

## Injury & Violence Prevention Program

# Poisoning Injuries in Los Angeles County

Poisonings have been increasing in Los Angeles County. Since 2009 poisonings have been the second leading cause of injury hospitalization (overtaking motor vehicle traffic injuries) and one of the top two causes of injury death (along with firearms).

- During 2010 there were:
  - 792 poisoning deaths
  - 7,462 non-fatal poisoning hospitalizations
  - 9,378 treated-and-released poisoning emergency department (ED) visits
- Most poisonings were caused by drugs (over-the-counter, prescription drugs, and illegal drugs).
- Most poisonings were unintentional (accidental) or intentionally self-inflicted (suicide/sui attempt):
- Poisoning deaths were more common among males, but hospitalizations and ED visits were more common among females.
- Poisoning death rates were highest among Whites, while hospitalization and ED rates were highest among Blacks.
- The age groups most at risk varied by severity:
  - Poisoning death rates were highest among 45-54 year olds
  - Poisoning hospitalization rates peaked among 65+ year olds
  - Poisoning ED visits peaked among 1-4 year olds

### Poisoning Resources

California Poison Control Center – operates the poison control hotline for free, immediate assistance in dealing with exposures to poisons or toxic substances: **1-800-222-1222**. Website: [www.calpoison.org](http://www.calpoison.org)

Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) – a program of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC’s website includes a directory of substance abuse treatment providers, educational resources, and reports and publications. Website: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – website includes many reports on the topic, along with data and statistics and prevention tips. Website: [www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Poisoning/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Poisoning/index.html)

The Partnership at DrugFree.org – website includes information and resources to prevent alcohol and drug use among teens and young adults. Website: [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

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