide, corrosives, drugs, venom and miscellaneous poisoning in India.

Settings: Systematic literature search was done in PubMed Central, Cochrane and google scholar databases for studies satisfying inclusion criteria. Systematic review and meta-analysis of all observational studies published in English language from January 2010 to May 2020 were included in this review.

Participants: Patients exposed to poisoning reported to hospitals were included.

Primary and Secondary outcome measures: Prevalence of Pesticides poisoning was analysed. Prevalence of corrosives, venom, drugs and miscellaneous agents along with subgroup analysis based on age and region was also done. Percentage of person with poisoning along with 95% CI was analyzed.

Results: Pooled analysis of studies revealed that pesticide poisoning constitutes to be the main cause of poisoning with incidence of 63%(95%CI–63% to 64%) in adults and miscellaneous to be the main cause in children with incidence of 45.0%(95%CI–43.1% to 46.9%), presenting to hospital. Pesticide was most prevalent in north India (79.1%,95%CI–78.4% to 79.9%) followed by south (65.9%,95%CI–65.3% to 66.6%), central (59.2%,95%CI–7.9% to 60.4%), west (53.1%,95%CI–51.9% to 54.2%), north east (46.9%,95%CI–41.5% to 52.4%) and eastern (38.5%, 95%CI–37.3% to 39.7%) part of India. The second most common cause of poisoning was with miscellaneous (18%, 95%CI – 18% to 19%) agents, followed by drugs (10%, 95% CI – 10% to 10%), venoms (6% (95%CI– 6% to 6%) and corrosives (2%, 95%CI–1% to 2%).

Conclusions: Pesticide poisoning is the most common type of poison used in adults while miscellaneous agent remain main cause of poisoning in children.

Systematic review registration: PROSPERO 2020 CRD42020199427 Available from:

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Key words: Prevalence, Poisoning, Pesticides, Drugs, India.

Strengths and limitations of this study
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In this study more than 50 thousand participants from 134 studies were included for evaluating the types and the manner of poisoning, and their prevalence rates in Indian population, from January 2010 to May 2020.▪ Age wise and region wise distribution of prevalence of poisoning was also analyzed.▪ Research gaps have been identified about patient’s medical outcome in the analysis.▪ Limitations include that the results of the review were drawn from analysis of observational studies.

Introduction:

A poison is a substance that is capable of causing illness or harm to the living organisms on contact or upon introduction into the body. Toxins and venoms are poisons of biological origin, with the latter term usually reserved for those injected by the bite or sting of a poisonous animal. Poisoning has become an increasing cause of concern over the past decade, not only in India but globally [1].

In the year 2016, deaths due to suicide were around 800 thousand worldwide. It implies the annual world suicide rate of 10.5 per lakh population, but in India the suicide rate is almost double (18.5 suicide deaths for 1 lakh population). Majority (79%) of suicides occurs in low and middle income countries. Ingestion of poison is one of the most common mode of suicide in low and middle income countries such as India [2]. Among the poisons, pesticides contributes to majority of poisoning cases in India [3]. Pesticide poisoning in India is highly prevalent because of its widespread use for agricultural and household activities. Other poisoning agents are household agents, envenomation, and drugs. It is observed that agricultural or household pesticides and drugs are taken intentionally whereas intake of corrosives, kerosene, other miscellaneous agents and bite by animals, happen accidentally [4, 5].

World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that death due to envenomation is around one lakh and around three times the people who survived were disabled due to amputation and incomplete recovery. Approximately half of these deaths were reported from India due to natural existence of different poisonous species like snakes, scorpions and spiders. In this regard, WHO initiated a strategy for prevention and control of snakebite related deaths and disability [6].

The aggravating or predisposing factors in emerging countries like India, varies from financial stress to psychiatric illness, along with socio-cultural practices like patriarchal system. The

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patriarchal system makes females more dependent on males financially and therefore increase suicide risk in them [7-9].

The pattern of poisoning varies between the geographical regions of the country. Understanding the geographical pattern of poisoning in a country helps in the identification of risk factors. This along with integration of preventive and promotive health services, may help in reduction of morbidity and mortality [10].

Due to lack of comprehensive scientific data on the prevalence of poisoning and their variation with age and region, the preventive, curative and rehabilitation measures are poorly implemented in India. Therefore the present systematic review and meta-analysis was done to study the prevalence of various types of poisoning in India and their variation with age and region.

Materials and Methods:

Protocol and registration: The study protocol was registered with PROSPERO-International prospective register of systematic reviews. Available as Shoban Babu Varthya, Chaitanya Mittal, Surjit Singh. Comprehensive Analysis of Incidence and Prevalence of Poisoning in India and its Regions: A Systematic review and Meta-analysis. PROSPERO 2020 CRD42020199427 Available from: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospERO/display_record.php?ID=CRD42020199427.

Methods: In this review, we have surveyed and evaluated various observational studies across India regarding the prevalence of poisoning. In our review, pesticides, corrosives, venom, drugs and other miscellaneous agents were regarded as poison for analysis.

Eligibility criteria: To analyze the prevalence of poisoning, studies with participants exposed to acute poisoning, irrespective of outcome of patients were included in analysis. We had included observational studies (retrospective/prospective/cross-sectional) published between the year 2010-2020 in English language, with endpoint of prevalence of poisoning in India. This analysis helps in generating overall prevalence of poisoning in India and their variation with age and region.

Information sources: A literature search done using the MeSH terms, such as 'prevalence' 'poison', 'poisoning', 'pesticides', 'organophosphate', 'corrosives', 'drugs' and 'India', from three databases (PubMed Central, Cochrane and google scholar). Additional studies were identified through cross-references of selected article.

Search: Search strategy of PubMed provided in **Supplementary file 1**. Last search was done on May 2020.

Study selection and data collection process: studies were selected based on predefined eligibility criteria. All eligible articles taken for further screening after removing duplicates and

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unrelated to study inclusion criteria. Studies which are included after review of abstracts were evaluated by screening the full text. All data with regard to authorship, year of publication, study design, study population (patients consumed poison), baseline characteristics (age, sex, marital status, educational status, type of family etc.), list of poisons included in the study, total study population, and any other relevant outcomes essential for data synthesis were extracted from the selected studies. Study selection and data collection was done by two authors independently and compiled after complete data retrieval. If any conflict exists than third author revised and resolved the conflict.

Summary measures: The data on prevalence was presented in percentages across the age group and regions.

Meta-analysis (quantitative synthesis)

Dichotomous data i.e. percentage of subjects having particular poisoning were analysed and reported along with 95% confidence interval (CI). The meta-analysis of proportions was done using R software. R software packages used were meta and metafor. The results of both random effect model as well as fixed effect model were calculated. Fixed effect model assumes that the between study variance is zero, whereas random effect model takes both within- and between-study variances into account. If the heterogeneity is greater than 40%, the results of random effect model will be more representative of the data. To prevent the underestimation of size of the confidence interval around the weighted average proportion and an overestimation of the degree of heterogeneity across the observed proportions, we used Freeman Tukey double arcsine transformation (DAT). This will help the data to conform to the normal distribution as much as possible, enhancing the validity and generalizability of statistical analyses.

Heterogeneity was estimated using tau (τ). Sub-group analysis was done to estimate whether there is difference in percentage of individuals ingested pesticide poisoning with regard to geographical area and among children and adults. This was done with the assumption that there

is common between study variance component across studies, thereby pooling the within group estimates of τ^2 , estimated using Freeman Tukey DAT.

GRADE Pro analysis to Assess the Quality of Evidence: The overall quality of evidence for each of the outcomes would have been assessed using GRADE pro GDT (guideline development tool) software based on the principles of Grades of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations (GRADE) [5, 11]. GRADE pro doesn't recommend for analysis of grading the evidence if it is a single group analysis. Hence no Grading of evidence was done for endpoints.

Patient and Public involvement

No patients and public involvement in the study

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Results:

Study selection: An initial search of all the databases yielded a total of 859 articles. After removal of duplicates, 626 articles remained, which were subjected to the inclusion and exclusion criteria laid down. A thorough screening of the papers based on their title and abstract reduced the search results to 214 and in final analysis 134 articles were included. Among the excluded articles, review articles were 23, pooled analysis were 2, Heavy metals poisoning were 21, individual poison other than pesticides were 23 and full text were not available for 8 articles. Authors of the three articles were contacted with requests to help us access their specific poisoning data, which was excluded as it was not provided. Therefore, the final qualitative and quantitative synthesis was performed on 134 research articles. Given below, **Figure 1** illustrates a flow chart with the various steps of the Systematic Review.

Study characteristics: Study characteristics of included studies enumerated in **Table 1** and description of each study along with their references listed in **supplementary Table S1a**.

Demographic distribution: The manner of poisoning shows that, the suicidal poisoning more common than the accidental poisoning. The highest prevalence of poisoning was observed in persons between the age group of 19-40 years (105 studies). Overall sex ratio was 1.7. Male to female ratio was highest in northern region of India (2.35) and lowest in eastern region of India (1.28).

Agents responsible for poisoning: we have broadly classified poisons into 5 categories, pesticides, corrosives, venom, drugs and others. Overall, pesticide poisoning stands to be more common in India and across the region and then miscellaneous (18%), than drugs (11%) and venom (10%), and corrosives (3%). Details of poisonous agent in each group enumerated in **supplementary Table 1Sb**

Study type: Majority of the studies were retrospective observational studies (retrospective studies: 75, prospective studies: 47, cross-sectional studies: 12).

Outcomes: the pooled data prevalence of various poisons enumerated in **Table 2**

Percentage of Pesticide and Corrosives poisoning

Pooled analysis of studies revealed pesticide poisoning to be the main cause of poisoning in 63%(95%CI–63% to 64%; $I^2 = 100\%$, $p < 0.01$) presenting to hospital, using fixed effect model. The random effect model prevalence of pesticide poisoning among individual to be around 62% (95%CI–56% to 68%) (**Supplementary Figure 1**). In adults, pesticide poisoning is main cause of poisoning in 65.3% (95%CI–64.8% to 65.7%) and 66.8% (95%CI–61.4% to 71.9%) of individuals, using fixed and random effect models. In children, pesticide is responsible for 22.4% (95%CI–20.7% to 24.0%; $I^2 = 100\%$, $p < 0.01$) and 23.2%(95%CI–11.4% to 37.6%) of children, with fixed and random effect, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 1**). Prevalence of pesticide poisoning in Central, east, north-east, north, south and west regions of India were among 59.2%(95%CI–57.9% to 60.4%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p < 0.01$), 38.5%(95% CI–37.3% to 39.7%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p < 0.01$), 46.9%(95%CI–41.5% to 52.4%; $I^2 = 0\%$, $p = 0.64$), 79.1%(95%CI–78.4% to 79.9%; $I^2 = 100\%$, $p < 0.01$), 65.9%(95%CI–65.3% to 66.6%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p < 0.01$), 53.1%(95%CI–51.9% to 54.2%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p < 0.01$) with fixed effect model analysis (**Supplementary Figure 1**). The random effect results were given in **Supplementary Figure 1**. Pesticide was most prevalent poisoning in North India followed by south, central, west, north east and eastern part of India.

Pooled analysis of studies revealed corrosives to be the cause of poisoning in 2% (95%CI – 1% to 2%; $I^2 = 96\%$, $p < 0.01$) and 3% (95% CI – 2% to 3%) in patients, using fixed effect and random effect model, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 2**).

Percentage of Venom and Drugs poisoning

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Pooled analysis of studies revealed cause of poisoning to be snake bites in 6% (95%CI–6% to 6%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$) of individuals presenting to hospital, using fixed effect model. The random effect model prevalence of snake bite poisoning among individual to be around 3% (95% CI–2% to 5%) (**Supplementary Figure 2**).

The fixed and random effect model predicts prevalence of drugs poisoning among individuals to be around 10% (95%CI–10% to 10%, $I^2 = 98\%$, $p<0.01$) and 9% (95%CI–7% to 11%), respectively (**Supplementary Figure 2**).

Percentage of Miscellaneous causes of poisoning

Pooled analysis of studies revealed poisoning with miscellaneous agents in 18% (95%C –18% to 19%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$) in individuals presenting to hospital, using fixed effect model. The random effect model prevalence of miscellaneous agents poisoning among individual to be around 15% (95%CI–13% to 18%) (**Supplementary Figure 3**). In adults, miscellaneous agents are second most common cause of poisoning with 16.9% (95%CI–16.6% to 17.3%) and 12.8% (95%CI–10.3% to 15.6%) of individuals, using fixed and random effect models. In children, miscellaneous agents are most common cause of poisoning, responsible for 45.0% (95% CI–43.1% to 46.9%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p<0.01$) and 39.6% (95%CI–12.7% to 18.1%) of children, with fixed and random effect, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 3**).

Subgroup analysis of Corrosive and Venom poisoning

In adults, prevalence of corrosive poisoning was 1.3% (95% CI–1.1% to 1.4%; $I^2=95\%$, $p<0.01$) and 1.7% (95%CI–1.1% to 2.5%) of individuals, using fixed and random effect models. In children, prevalence of corrosive poisoning was 10.8% (95%CI–9.6% to 12%; $I^2=91\%$, $p<0.01$) and 11.2% (95%CI–7.2% to 15.8%) of children, with fixed and random effect, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 4**). Prevalence of venom poisoning in east and west regions of India were among 24.6%(95% CI–23.6% to 25.7%; $I^2=99\%$, $p<0.01$),

15.1%(95%CI-14.3% to 16%; $I^2 = 99\%$, $p<0.01$) with fixed effect model analysis (Supplementary Figure 4). The fixed effect model analysis of other regions and the random effect results of all regions were given in Supplementary Figure 4. Venom was most prevalent poisoning in East and West India than other parts of India.

Publication Bias

Publication bias was low, as the funnel plot of 134 studies appears to be asymmetrical around the intervention effect estimate for percentage of individuals having pesticide poisoning (Figure 2). We applied Egger's regression test for funnel plot asymmetry which showed the value of $t = 0.9137$ and p -value of 0.3609, indicating low publication bias.

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Discussion:

In order to delineate the poisoning trends in India, a comprehensive analysis of various type of poisoning and their distribution among different age groups and regions is essential. The epidemiological data on poisoning available in India is either from government sources like National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) or independent studies conducted at the tertiary care hospitals. It has been observed that, NCRB underreports the male and female deaths by around 25% and 36%, respectively [3]. Therefore, we conducted the current review to analyse the prevalence of various types of poisoning in India from the published observational studies.

Suicidal deaths by intake of poisonous agents or by hanging constitutes to be the leading cause of death in individual between 15–39 years in India [12]. Death by poisoning thus constitutes to be a major public health issue in India [13]. Among poisoning agents, pesticides constitutes to be the leading cause of poisoning because of coexistence of poverty, agricultural farming thus easy availability and patriarchal society in India[14].

Present review showed that highly vulnerable age group was 19-40 years (45%). The results were similar to the study done by Kamaruzaman et al., who concluded that about 44.6% of poisoning patients aged between 20-39 years [15]. However, Patel et al., observed that suicide was most common between 15-29 years of age. This may be due to prospective cohort design of Patel et al., while we pooled the data from all types of observational study [3]. Young adults aged 19-40 years has the financial as well as the social responsibilities of their family due to social transformation [16].

In our review, it was observed that the males to females ratio of chances of exposure to poisoning was 1:7. We found higher male to female ratio than the study done by Patel et al. (1.7 vs 1-1.5)[3]. The possible reason for this is that we included all cases of poisoning while Patel et al. included only suicide by poisoning in their study. Several reasons for committing

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3 suicide by poisons are suggested, Men and farmers of low socio-economic status suffered from
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5 severe stress because of their inability to cope up with the expectations of the rapidly urbanizing
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7 society. Expecting higher returns from commercial crops, small farmers take higher risk by
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9 taking loans which they are unable to pay, due to inability to sell crops at expected rates.
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11 Inability to support the family responsibilities due to low income from farming, often leads to
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13 increases rates of suicides among them [17, 18]. In India, women after marriage has to migrate to
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15 men house and she has to adopt new traditions, rituals and customs [19]. This sort of migration
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17 and prevalent patriarchal behaviour increases the conflict and mistreatment of women [10].
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19 Factors like family quarrels, dowry, cruelty by in-laws, etc. along with lack of independent
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21 source of income of house wives results in their over dependence on men [20, 21]. This leads to
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23 increased suicides by consuming poisons.
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29 Pesticide poisoning is the most common type of poisoning with overall prevalence of 62% (2
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31 in every 3 poison cases) and prevalence of around 68% in adult population and 32% in children.
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33 Region wise, the proportion of pesticide poisoning in north India is about 79% (more than 3/4th
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35 of total poison cases), south India is 65%, central India is 60%, western India is 53% and less
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37 than 50% in east and north east India. Initiation of programme of safe access of pesticides by
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39 WHO and its member countries resulted in decrease in prevalence of fatal poisoning by 10%
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41 across the world. However, still pesticide poisoning is the leading cause of poisoning in South
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43 Asian countries including India, South East Asia and China [1, 22-24]. Many studies have
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45 concluded that the strict restriction of highly lethal pesticides by legal mechanism or policy
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47 actions drastically reduces the deaths [8, 25, 26].
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53 The pooled prevalence of corrosive poisoning in whole population in India was found to be
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55 around 2% of total poisoning cases. In adult population it constitutes around 1.3% and in
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57 children's around 10.8%. Higher prevalence of corrosive poisoning in children's may due to
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59 their inquisitive nature, their tendency to explore household items containing corrosive
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cleaning agents [27]. In USA, corrosive ingestions constitutes about 8%–9% of total poisoning in all patients [28]. This difference may be because of underreporting of events in India [27].

Snake bite remains a major challenge in rural India as 71% of total population lives in rural India and they primarily depend on agriculture for livelihood [29]. The overall prevalence of venom poisoning in India is 6% of all poisoning cases. Among all envenomation cases (6%), eastern and western part of India contributes around 24% and 15% of venom poisoning cases respectively. We have observed regional differences in envenomation, may be due to topography of eastern and western Ghats. The spatial distribution of cases were similar to eastern part but not in the western part of India, in the study done by Suraweera et al. This difference is due to exclusion of studies reporting only snake bites from our meta-analysis [30].

Drug overdose constitutes about 10% of poisoning cases in India, may be it is possibly due to easy availability of drugs and alcohol. In India, many prescription drugs are available over the counter. Though we haven't performed sex wise distribution of drug poisoning but evidence from literature showed that females used drugs more commonly to commit suicide [16]. In agricultural societies, males typically work in field during daytime, whereas women look after household activities. Therefore, the choice of pesticides among men and drugs or chemicals among women may be partially explained by their occupational proximity to different type of poisoning agents [31].

Miscellaneous agents accounts for 18% of cases among all causes of poisoning. In children's, its prevalence was 45% whereas in adults it is 16%. Higher prevalence of poisoning among children is due to their exploratory behaviour leading to accidental ingestion. In addition, negligence of parents and caretakers may also be a contributing factor [32-34]. Poisoning in preschool or toddler age group is primarily unintentional or accidental. In adolescents, it is

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3 mostly of suicidal nature. Most commonly used products were kerosene and sterilizing agents
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5 [35-37].
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8 The purpose of present study was primarily to determine the prevalence of various poisonous
9 agents and their area-wise distribution. The overall observation is that the men 19-40 years of
10 age usually consume the pesticide poisons intentionally and the housewives and children's
11 consumes drugs or miscellaneous agents intentionally or accidentally. Establishment of
12 specialized toxicological units for detection and management of poisoning cases at all hospitals
13 and primary health care centres could considerably minimize the morbidity and mortality
14 associated with poisoning. Similar to USA, India must develop a central database on national
15 poisoning statistics for decentralised management of poisoning. Adequate preventive measures
16 with stable employment opportunities, bridging the socio-cultural gap between males and
17 females, along with proper supervision and care of children's can reduce the poisoning cases
18 in India.
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34 **Strengths and limitations of this study:** The study provides comprehensive overview of
35 poisoning in India as analyzed from observational studies published from January 2010 to May
36 2020. Results were represented as types, manner, demographic patterns and prevalence rates
37 of various poisoning cases. In addition, persons at high-risk of poisoning with particular agent.
38 The data presented in this study may be underreported as moderate to severe poisoning cases
39 reports to hospital. There was no analysis on medical outcome of patients, thereby restricting
40 the scope of analysis.
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51 **Conclusion:** Pesticide is the most common type of poison consumed intentionally by adults
52 especially male farmers of rural India while miscellaneous agent remains the main cause of
53 poisoning in children. This information will be useful for government of India for its
54 decentralized and people centric policy decisions to meet its target under United Nations
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Sustained Developmental Goals (SDG) for substantially reducing illness and death due to poisoning.

Strict restriction of highly lethal pesticides by legal or policy actions drastically reduces the deaths. Preventive measure must be developed for high-risk groups identified in our study. Legislative control on the sale and use of pesticides, and stress management are recommended along with better health care facilities to prevent poisoning related death.

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Author Contributions.

Study design and planning of systematic review - All of the authors

Literature search – SBV, CM, SS

Figures - PKM, SS

Tables – SBV, PKM, CM

Data collection and analysis - SS, SBV, PKM

Data interpretation – SS, CM, SBV, PKM

Writing – All authors

Corrections and Final approval of Manuscript - All of the authors

Data sharing statement section: The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on request.

Ethical Approval Statement: Not applicable

For peer review only

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Figure Legends

Figure 1 PRISMA Flow Chart of selection of studies for systematic review

Figure 2: Publication Bias

Supplementary Figure 1: Percentage of patients with Pesticide poisoning (1Sa - Overall, 1Sb - Age wise and 1Sc - Region wise)

Supplementary Figure 2: Prevalence of poisoning with Corrosives (2Sa), Venom (2Sb), and Drugs (2Sc)

Supplementary Figure 3: Prevalence of poisoning with Miscellaneous agents (3Sa) and Age wise distribution (3Sb)

Supplementary Figure 4: Age wise distribution of corrosives (4Sa) and Region wise distribution of venom (4Sb).

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of study population included in the analysis

Table 2: Percentage pooled data of various poisoning encountered in India

Supplementary Table S1a: Characteristics of individual studies

Supplementary Table S1b: List of Poisons consumed in the included studies

Supplementary File: Search strategy.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of study population included in the analysis

Study characteristics	Percentage of study population
Type of studies (N=134) 1. Retrospective (75) 2. Cross sectional (12) 3. Prospective (47)	56% 9% 35%
Regional distribution study population (%) 1. Central (N=21; n=5854) 2. East (N=9; n=6684) 3. North East (N=2; n= 330) 4. North (N=21; n=11628) 5. South (N=61; n=21212) 6. West (N=20; n=7123)	11% 13% 1% 22% 40% 13%
Male female Ratio 1. Central (N=21; n=5854) 2. East (N=9; n=6684) 3. North East (N=2; n= 330) 4. North (N=21; n=11561) 5. South (N=61; n=21279) 6. West (N=20; n=7123) 7. India (N=134; n=52831)	1.51 1.28 1.66 2.35 1.77 1.87 1.74
Age wise distribution 1. >18 years (n=12642) 2. 19-60 (n=34653) 3. >60 (n=2228)	26% 70% 4%
Marital status(N=62) 1. Married (n=12027) 2. Unmarried (n=6499)	65% 35%
Educational status(N=31) 1. Literate (n=5467) 2. Illiterate (n=2373)	70% 30%
Type of family(N=13) 1. Nuclear (n=1248) 2. Joint (n=1780)	41% 59%
Area wise distribution(N=80) 1. Rural (n=15896) 2. Urban (n=9726)	62% 38%
Occupational distribution(N=61) 1. Farmers (n=9404) 2. House wives (n=2481) 3. Students (n=1686) 4. Labourers (n=1448) 5. Service (n=609) 6. Unemployed (n=704) 7. Self-employed (n=385)	56% 15% 10% 9% 4% 4% 2%
Manner of poisoning (N=111) 1. Suicidal (n=30652) 2. Accidental (n=11616) 3. Others (n=926)	71% 27% 2%

N-total number of studies; n-sample size

Table 2: Percentage pooled data of various poisoning encountered in India

Outcome	% of pooled data	95% CI	I ²	p-value
Percentage Pesticide poisoning				
Overall	FEM -63% REM - 62%	63% to 64% 56% to 68%	100%	<0.01
Adults	FEM-65.3% REM- 66.8%	64.8% to 65.7% 61.4% to 71.9%	100%	<0.01
Childrens	FEM-22.4% REM- 23.2%	20.7% to 24.0% 11.4% to 37.6%	94%	<0.001
Region wise				
Central	FEM-59.2% REM- 60%	57.9% to 60.4% 46.5% to 74.2%	99%	<0.01
East	FEM-42.3% REM- 60%	37.3% to 39.7% 22% to 64%	99%	<0.01
North East	FEM-46.9% REM- 47.5%	41.5% to 52.3% 8.2% to 88.8%	0%	=0.64
North	FEM-79.1% REM- 56.4%	78.4% to 79.9% 42% to 70%	100%	<0.01
South	FEM-65.9% REM- 68.6%	65.3% to 66.6% 60% to 76%	99%	<0.01
West	FEM-63.1% REM- 61.9%	62.7% to 63.5% 56.3% to 67.4%	99%	<0.01
Percentage Corrosive poisoning				
Overall	FEM- 2% REM -3%	1% to 2 % 2% to 3%	96%	<0.01
Adults	FEM- 1.3% REM-1.7%	1.1% to 1.4% 1.1% to 2.5%	95%	<0.01
Childrens	FEM-10.8% REM-11.2%	9.6% to 12% 7.2% to 15.8%	91%	<0.01
Percentage Venom poisoning				
Overall	FEM- 6% REM- 3%	6% to 6% 2% to 5%	99%	<0.01
Region wise				
Central	FEM-1.4% REM- 2.3%	1% to 1.7% 0.3% to 5%	97%	<0.01
East	FEM-24.6% REM- 12%	23.6% to 25.7% 4.9% to 21%	99%	<0.01
North East	FEM-10.9% REM- 6.2%	7.7% to 14% 0% to 25%	98%	<0.01
North	FEM-0.07% REM- 1.2%	0% to 0.2% 0% to 4.2%	95%	<0.01
South	FEM-3.5% REM- 1.9%	3.2% to 3.8% 0.6% to 3.7%	98%	<0.01
West	FEM-15.1% REM- 10%	14.3% to 16% 5.2% to 16%	99%	<0.01
Percentage Drug poisoning				
Overall	FEM-10% REM- 9%	10% to 10% 7% to 11%	98%	<0.01
Percentage of Miscellaneous causes of poisoning				

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Overall	FEM-18% REM- 15%	18% to 19% 13% to 18%	99%	<0.01
Adults	FEM- 16.9% REM-12.8%	16.6% to 17.3% 10.3% to 15.6%	99%	<0.01
Childrens	FEM- 45% REM- 39.6%	43.1% to 46.9% 29.1% to 50.5%	94%	<0.01

FEM: Fixed Effect Model, REM: Random Effect Model.

For peer review only

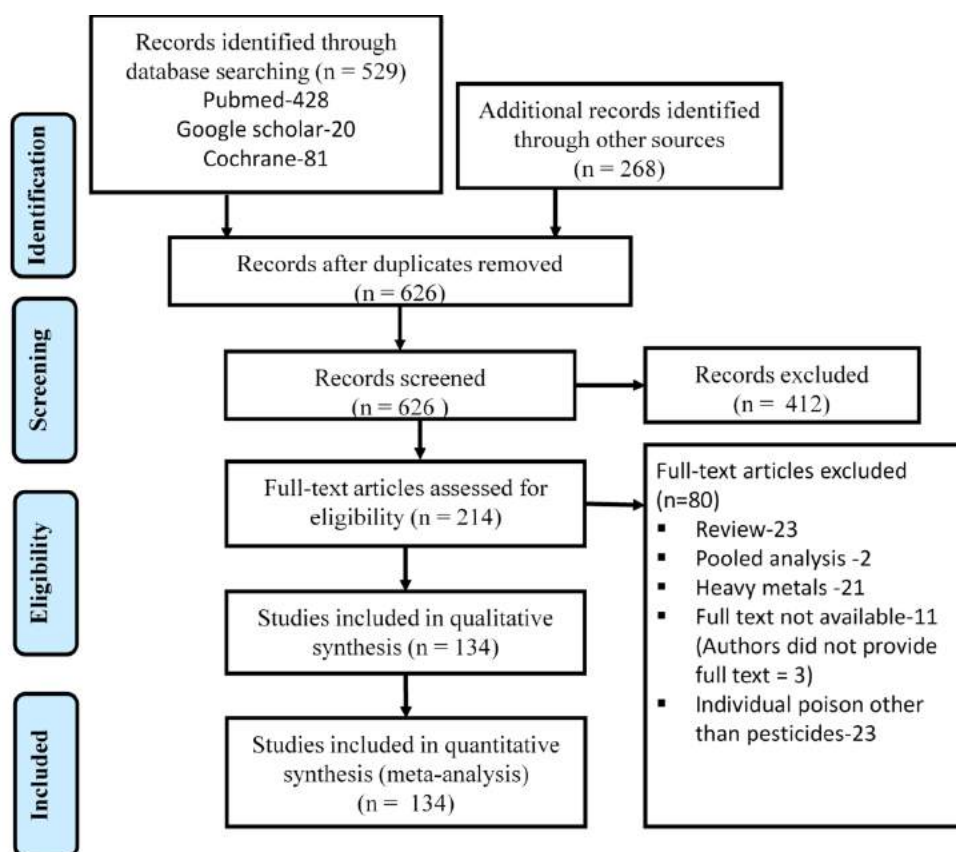


Figure 1 PRISMA Flow Chart of selection of studies for systematic review

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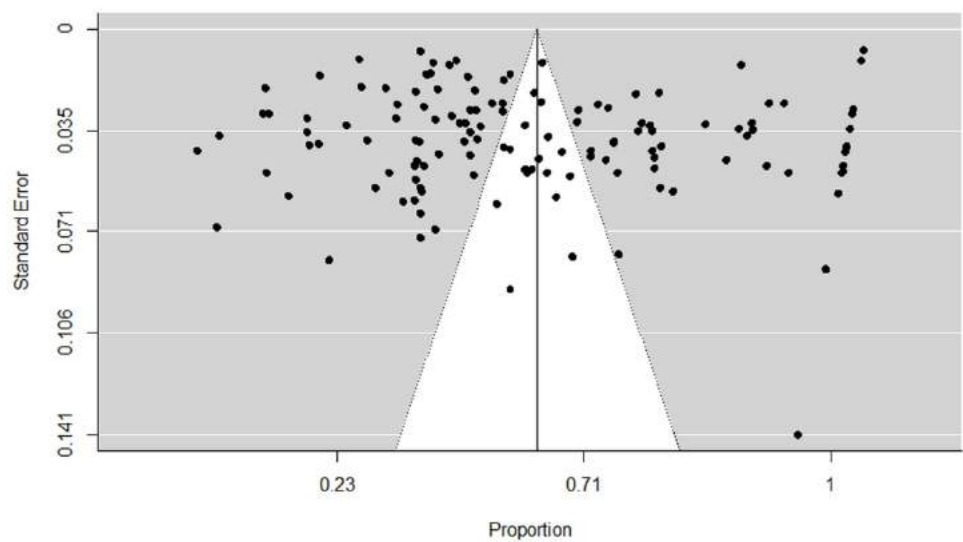
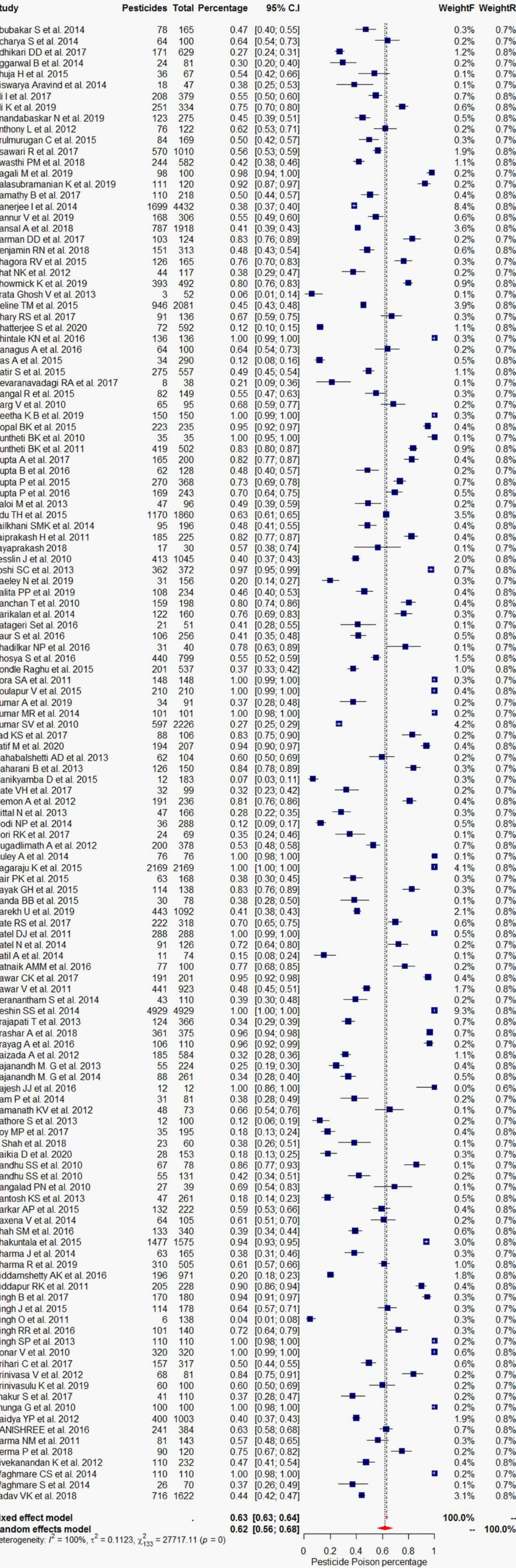


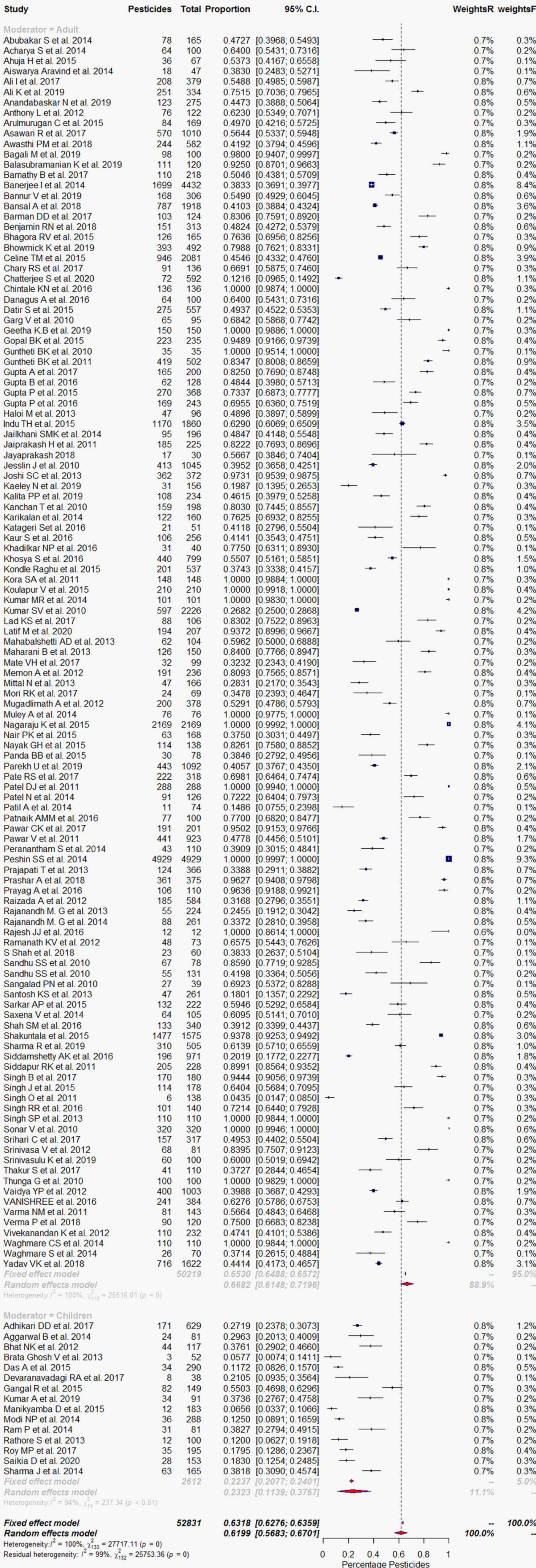
Figure 2: Publication Bias
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Supplementary Figure 1Sabc: Percentage of patients with Pesticide poisoning (1Sa - Overall, 1Sb Age wise and 1Sc - Region wise)

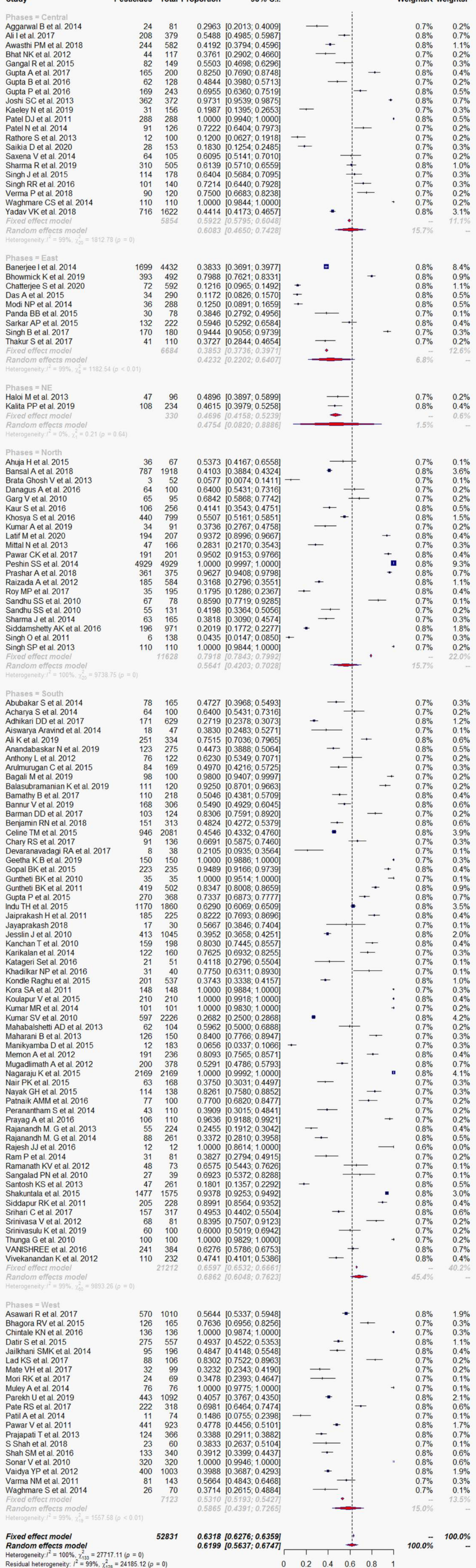
1Sa

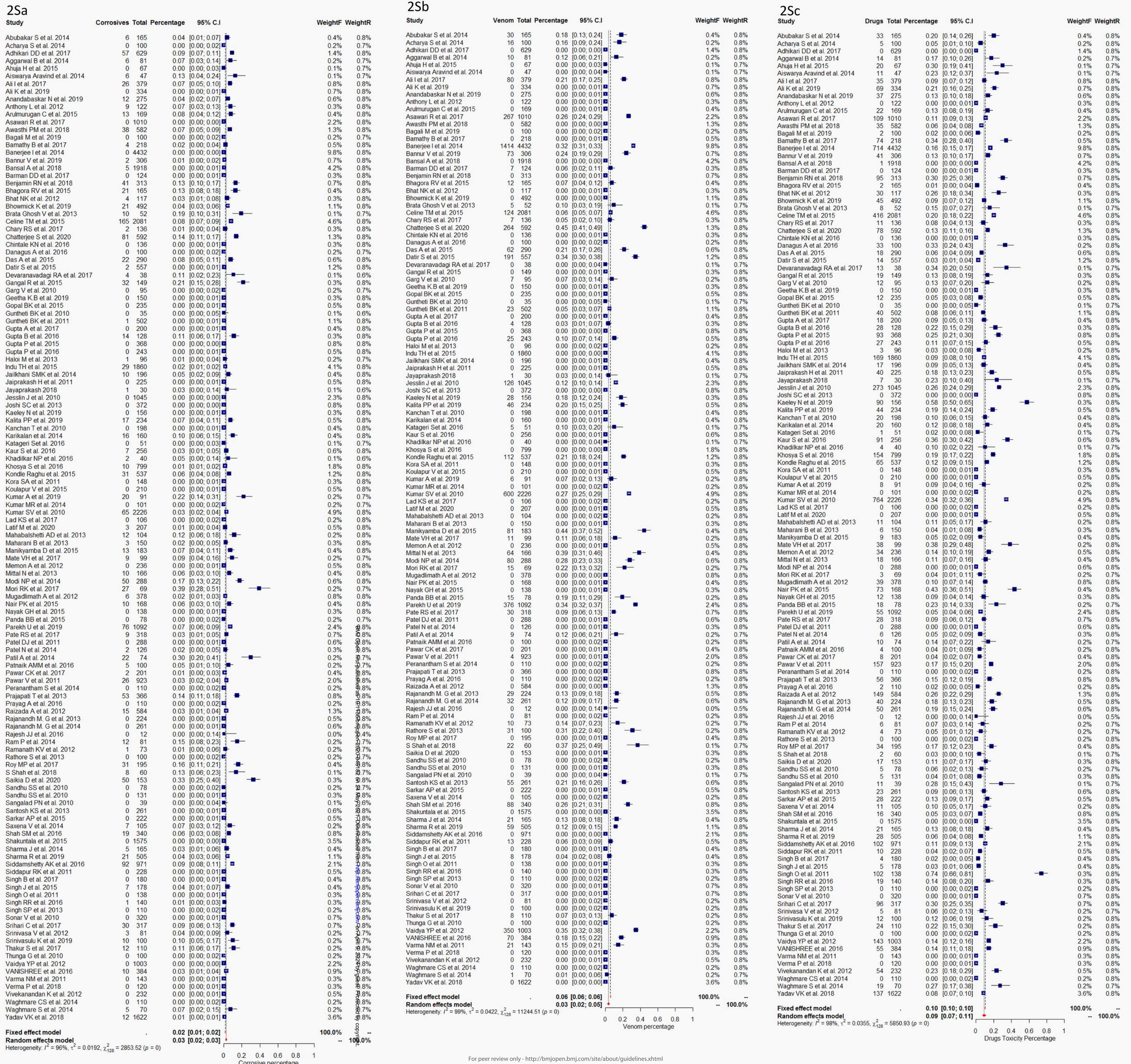


1Sb



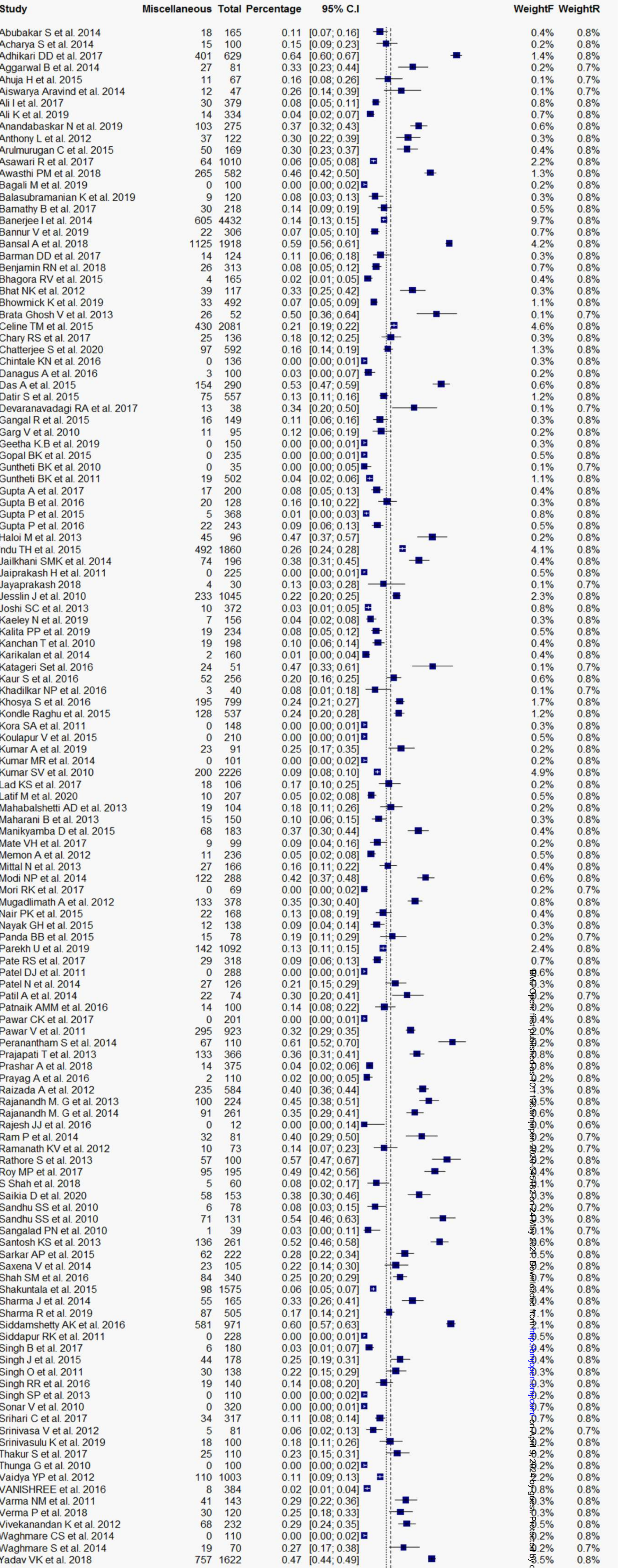
1Sc



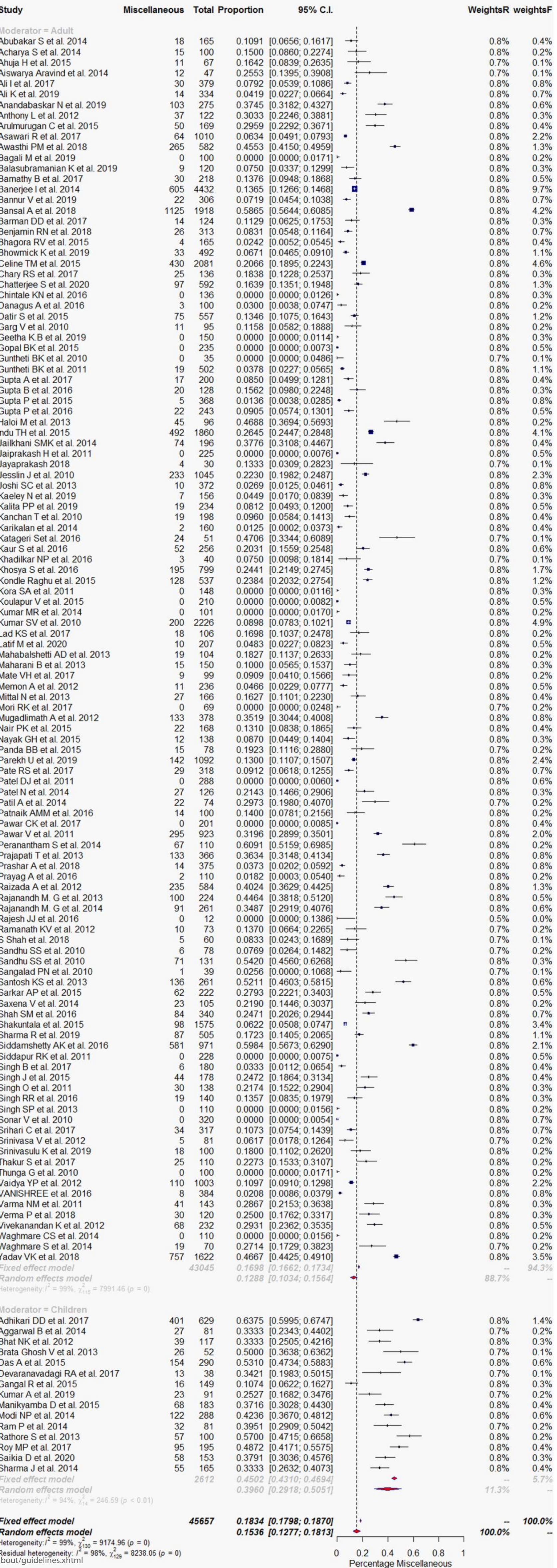


Supplementary Figure 3Sab: Prevalence of poisoning with Miscellaneous agents (3Sa) and Age wise distribution (3Sb)

3Sa

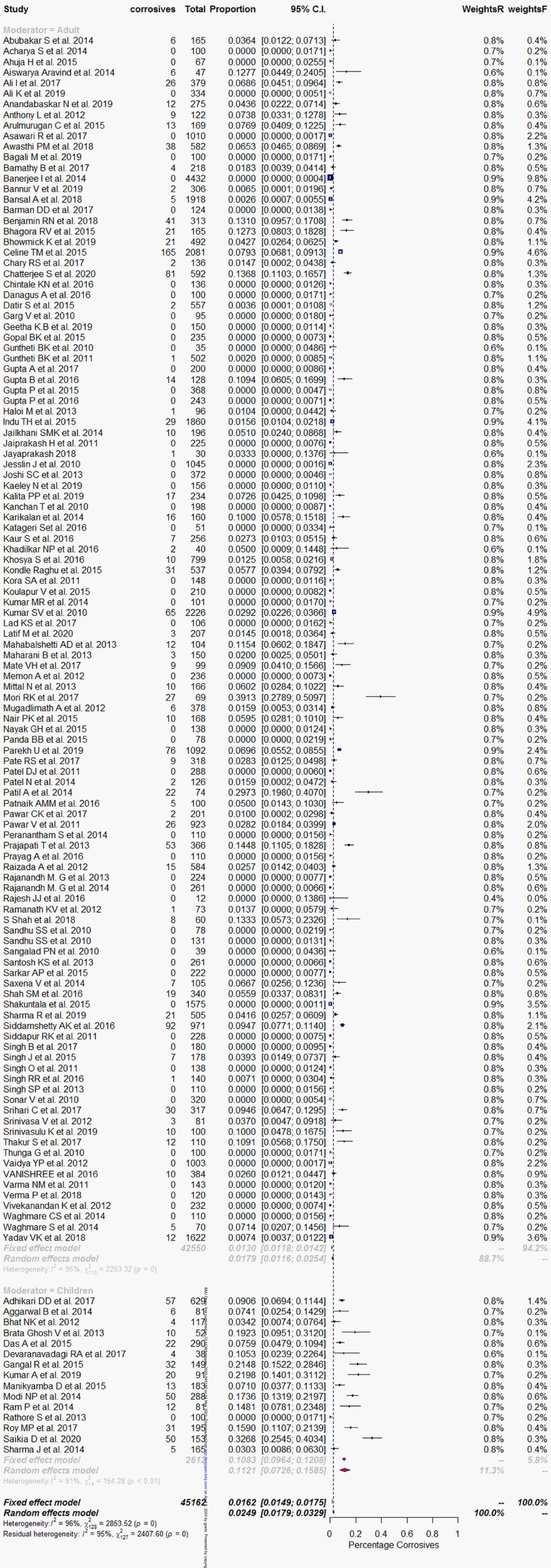


3Sb

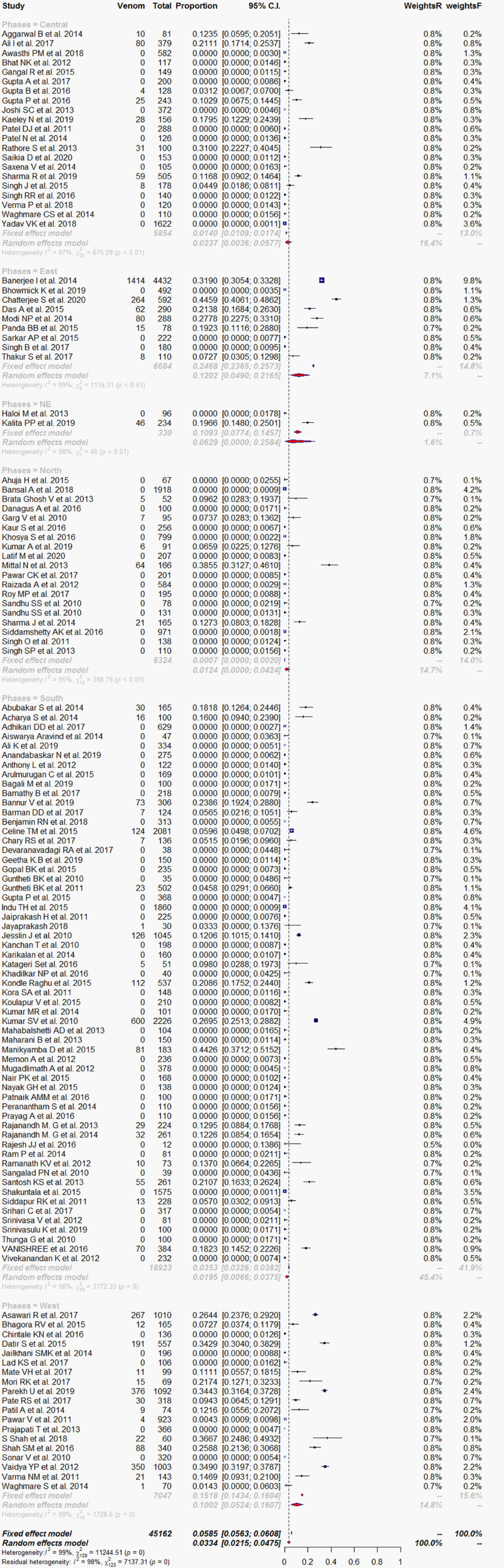


Supplementary Figure 4Sab: Prevalence of poisoning with Miscellaneous agents (4Sa) and Age wise distribution (4Sb)

4Sa



4Sb



Supplementary File 1: Search strategy:

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india) of all studies -57417.

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india) in humans 23303

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india)-428

((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india)of observational studies - 460

Search: (((((((prevalence) AND (poisoning)) OR (organophosphate poisoning)) OR (pesticides)) OR (corrosives)) OR (venom)) OR (drugs)) AND (india) Filters: in the last 10 years-428

((((((((((((((("epidemiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields]) OR "prevalence"[All Fields]) OR "prevalence"[MeSH Terms]) OR "prevalence"[All Fields]) OR "prevalences"[All Fields]) OR "prevalence s"[All Fields]) OR "prevalent"[All Fields]) OR "prevalently"[All Fields]) OR "prevalents"[All Fields]) AND (((((((("poisoned"[All Fields] OR "poisoning"[MeSH Terms]) OR "poisoning"[All Fields]) OR "poisonings"[All Fields]) OR "poisoning"[MeSH Subheading]) OR "poisonous"[All Fields]) OR "poisons"[Pharmacological Action]) OR "poisons"[MeSH Terms]) OR "poisons"[All Fields]) OR "poison"[All Fields])) OR (("organophosphate poisoning"[MeSH Terms] OR ("organophosphate"[All Fields] AND "poisoning"[All Fields])) OR "organophosphate poisoning"[All Fields])) OR (((("pesticidal"[All Fields] OR "pesticide s"[All Fields]) OR "pesticides"[Pharmacological Action]) OR "pesticides"[MeSH Terms]) OR "pesticides"[All Fields]) OR "pesticide"[All Fields])) OR (((((((("caustics"[Pharmacological Action] OR "caustics"[MeSH Terms]) OR "caustics"[All Fields]) OR "corrosive"[All Fields]) OR "corrosives"[All Fields]) OR "corrosion"[MeSH Terms]) OR "corrosion"[All Fields]) OR "corrosions"[All Fields]) OR "corrosiveness"[All Fields]) OR "corrosivity"[All Fields])) OR (((((((("venom s"[All Fields] OR "venome"[All Fields]) OR "venomic"[All Fields]) OR "venomics"[All Fields]) OR "venomous"[All Fields]) OR "venoms"[MeSH Terms]) OR "venoms"[All Fields]) OR "venom"[All Fields])) OR (((("drug s"[All Fields] OR "pharmaceutical preparations"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("pharmaceutical"[All Fields] AND "preparations"[All Fields])) OR

"pharmaceutical preparations"[All Fields]) OR "drugs"[All Fields])) AND (((("india"[MeSH Terms] OR "india"[All Fields]) OR "india s"[All Fields]) OR "indias"[All Fields])

Translations

prevalence: "epidemiology"[Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields] OR "prevalence"[All Fields] OR "prevalence"[MeSH Terms] OR "prevalance"[All Fields] OR "prevalences"[All Fields] OR "prevalence's"[All Fields] OR "prevalent"[All Fields] OR "prevalently"[All Fields] OR "prevalents"[All Fields]

poisoning: "poisoned"[All Fields] OR "poisoning"[MeSH Terms] OR "poisoning"[All Fields] OR "poisonings"[All Fields] OR "poisoning"[Subheading] OR "poisonous"[All Fields] OR "poisons"[Pharmacological Action] OR "poisons"[MeSH Terms] OR "poisons"[All Fields] OR "poison"[All Fields]

organophosphate poisoning: "organophosphate poisoning"[MeSH Terms] OR ("organophosphate"[All Fields] AND "poisoning"[All Fields]) OR "organophosphate poisoning"[All Fields]

pesticides: "pesticidal"[All Fields] OR "pesticide's"[All Fields] OR "pesticides"[Pharmacological Action] OR "pesticides"[MeSH Terms] OR "pesticides"[All Fields] OR "pesticide"[All Fields]

corrosives: "caustics"[Pharmacological Action] OR "caustics"[MeSH Terms] OR "caustics"[All Fields] OR "corrosive"[All Fields] OR "corrosives"[All Fields] OR "corrosion"[MeSH Terms] OR "corrosion"[All Fields] OR "corrosions"[All Fields] OR "corrosiveness"[All Fields] OR "corrosivity"[All Fields]

venom: "venom's"[All Fields] OR "venome"[All Fields] OR "venomic"[All Fields] OR "venomics"[All Fields] OR "venomous"[All Fields] OR "venoms"[MeSH Terms] OR "venoms"[All Fields] OR "venom"[All Fields]

drugs: "drug's"[All Fields] OR "pharmaceutical preparations"[MeSH Terms] OR ("pharmaceutical"[All Fields] AND "preparations"[All Fields]) OR "pharmaceutical preparations"[All Fields] OR "drugs"[All Fields]

india: "india"[MeSH Terms] OR "india"[All Fields] OR "india's"[All Fields] OR "indias"[All Fields]

Supplementary Table S1a: Characteristics of all studies

Study Id with year	Sample Size	Most common age group(Y)	Sex Ratio (M/F)	Geographical Region of India	Types of Poison
Abubakar S et al. 2014 ¹	165	21-30	1.46	South	Pesticides-78, Corrosives-6, Venom-30, Drugs-33, Others-18
Acharya S et al. 2014 ²	100	21-30	0.9	South	Pesticides-64, Corrosives-10, Venom-16, Drugs-5, Others-15
Adhikari DD et al. 2017 ³	629	0-16	NA	South	Pesticides-171, Corrosives-57, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-401
Aggarwal B et al. 2014 ⁴	81	1-18	1.25	Central	Pesticides-24, Corrosives-6, Venom-10, Drugs-14, Others-27
Ahuja H et al. 2015 ⁵	67	20-40	2.2	North	Pesticides-36, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-20, Others-11
Aiswarya A et al. 2014 ⁶	47	25-44	1.35	South	Pesticides-18, Corrosives-6, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-12
Ali I et al. 2017 ⁷	379	21-30	1.5	Central	Pesticides-208, Corrosives-26, Venom-80, Drugs-35, Others-30
Ali K et al. 2019 ⁸	334	19-29	NA	South	Pesticides-251, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-69, Others-14
Anandabaskar N et al. 2019 ⁹	275	21-30	0.7	South	Pesticides-123, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-37, Others-103
Anthony L et al. 2012 ¹⁰	122	21-30	1.1	South	Pesticides-76, Corrosives-9, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-37
Arulmurugan C et al. 2015 ¹¹	169	10-30	1.5	South	Pesticides-84, Corrosives-13, Venom-0, Drugs-22, Others-50

Asawari R et al. 2017 ¹²	1010	20-35	1.3	West	Pesticides-570, Corrosives-0, Venom-267, Drugs-109, Others-64
Awasthi PM et al. 2018 ¹³	582	21-30	1.7	Central	Pesticides-244, Corrosives-38, Venom-0, Drugs-35, Others-265
Bagali M et al. 2019 ¹⁴	100	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-98, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-2, Others-0
Balasubramanian K et al.2019 ¹⁵	120	20-30	1.2	South	Pesticides-111, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-9
Bamathy B et al. 2017 ¹⁶	218	19-30	1.1	South	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-4, Venom-0, Drugs-74, Others-30
Banerjee I et al. 2014 ¹⁷	4432	21-30	0.56	East	Pesticides-1699, Corrosives-0, Venom-1414, Drugs-714, Others-605
Bannur V et al. 2019 ¹⁸	306	21-30	1.5	South	Pesticides-168, Corrosives-2, Venom-73, Drugs-41, Others-22
Bansal A et al. 2018 ¹⁹	1918	NA	NA	North	Pesticides-787, Corrosives-5, Venom-0, Drugs-41, Others-22
Barman DD et al. 2017 ²⁰	124	21-30	0.7	South	Pesticides-103, Corrosives-0, Venom-7, Drugs-0, Others-14
Benjamin RN et al. 2018 ²¹	313	25-44	1.6	South	Pesticides-151, Corrosives-41, Venom-0, Drugs-95, Others-26
Bhagora RV et al. 2015 ²²	165	21-30	1.36	West	Pesticides-126, Corrosives-21, Venom-12, Drugs-2, Others-4
Bhat NK et al. 2012 ²³	117	1-18	1.4	Central	Pesticides-44, Corrosives-4, Venom-0, Drugs-30, Others-39
Bhowmick K et al. 2019 ²⁴	492	21-28	1.5	East	Pesticides-393, Corrosives-21, Venom-0, Drugs-45, Others-33

Brata Ghosh V et al. 2013 ²⁵	52	0-11	1.9	North	Pesticides-3, Corrosives-10, Venom-5, Drugs-8, Others-26
Celine TM et al. 2015 ²⁶	2081	26-45	1.3	South	Pesticides-946, Corrosives-165, Venom-124, Drugs-416, Others-430
Chary RS et al. 2017 ²⁷	136	21-30	1.96	South	Pesticides-91, Corrosives-22, Venom-7, Drugs-11, Others-25
Chatterjee S et al. 2020 ²⁸	592	21-30	1.3	East	Pesticides-72, Corrosives-81, Venom-264, Drugs-78, Others-97
Chintale KN et al. 2016 ²⁹	136	21-30	2.9	West	Pesticides-136, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Danagus A et al. 2016 ³⁰	100	31-40	4.6	North	Pesticides-64, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-33, Others-3
Das A et al. 2015 ³¹	290	0-12	1.5	East	Pesticides-34, Corrosives-22, Venom-62, Drugs-18, Others-154
Datir S et al. 2015 ³²	557	21-30	1.4	West	Pesticides-275, Corrosives-2, Venom-191, Drugs-14, Others-75
Devaranavadagi RA et al. 2017 ³³	38	1-18	0.7	South	Pesticides-8, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-13, Others-13
Gangal R et al. 2015 ³⁴	149	0-10	1.3	Central	Pesticides-82, Corrosives-32, Venom-0, Drugs-19, Others-16
Garg V et al. 2010 ³⁵	95	21-30	4	North	Pesticides-65, Corrosives-20, Venom-7, Drugs-12, Others-11
Geetha K.B et al. 2019 ³⁶	150	21-30	2.7	South	Pesticides-150, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Gopal BK et al. 2015 ³⁷	235	21-30	2.1	South	Pesticides-223, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-12, Others-0

Guntheti BK et al. 2010 ³⁸	35	15-30	2.2	South	Pesticides-35, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Guntheti BK et al. 2011 ³⁹	502	21-30	6.1	South	Pesticides-419, Corrosives-1, Venom-23, Drugs-40, Others-19
Gupta A et al. 2017 ⁴⁰	200	21-30	0.6	Central	Pesticides-165, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-18, Others-17
Gupta B et al. 2016 ⁴¹	128	21-30	1.4	Central	Pesticides-62, Corrosives-14, Venom-4, Drugs-28, Others-20
Gupta Pet al. 2015 ⁴²	368	21-30	NA	South	Pesticides-270, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-93, Others-5
Gupta P et al. 2016 ⁴³	243	21-30	1.4	Central	Pesticides-169, Corrosives-0, Venom-25, Drugs-27, Others-22
Haloi M et al. 2013 ⁴⁴	96	20-29	1.66	North-East	Pesticides-47, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-3, Others-45
Indu TH et al. 2015 ⁴⁵	1860	21-30	1.6	South	Pesticides-1170, Corrosives-29, Venom-0, Drugs-169, Others-492
Jailkhani SMK et al. 2014 ⁴⁶	196	21-30	1.1	West	Pesticides-95, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-17, Others-74
Jaiprakash H et al. 2011 ⁴⁷	225	21-30	1.6	South	Pesticides-185, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-40, Others-0
Jayaprakash 2018 ⁴⁸	30	20-40	0.6	South	Pesticides-17, Corrosives-1, Venom-1, Drugs-7, Others-4
Jesslin J et al. 2010 ⁴⁹	1045	18-29	1.51	South	Pesticides-413, Corrosives-0, Venom-126, Drugs-273, Others-233
Joshi SC et al. 2013 ⁵⁰	372	21-30	1.2	Central	Pesticides-362, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-10

Kaeley N et al. 2019 ⁵¹	156	NA	3.2	Central	Pesticides-31, Corrosives-20, Venom-28, Drugs-90, Others-7
Kalita PP et al. 2019 ⁵²	234	18-30	1.66	North-East	Pesticides-108, Corrosives-17, Venom-46, Drugs-44, Others-19
Kanchan Tet al. 2010 ⁵³	198	20-29	2.5	South	Pesticides-159, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-20, Others-19
Karikalan et al. 2014 ⁵⁴	160	11-20	0.4	South	Pesticides-122, Corrosives-16, Venom-0, Drugs-20, Others-2
Katageri Set al. 2016 ⁵⁵	51	21-30	3.6	South	Pesticides-21, Corrosives-20, Venom-5, Drugs-1, Others-24
Kaur S et al. 2016 ⁵⁶	256	18-25	1.2	North	Pesticides-106, Corrosives-7, Venom-0, Drugs-91, Others-52
Khadilkar NP et al. 2016 ⁵⁷	40	21-30	2.1	South	Pesticides-31, Corrosives-2, Venom-0, Drugs-4, Others-3
Khosya S et al. 2016 ⁵⁸	799	21-30	1.26	North	Pesticides-440, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-154, Others-195
Kondle Raghu et al. 2015 ⁵⁹	537	20-30	0.92	South	Pesticides-201, Corrosives-31, Venom-112, Drugs-65, Others-128
Kora SA et al. 2011 ⁶⁰	148	21-30	0.78	South	Pesticides-148, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Koulapur V et al. 2015 ⁶¹	210	21-30	2.6	South	Pesticides-210, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Kumar A et al. 2019 ⁶²	91	0-12	1.6	North	Pesticides-34, Corrosives-20, Venom-6, Drugs-8, Others-23
Kumar MR et al. 2014 ⁶³	101	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-101, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0

Kumar SV et al. 2010 ⁶⁴	2226	21-30	1.1	South	Pesticides-597, Corrosives-65, Venom-600, Drugs-764, Others-200
Lad KS et al. 2017 ⁶⁵	106	21-30	1.4	West	Pesticides-88, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-18
Latif M et al. 2020 ⁶⁶	207	20-30	2.3	North	Pesticides-194, Corrosives-3, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-10
Mahabalshetti AD et al. 2013 ⁶⁷	104	20-29	1.1	South	Pesticides-62, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-19
Maharani B et al. 2013 ⁶⁸	150	21-30	1.6	South	Pesticides-126, Corrosives-3, Venom-0, Drugs-6, Others-15
Manikyamba D et al. 2015 ⁶⁹	183	1-15	1.56	South	Pesticides-12Corrosives-3, Venom-81, Drugs-9, Others-68
Mate VH et al. 2017 ⁷⁰	99	21-30	2.5	West	Pesticides-32, Corrosives-9, Venom-11, Drugs-38, Others-9
Memon A et al. 2012 ⁷¹	236	21-30	0.8	South	Pesticides-191, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-34, Others-11
Mittal N et al. 2013 ⁷²	166	19-39	2.3	North	Pesticides-47, Corrosives-10, Venom-64, Drugs-18, Others-27
Modi NP et al. 2014 ⁷³	288	0-14	2.3	East	Pesticides-36, Corrosives-50, Venom-80, Drugs-0, Others-122
Mori RK et al. 2017 ⁷⁴	69	NA	NA	West	Pesticides-24, Corrosives-27, Venom-15, Drugs-3, Others-0
Mugadlimath A et al. 2012 ⁷⁵	378	21-30	1.2	South	Pesticides-200, Corrosives-6, Venom-0, Drugs-39, Others-133
Muley A et al. 2014 ⁷⁶	76	15-25	1.5	West	Pesticides-76, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0

Nagaraju K et al. 2015 ⁷⁷	2169	21-40	1.7	South	Pesticides- 2169,Corrosives-NA,Venom-NA, Drugs-NA, Others-NA
Nair PK et al. 2015 ⁷⁸	168	21-30	0.7	South	Pesticides-63, Corrosives-10,Venom-0, Drugs-73,Others-22
Nayak GH et al. 2015 ⁷⁹	138	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-114, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-12, Others-12
Panda BB et al. 2015 ⁸⁰	78	21-30	1.4	East	Pesticides-30, Corrosives-0, Venom-15, Drugs-18, Others-15
Parekh U et al. 2019 ⁸¹	1092	21-30	1.5	West	Pesticides-443, Corrosives-76, Venom-376, Drugs-55, Others-142
Pate RS et al. 2017 ⁸²	318	21-30	1.8	West	Pesticides-222, Corrosives-9, Venom-30, Drugs-28, Others-29
Patel DJ et al. 2011 ⁸³	288	21-30	1.3	Central	Pesticides-288, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Patel N et al. 2014 ⁸⁴	126	21-30	1.6	Central	Pesticides-91, Corrosives-2, Venom-0, Drugs-6, Others-27
Patil A et al. 2014 ⁸⁵	74	20-29	1.1	West	Pesticides-11, Corrosives-22, Venom-9, Drugs-10, Others-22
Patnaik AMM et al. 2016 ⁸⁶	100	NA	1.86	South	Pesticides-77, Corrosives-5, Venom-0, Drugs-4, Others-14
Pawar CK et al. 2017 ⁸⁷	201	21-30	3.67	North	Pesticides-191,Corrosives-2, Venom-0, Drugs-8, Others-0
Pawar V et al. 2011 ⁸⁸	923	20-29	1.4	West	Pesticides-441, Corrosives-26, Venom-4, Drugs-157, Others-295
Peranantham S et al. 2014 ⁸⁹	110	21-30	3.1	South	Pesticides-43, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-67

Peshin SS et al. 2014 ⁹⁰	4929	18-35	1.6	North	Pesticides-4929, Corrosives-NA, Venom-NA, Drugs-NA, Others-NA
Prajapati T et al. 2013 ⁹¹	366	21-30	2.4	West	Pesticides-124, Corrosives-53, Venom-0, Drugs-56, Others-133
Prashar A et al. 2018 ⁹²	375	21-30	3.2	North	Pesticides-361, Corrosives-NA, Venom-NA, Drugs-NA, Others-14
Prayag A et al. 2016 ⁹³	110	18-28	1.68	South	Pesticides-106, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-2, Others-2
Raizada A et al. 2012 ⁹⁴	584	20-30	2.5	North	Pesticides-185, Corrosives-15, Venom-0, Drugs-149, Others-235
Rajanandh M. G et al. 2013 ⁹⁵	224	21-35	1.1	South	Pesticides-55, Corrosives-0, Venom-29, Drugs-40, Others-100
Rajanandh M. G et al. 2014 ⁹⁶	261	21-35	1.35	South	Pesticides-88, Corrosives-0, Venom-32, Drugs-50, Others-91
Rajesh JJ et al. 2016 ⁹⁷	12	20-29	5	South	Pesticides-12, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Ram P et al. 2014 ⁹⁸	81	1-15	1.02	South	Pesticides-31, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-6, Others-32
Ramanath KV et al. 2012 ⁹⁹	73	21-40	1.7	South	Pesticides-48, Corrosives-1, Venom-10, Drugs-4, Others-10
Rathore S et al. 2013 ¹⁰⁰	100	1-15	2.3	Central	Pesticides-12, Corrosives-0, Venom-31, Drugs-0, Others-57
Roy MP et al. 2017 ¹⁰¹	195	0-12	1.7	North	Pesticides-35, Corrosives-31, Venom-0, Drugs-34, Others-95
S Shah et al. 2018 ¹⁰²	60	21-40	3.5	West	Pesticides-23, Corrosives-8, Venom-22, Drugs-2, Others-5

Saikia D et al. 2020 ¹⁰³	153	0-12	1.86	Central	Pesticides-28, Corrosives-50, Venom-0, Drugs-17, Others-58
Sandhu SS et al. 2010 ¹⁰⁴	78	21-30	2.9	North	Pesticides-67, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-5, Others-6
Sandhu SS et al. 2010 ¹⁰⁵	131	21-30	3.1	North	Pesticides-55, Corrosives-50, Venom-0, Drugs-5, Others-71
Sangalad PN et al. 2010 ¹⁰⁶	39	41-50	3.9	South	Pesticides-27, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-1
Santosh KS et al. 2013 ¹⁰⁷	261	21-35	1.35	South	Pesticides-47, Corrosives-50, Venom-55, Drugs-23, Others-136
Sarkar AP et al. 2015 ¹⁰⁸	222	20-29	0.96	East	Pesticides-132, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-28, Others-62
Saxena V et al. 2014 ¹⁰⁹	105	21-30	1.2	Central	Pesticides-64, Corrosives-17, Venom-0, Drugs-11, Others-23
Shah SM et al. 2016 ¹¹⁰	340	21-30	1.74	West	Pesticides-133, Corrosives-19, Venom-88, Drugs-16, Others-84
Shakuntala et al. 2015 ¹¹¹	1575	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-1477, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-98
Sharma J et al. 2014 ¹¹²	165	1-18	1.2	North	Pesticides-63, Corrosives-15, Venom-21, Drugs-21, Others-55
Sharma R et al. 2019 ¹¹³	505	21-30	1.4	Central	Pesticides-310, Corrosives-21, Venom-59, Drugs-28, Others-87
Siddamshetty AK et al. 2016 ¹¹⁴	971	21-30	2.1	North	Pesticides-196, Corrosives-92, Venom-0, Drugs-102, Others-581
Siddapur RK et al. 2011 ¹¹⁵	228	21-30	2.3	South	Pesticides-205, Corrosives-0, Venom-13, Drugs-10, Others-0

Singh B et al. 2017 ¹¹⁶	180	15-29	1.2	East	Pesticides-170, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-4, Others-6
Singh J et al. 2015 ¹¹⁷	178	21-30	1.28	Central	Pesticides-114, Corrosives-7, Venom-8, Drugs-5, Others-44
Singh O et al. 2011 ¹¹⁸	138	21-30	1.02	North	Pesticides-6, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-102, Others-30
Singh RR et al. 2016 ¹¹⁹	140	21-30	1.6	Central	Pesticides-101, Corrosives-1, Venom-0, Drugs-19, Others-19
Singh SP et al. 2013 ¹²⁰	110	20-30	2.67	North	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Sonar V et al. 2010 ¹²¹	320	21-30	2.7	West	Pesticides-320, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Srihari C et al. 2017 ¹²²	317	15-24	0.8	South	Pesticides-157, Corrosives-30, Venom-0, Drugs-96, Others-34
Srinivasa V et al. 2012 ¹²³	81	21-30	2.5	South	Pesticides-68, Corrosives-3, Venom-0, Drugs-5, Others-5
Srinivasulu K et al. 2019 ¹²⁴	100	21-40	1.6	South	Pesticides-60, Corrosives-10, Venom-0, Drugs-12, Others-18
Thakur S et al. 2017 ¹²⁵	110	21-30	0.8	East	Pesticides-41, Corrosives-12, Venom-8, Drugs-24, Others-25
Thunga G et al. 2010 ¹²⁶	100	21-30	2.1	South	Pesticides-100, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Vaidya YP et al. 2012 ¹²⁷	1003	21-30	1.8	West	Pesticides-400, Corrosives-0, Venom-350, Drugs-143, Others-110
Vanishree et al. 2016 ¹²⁸	384	21-30	2.2	South	Pesticides-241, Corrosives-10, Venom-70, Drugs-55, Others-8

Varma NM et al. 2011 ¹²⁹	143	21-30	1.86	West	Pesticides-81, Corrosives-10, Venom-21, Drugs-0, Others-41
Verma P et al. 2018 ¹³⁰	120	21-30	1.66	Central	Pesticides-90, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-30
Vivekanandan K et al. 2012 ¹³¹	232	16-30	1.5	South	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-54, Others-68
Waghmare CS et al. 2014 ¹³²	110	NA	NA	Central	Pesticides-110, Corrosives-0, Venom-0, Drugs-0, Others-0
Waghmare S et al. 2014 ¹³³	70	21-30	2.3	West	Pesticides-26, Corrosives-5, Venom-1, Drugs-19, Others-19
Yadav VK et al. 2018 ¹³⁴	1622	22-32	1.2	Central	Pesticides-716, Corrosives-12, Venom-0, Drugs-137, Others-757

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Supplementary Table S1b: List of Poisons consumed in the included studies

Classification of poison consumed in our study				
Pesticides	Corrosives	Venom	Drugs	Miscellaneous
Organophosphates: Chlorpyriphos, Dimethoate, Malathion, Monocrotophos, Parathion, Quinolphos, Phorate Organochlorines: Endosulphan. Lindale, DDT Carbamates-Aldicarb, Aminocarb, Propoxur Rodenticides: Aluminium Phosphide, Zinc Phosphide, Bromodialone Pyrethroids- Cypermethrine, Imidacloprid, Transfluthrine, Prallenthrene Herbicides: Paraquat, Pretilachor	Acids- Mineral-Boric Acid, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Nitric acid Organic-Carbohic acid (phenol) Alkalis- Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic soda), Button Battery Ingestion	Snake Bite (Cobra, Krait, Russel’s Viper, Saw scaled Viper), Scorpion stings, Spider bite, Hymenoptera stings (Ants, Bees, Wasps)	Alcohol- Ethyl Alcohol, Methanol Pharmacologic Active Ingredient: Agents-Analgesics, Antidepressants, Antiepileptic Antiretroviral drugs, Anti-tuberculosis, Antipsychotics, Antihypertensives, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Beta blockers, Calcium channel blockers, Salicylates, Ointments Opioids, Paracetamol, Diazepam, NSAIDs, Narcotics, Alprazolam, Chloroquine Sedative overdose,	Hydrocarbons- Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene Plant Origin- Castor Oil, Cannabis Indica, Bhang, Opium, Dhatura, Oleander, Tobacco, Jatropha Curcas, Food Poisoning Inorganic Irritants-Copper Sulphate, Iron, Mercury, Lithium, Lead, EDTA, Potassium Permanganate Industrial Chemical- Aniline dyes, Cyanide, Toxic Fumes, Dettol, Disinfectant, House cleaner, Detergents Hair dye, Herbal, Thinner Turpentine Oil Unknown Chemical analysis report awaited.

Fumigants -Camphor, Naphthalene, Nitrobenzene			Amlodipine+Atenolol, Haloperidol, Valproate Ibuprofen, Phenytoin, Thyroxine and Ear Drops	
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PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	1
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	3-4
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	5
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	5
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and if available, provide registration information including registration number.	4/6
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	6
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	6
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	6
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	6
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	6
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	6
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	-
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	7
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., I ²) for each meta-analysis.	7

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PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Page 1 of 2

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).	-
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	-
RESULTS			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	9
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	9, Table 1 and Table 1S
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	-
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	9-11
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	9-11
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).	-
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).	-
DISCUSSION			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).	12-
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	15
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	15
FUNDING			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	16

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

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