

Unintentional Poisoning

In Kansas, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of injury related hospitalizations. Unintentional poisoning is also the third leading cause of injury deaths.

- In 2006, 283 people were killed and approximately 2,300 were hospitalized due to poisoning related injuries.
- Overall, adults ages 45-54 years had the highest rates of unintentional poisoning deaths (25/100,000 pop.) followed by those ages 25-34 years (20/100,000 pop.) and those ages 15-24 years (15/100,000 pop.).
- Men are more likely to die due to unintentional poisoning than are women.
 - Age adjusted unintentional poisoning related deaths is approximately 12 per 100,000 population among men compared to approximately 9 per 100,000 population among women.
 - Among men, older adults ages 85 years and above had the highest rates of unintentional poisoning deaths (103/100,000 pop.) followed by those ages 35-44 years (101/100,000 pop.) and those ages 15-24 years (94/100,000 pop.).
- Women are more likely to be hospitalized due to unintentional poisoning related injuries than are men.
 - Age adjusted unintentional poisoning related injuries is approximately 101 per 10,000 population among women compared to approximately 68 per 10,000 population among men.
- Among women, adults ages 45-54 years had the highest rates of unintentional poisoning deaths (161/10,000 pop.) followed by those ages 35-44 years (146/10,000 pop.) and those ages 25-34 years (138/10,000 pop.).

Prevention Notes

- Read medication labels carefully
- Keep all household and chemical products in locked cabinets and out of reach of children.
- Ventilate the house when using household and chemical products
- Wear protective clothing and gear when working with hazardous materials
- Keep close watch on children when using household products and medications
- Do not sniff containers to discover what is inside
- Call the Mid-America Poison Center if an exposure occurs (1-800-222-1222).

Reference: <http://www.aapcc.org/dnn/PoisoningPrevention/TeenTips/tabid/121/Default.aspx>

Mission: Build Solid Infrastructure to Improve the Health of Kansans by Increasing Awareness & Action to Reduce Unintentional and Intentional Injuries.