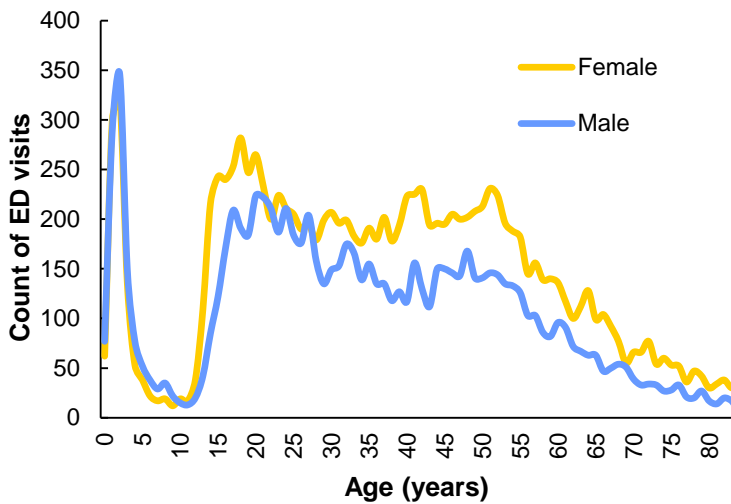


NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR INJURIES DUE TO MEDICATION OR DRUG OVERDOSES

The North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection tool (NC DETECT) provides public health officials and hospital users with the capacity for statewide early event detection and timely public health surveillance. Through NC DETECT, users can access near real-time data from North Carolina acute care emergency departments (EDs), the Carolinas Poison Center (CPC), and the Pre-Hospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). NC DETECT data from ED visits have become increasingly important for the surveillance of injury morbidity in North Carolina. NC DETECT is funded by the NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH). This document summarizes 2012 ED visits by in-state and out-of-state residents with a diagnosis code for a medication or drug overdose in the first six diagnostic fields and/or an external cause of injury code (E-code) for a medication or drug overdose. According to the CDC, a medication or drug overdose is an injury due to the ingestion, inhalation, injection, or other form of exposure to a medication or drug.

North Carolina ED visits due to medication/drug overdoses, 2012



- In 2012, there were 21,718 ED visits due to medication/drug overdoses. Among the 1,118,434 ED visits due to injury, 1.9% were due to overdoses.

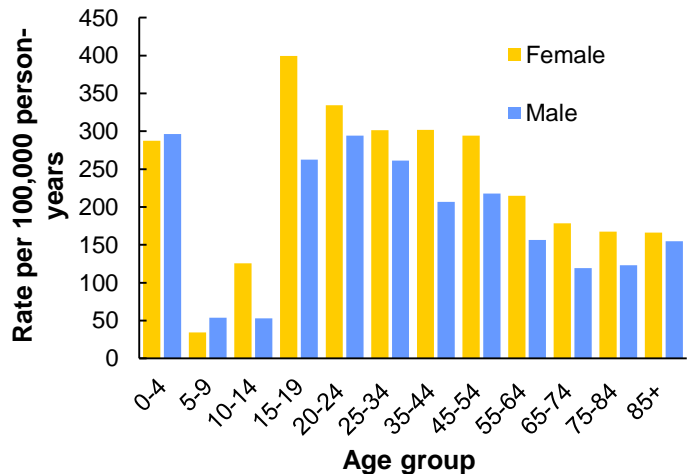
- In 2012, there were 222.7 NC ED visits due to medication/drug overdoses per 100,000 person-years.

- There were more injuries due to medications/drugs among women (12,469 ED visits) than men (9,247 ED visits).

- Overall, rates of ED visits for medication/drug overdoses were higher among women (249.4 visits per 100,000 person-years) than among men (194.6 visits per 100,000 person-years).

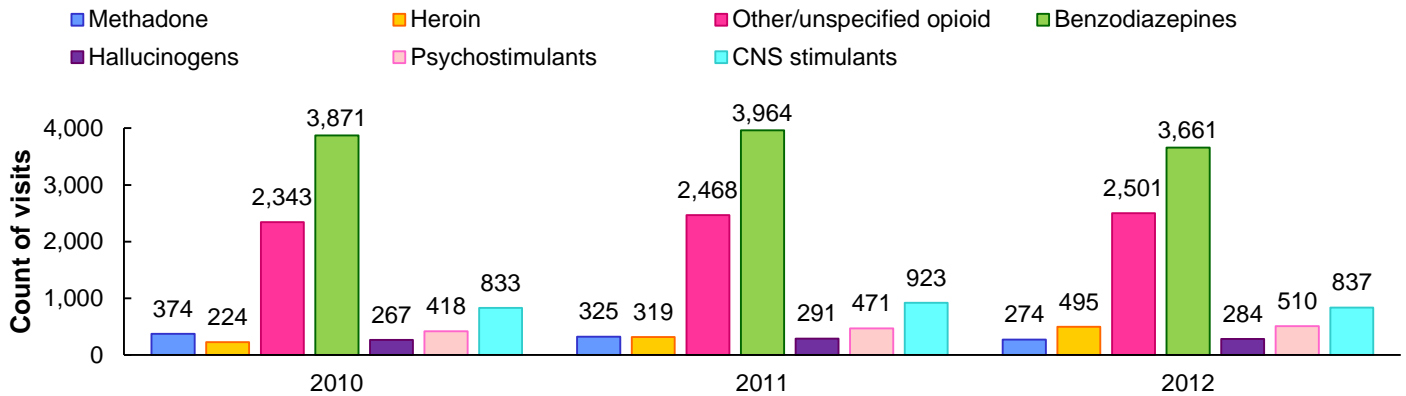
Rates of North Carolina ED visits due to medication/drug overdoses, 2012

- Among women, the highest rates observed were among teenagers 15-19 years of age (399.3 visits per 100,000 person-years).
- Among men, the highest rates observed were among young men 20-24 years of age (294.4 visits per 100,000 person-years).



Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014.
 NC Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
 NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT) / www.ncdetect.org / 919-843-2361
 State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
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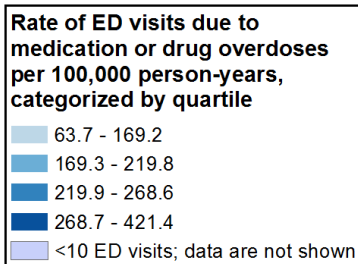
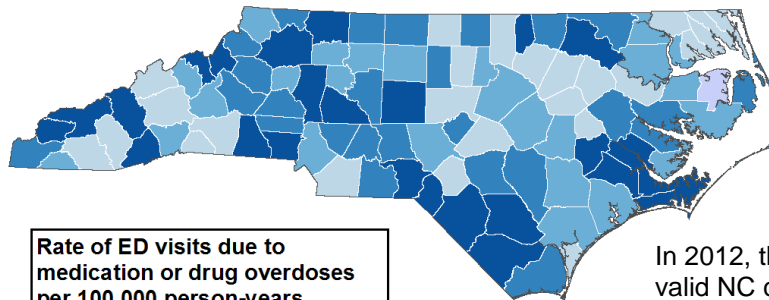
Class of medication/drug present in North Carolina ED visits due to overdoses, 2012*



*Categories are not mutually exclusive; ED visits may have more than one code for type of overdose

- For visits with a listed intent (82.9%), the most common type of overdose was unintentional (48.9%) followed by self-harm (37.7%), undetermined (13.4%), and assault (0.1%).
- Among medications/drugs that are frequently misused/abused, the most common drug class identified was benzodiazepines.

Population-based rates of ED visits due to overdoses by North Carolina county, 2012



In 2012, there were 20,979 ED visits with a valid NC county of residence (97%). The NC counties with the highest rates of ED visits due to poisonings (visits per 100,000 person-years in parentheses) were Robeson (421.4), Mitchell (357.9), Gaston (349.9), Cleveland (346.8), and Columbus counties (329.6).

Prevention Strategies

- Learn about the work of the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition by visiting www.nchrc.org.
- Dispose of your medications in accordance with FDA guidelines. When available, take advantage of community medication “take back events.” You can find more information at the NC Safe Kids’ website for Operation Medicine Drop: <https://apps.ncdoi.net/f?p=102:4:14054229027805::NO>.
- Keep medications out of reach of young children. For a poisoning emergency, call the poison help line at 1 (800) 222-1222. Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information on preventing injuries due to poisonings please visit the NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch website at www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov or visit www.injuryfreenc.org.



Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014.
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