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DATA SOURCES:

¹ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) FEATURES: PREVENT UNINTENTIONAL POISONING. ² CDC MMWR. VITAL SIGNS: UNINTENTIONAL INJURY DEATHS AMONG PERSONS AGED 0–19 YEARS — UNITED STATES, 2000–2009. ³ ARKANSAS HOSPITAL DISCHARGE DATA SYSTEM (AHDDS, 2009): HEALTH STATISTICS BRANCH: ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ⁴ AAPCC 2010. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF POISON CONTROL CENTERS, NATIONAL POISON DATA SYSTEM (NPDS) ⁵ SAFE STORAGE, SAFE DOSING, SAFE KIDS: A REPORT TO THE NATION ON SAFE MEDICATION. WASHINGTON, DC: SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE, MARCH 2012. ⁶ SAFEMEDICATION.COM: THE WEBSITE FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS ⁷ NATIONAL SAFE KIDS CAMPAIGN (NSKC). POISONING FACT SHEET. WASHINGTON (DC), 2004.

THIS MATERIAL WAS PREPARED BY THE ARKANSAS FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL CARE INC. (AFMC) UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

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THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH TITLES VI AND VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT. MP1-SEW.UPFLY,4-10/12

October 2012

Unintentional Drug Poisoning in Children



Poison control centers receive more than 1.1 million calls each year about accidental poisoning in children ages 5 and under.¹ Most calls happen between 4 P.M. and 10 P.M.

A poison is anything that is harmful to your body when eaten, breathed in, injected or absorbed through the skin. Too much of a prescription drug can be poisonous.

Drug poisoning can be intentional or unintentional. If the person giving or taking the medication did not mean to cause harm, it is unintentional drug poisoning. The rising number of medications in homes has raised the risk for drug overdose, especially in children.

- Each year in the US, more than 60,000 children go to the emergency room because they got into medicine while an adult wasn't looking.¹

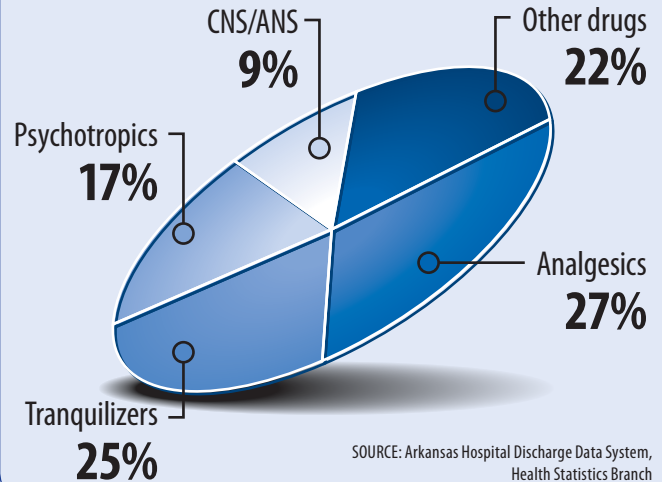


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- From 2000-2009, 80 percent more people died from accidental poisoning, and poisoning death rates in 15- to 19-year-olds went up by 91 percent.
- In these deaths, the amount of cases that involved prescription drugs rose from 30 percent in 2000 to 57 percent in 2009²
- In 2009, unintentional poisonings were responsible for more than 14 hospital visits for every 100,000 in Arkansans ages 19 and older.³

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says nearly 90 percent of unintentional poisonings happen at home, and 40 percent of these accidents involve medications.¹ That means preventing unintentional drug poisoning starts at home.

Hospitalizations from unintentional poisoning among Arkansans ages 19 and under, by drug type, 2010



Keep children safe

Don't take medicine in front of small children. Never refer to medicine as "candy" or any other word that might make the drug attractive to young children.⁶ Even vitamins can be poisonous to small children if they eat too many of them.⁶

Always read product labels and follow ***all*** directions. When giving medicine at night, turn the lights on to make sure you know how much medicine to give.

Be smart about storage

All drugs should be stored away from children in their original child-resistant containers. Always secure safety caps right after you give or take medicine. If you have guests, make sure they follow the same rules. In many poisonings, the drugs belong to grandparents or someone else who does not live with the child.⁷

Follow the instructions on the drug label for disposing of medications, or take advantage of a community drug take-back program. If you have to throw the drugs in the trash, seal them in an empty bag or can first. The bag or can will keep the drugs from leaking out.

Know the signs of poisoning

Keep your eyes open. Learn about the common signs of poisoning, like your child not knowing where he or she is, feeling drowsy, being irritated around nap time, feeling queasy, throwing up or having stomach ache without fever.

Look for other signs like unusual drooling or unusual buildup around your child's mouth or teeth. Even when there are no obvious signs, you should treat an open or spilled bottle of medicine as a case of poisoning.⁷

What to do if poisoning occurs¹

1. **Stay calm.**
2. **Call 911 if the child has collapsed or stopped breathing.** If the child is awake, dial 1-800-222-1222. Before calling, have this information ready:
 - The child's age and weight
 - The address where the poisoning happened
 - The original bottle the drug was in, if available
 - The time the child was poisoned
3. **Stay on the phone and follow the instructions from the 911 operator or poison control center.**

Keep the Poison Help number, **1-800-222-1222**,
on or near every home telephone
and save it on your cell phone.

The line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**ARKANSAS
POISON
HOTLINE:**



1-800-222-1222

**ARKANSAS: 1-800-376-4766
TTY: 1-800-641-3805**

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