Poisoning Hospitalizations

- Poisoning was the third leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations, with 3,437 hospitalizations over the five-year period (2000 – 2004), or 687 per year
  - Nearly 90% of poisoning hospitalizations were due to drugs and alcohol
  - Solvents, pesticides and gases—including carbon monoxide—accounted for just over 5% of poisoning hospitalizations
- There were 2.5 times as many poisoning hospitalizations (3,437) as deaths (1,353) during this five-year period; in other words, there was one fatality for almost every three patients hospitalized for poisoning
- Children under 5 years of age were at significant risk for unintentional poisoning
  - Nearly 30% of 299 hospitalizations in the 1-4 year old age group were due to lead paint, lead compounds and its fumes
- Poisoning hospitalization rates were highest for adults 80 years and older, followed by children 1-4 years of age and adults 75-79 years old
- Males tended to have a slightly higher rate of hospitalization for poisoning than do females across most of the lifespan
- The hospitalization rate for poisoning among males (22.1) was nearly 25% higher than for females (17.8)
- The hospitalization rate among Non-Hispanic Blacks (29.3) was 59% higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (18.4), and 35% higher than among Hispanics (21.6)
- New Haven County—at 30.6 per 100,000 population—had a notably higher hospitalization rate for poisoning than any other County in the State; Tolland (10.7), Windham (12.0), New London (13.1) and Middlesex (14.9) Counties all had rates below 15.0 per 100,000 population—less than half that of New Haven County
- Over 85% of poisoning patients were admitted through the hospital’s emergency department, and close to 70% were discharged to the home
- Thirty hospitalizations resulted in the patient expiring (0.9%), and nearly half of these deaths were due to “narcotics & psychodysleptics”. Only one death was due to “gases or other/unspecified substances”
- Medicaid and Medicare covered the costs of over 60% of these hospitalizations, evenly split between the two payment sources; commercial insurance and hospital maintenance organizations (HMOs) and preferred provider organizations (PPOs) covered another 28% and self-pay accounted for 7.6% of hospital charges
- Average length of hospital stay for poisoning was 2 days
- For the five-year period, the total charges for poisoning hospitalizations were $36,950,620 with an average of $6,733 per hospital stay
## Unintentional Injury

### Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### Intentional Injury

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### Unintentional Poisoning Hospitalizations by Mechanism

**Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004**

- **Number of Hospitalizations**
- **(n = 3,437; average = 687/year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-Codes</th>
<th>Nonopioid Analgesics, Antipyretics, Antirheumatics</th>
<th>E866 (.0-.9)</th>
<th>298 (8.7%)</th>
<th>1,224 (35.6%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antiepileptic, Sedative-Hypnotic &amp; Psychotropics</td>
<td>E865 (.0-.9)</td>
<td>626 (18.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narcotics &amp; Psychodysleptics [Hallucinogens]</td>
<td>E864 (.0-.4)</td>
<td>14 (0.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antibiotics &amp; Other Anti-Infectives</td>
<td></td>
<td>740 (21.5%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other/Unspecified Drugs</td>
<td>E861 (.0-.9)</td>
<td>155 (4.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>E860 (.0-.9)</td>
<td>81 (2.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaning Agents &amp; Paint/Varnish (Includes Lead Paints)</td>
<td>E869 (.0-.9)</td>
<td>176 (5.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solvents, Pesticides &amp; Gases (Includes Carbon Monoxide)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corrosive &amp; Caustic Substances</td>
<td>E8611 (.0-.4)</td>
<td>39 (1.1%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poisonous Foodstuffs &amp; Plants</td>
<td>E8610 (.0-.9)</td>
<td>25 (0.7%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other/Unspecified Substances (Includes Lead, Mercury, Arsenic)</td>
<td>E861 (.0-.9)</td>
<td>59 (1.7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ICD-9 Codes: See Appendix*
Figure 39
Poisoning Hospitalization Rates by Mechanism & Age
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
(n = 3,437; average = 687/year)
Figure 40
Poisoning Hospitalization Rates By Age & Sex
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
(n = 3,437; average = 687/year)
Poisoning Hospitalization Rates per 100,000 Population
by Sex, Race/Ethnicity & County of Residence
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004

By Sex
Males 1,850
Females 1,587
Total Population 3,437

By Race
Non-Hispanic White 2,462
Non-Hispanic Black 477
Hispanic 373
Non-Hispanic Other Race 125

By County of Residence
Fairfield 754
Hartford 818
Litchfield 154
Middlesex 119
New Haven 1,277
New London 172
Tolland 76
Windham 67
Figure 42
Poisoning Hospitalizations by Admission, Discharge & Primary Payer
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
(n = 3,437; average = 687/year)

Where Admitted From
- Emergency Room: 86.4%
- MD / Clinical Referral: 11.5%
- Transfer from Hospital, Other: 2.1%

Where Discharged To
- Home Health Service: 9.9%
- Intermediate Care Facility, Other: 7.4%
- Skilled Nursing Facility: 7.8%
- Short Term Hospital: 1.4%
- Left against medical advice: 4.3%
- Expired: 0.9%
- Home: 68.4%

Primary Payer
- Medicaid: 31.3%
- Medicare: 31.4%
- Commercial Insurance: 13.8%
- HMO / PPO: 14.3%
- Self Pay: 7.6%
- Worker’s Compensation: 0.8%
- Federal Program, Other: 0.9%
- Medicare: 31.4%