

Poison Antidote



Drug Poisoning Deaths Are on the Rise

Nationally over the past few decades, motor vehicle and firearm injury deaths have decreased while drug-poisoning deaths have increased. The drug-poisoning death rate surpassed the motor-vehicle-crash death rate beginning in 2009 (see figure 1). If you suspect a drug poisoning, call poison control at 1-800-222-1222 for help. If the victim is unconscious, having convulsions, or having difficulty breathing, call 911.

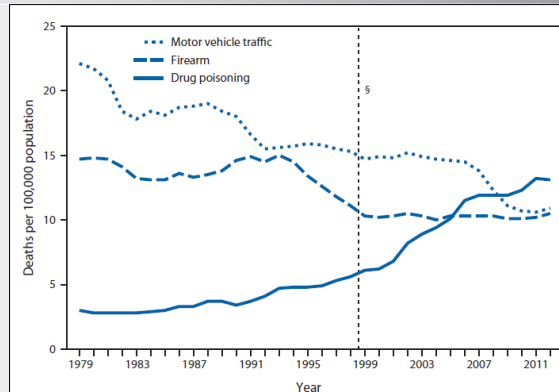


Figure 1. The Rise of Drug-poisoning Deaths. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) graphs data for motor vehicle, firearm, and drug-poisoning deaths since 1979, clearly showing the sharp rise of drug-poisoning deaths.

Utah Poison Control Center

Winter 2015



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
L. S. SKAGGS PHARMACY INSTITUTE

National Poison Prevention Week Is March 15–21, 2015

Ben Franklin wisely advised, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” National Poison Prevention Week brings awareness to the dangers of poisoning and provides an opportunity to promote prevention tips and strategies to help reduce poisonings. We encourage you to get involved in spreading the poison prevention message in your community. Visit our website at www.utahpoisoncontrol.org to learn more, order poison prevention materials, download lesson plans for all ages, “like” us on Facebook®, and follow us on Twitter® @utahpoison. Help spread the poison prevention message during this important week!

Medication Errors Put Young Children at Risk

Every eight minutes, a child experiences a poison exposure because of a medication error. This was revealed in a recent study published in *Pediatrics*. Researchers analyzed eleven years of national poison control center data in children less than six-years-old. Their findings help answer the following questions about medication poisoning in young children.

How does a medication error usually happen?

- Accidentally taking or giving the medicine twice (double dosing)
- Accidentally taking or giving the wrong medicine

Who is most often a victim of medication error?

- In children under age six, those less than one-year-old have the highest rate of medication errors, which decreases each year older the child becomes.
- Boys are 8% more likely to experience a medication error than girls.

When does it happen?

- There are higher rates of exposure in the winter months when kids are typically the sickest.

What kind of medication is involved most often?

1. Pain medicine
2. Cough and cold preparations
3. Antihistamines such as Benadryl®

Where does it usually happen?

- The majority of medication errors happen in the home.

How can medication errors be prevented?

- Keep track of the dosing schedule using a timer or another reminder device.
- Use the proper dosing device—do not use spoons or utensils from the kitchen.
- Read the medicine label carefully and follow instructions for use.

www.utahpoisoncontrol.org

Supported by Project # H4B MC 0008-01 from Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health & Human Services