



Poisonings

When and Where Poisonings Deaths and Injuries Occur

Medicines and household products, lead, and carbon monoxide poison children. The exposure risk to a child is associated with the product's toxicity, packaging, accessibility and availability.

- ◆ The majority of calls to poison control centers occur between 4pm and 10pm.
- ◆ Approximately 90% of all poison exposures occur at a residence.
- ◆ More than 70% of cases reported to poison control centers are managed in a non-health care facility, such as the site of exposure or in the patient's home.

Who is at Risk?

- ◆ In general, children ages 5 and under are at the greatest risk for nonfatal poisonings, accounting for the majority of all poisoning exposures.
- ◆ Children age 2 and under are especially vulnerable.
- ◆ Males age 12 and under are more likely than females to be poison exposure victims.

Prevention Tips

- ◆ Store all medications and household products locked out of sight and out of reach of children. List poison center and emergency medical service numbers near every telephone.
- ◆ Test children for lead exposure, and test homes built before 1978 for lead based paint. Cover lead paint with sealant or hire a professional abatement company to remove the paint. Frequently wash children's hands and faces as well as toys and pacifiers to reduce the ingestion of lead contaminated dust.
- ◆ Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home in every bedroom and on the ceiling at least 15 feet from fuel burning appliances. Ensure that space heaters, furnaces, fireplaces and wood burning stoves are vented properly and inspected annually.

Georgia Emergency Medical Services for Children

