

OPIOID MEDICATION

A Risk for Children and Teens

How often are children and teens exposed to opioid medication?

Each year, opioid medication poisoning causes more than **300 deaths in children and teens**

Every 45 minutes, poison control centers get a call about children and teens exposed to opioid medication



About **1 in 10** of these cases are admitted to a health care facility

What ages of children and teens are most at risk?

Young children (ages 5 and younger) account for **60%** of these calls

60%



Most cases (86%) are **unintentional**, like when a child finds pills that are within reach

Teenagers (ages 13 through 19) account for **30%** of the cases

30%



Most cases (72%) are **intentional**, like when a teen takes their parents' medication

How do I keep my kids safe?

96% of these poisonings happen at **home**



- ✓ Store medications up, away, and out of sight
- ✓ Keep track of medications, so you know if any go missing
- ✓ Get rid of old, unwanted medications safely
- ✓ Talk to your teen about medication abuse

Poison control is available **24/7**
1-800-222-1222



For detailed sources and more information, please visit:
ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/infographics/opioid-medication

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Opioid Medication: A Risk for Children and Teens

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Each year, opioid medication poisoning causes more than 300 deaths in children and teens (1)

Every 45 minutes, poison control centers get a call about children and teens exposed to opioid medication (2)

About 1 in 10 of these cases are admitted to health care facilities (3)

What ages of children and teens are most at risk? (3)

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Sources

(1) National Center for Health Statistics Multiple Cause of Death database. (2015).

(2) Naqvi, J. (2017, March 20). Poison control centers receive 32 calls a day about children exposed to opioids. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/03/20/poison-control-centers-receive-32-calls-a-day-about-children-exposed-to-opioids/?utm_term=.3838499ac1d0

(3) Allen, J. D., Casavant, M. J., Spiller, H. A., Chounthirath, T., Hodges, N. L., & Smith, G. A. (2017). Prescription Opioid Exposures Among Children and Adolescents in the United States: 2000–2015. *Pediatrics*. 139(4). DOI: [10.1542/peds.2016-3382](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-3382)

For more information or to view this on the web, visit

<http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/opioid-medication>