

The Northern New England Poison Center State of Vermont

September 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014

Executive Summary

Exposure Calls

- The NNEPC managed 6,480 Vermont calls; 2,317 were human exposures. The exposures resulted in more than 2,062 follow-up calls.
- Vermont's penetrance was 7.4 in this period; the national penetrance for 2012 was 7.2.
- About 44% of exposure calls involved children under 6 years of age; 32% involved children under 2.
- Suspected suicide attempts accounted for 11% (n = 246) of exposures.
- Substance abuse poisoning-related calls accounted for 3% (n = 60) of exposures.
- Adults 60 years of age and older accounted for 7% (n = 167) of exposures.
- There were 436 cases called in from health care facilities seeking treatment advice. These cases are typically more difficult and require more staff time for management and follow-up. Nationally, poison centers are receiving a greater percentage of their calls from health care facilities. The NNEPC began to see a noticeable increase in Vermont starting in the 2012-2013 grant year.

Poison Information Calls

- The NNEPC answered 3,984 poison information calls from Vermont.
- Opioids were the most common drug category involved in substance abuse-related questions, followed by benzodiazepines and similar drugs.

Education Activities

- More than 1,000 educational materials were distributed.
- Education highlights included the development of a medication safety poster and a medication disposal fact sheet in multiple languages to serve those with limited English proficiency.