



Preventing Pediatric Medication Overdose: Strategies, Challenges, and Innovations

**Defining “Candy-Like” Nonprescription Drug Products
Hybrid Public Workshop
October 30, 2023**

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Medication Safety Program, Medical Product Safety Branch

HOW Does ADE Surveillance Happen?

The “old-fashioned” way.... population-based sampling

- National Electronic Injury Surveillance Systems (NEISS)
 - Operated by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - Cooperative (with CDC/FDA) Adverse Drug Event Surveillance (CADES)
- National Probability Sample
 - ~80 hospital Emergency Departments (EDs)
 - Stratified by hospital size/ children’s hospitals
 - Cases weighted by inverse probability of selection



WHAT is an Adverse Drug Event? (NEISS-CADES Case Definition)

■ “Injury/harm”

- ED visit / condition / action

■ “from the use of”

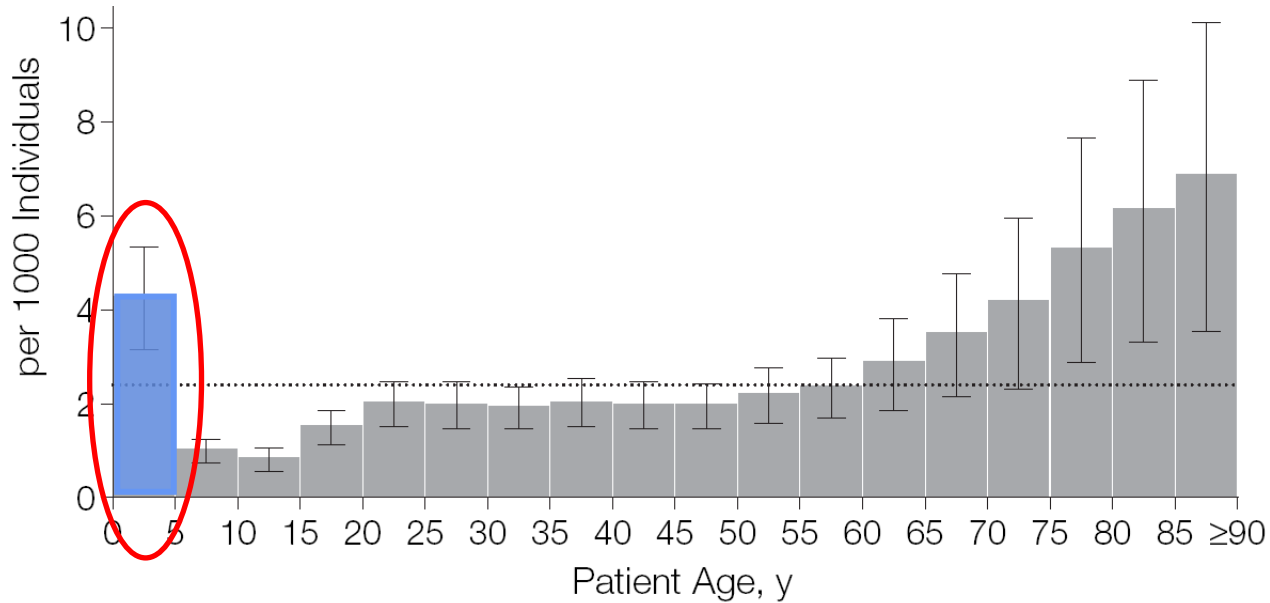
- Treating physician **attributed to** drug effects
- Pathognomonic drug-symptom sequence
- Therapeutic intent (2004-2015), All intents (since 2016)

■ “a drug”

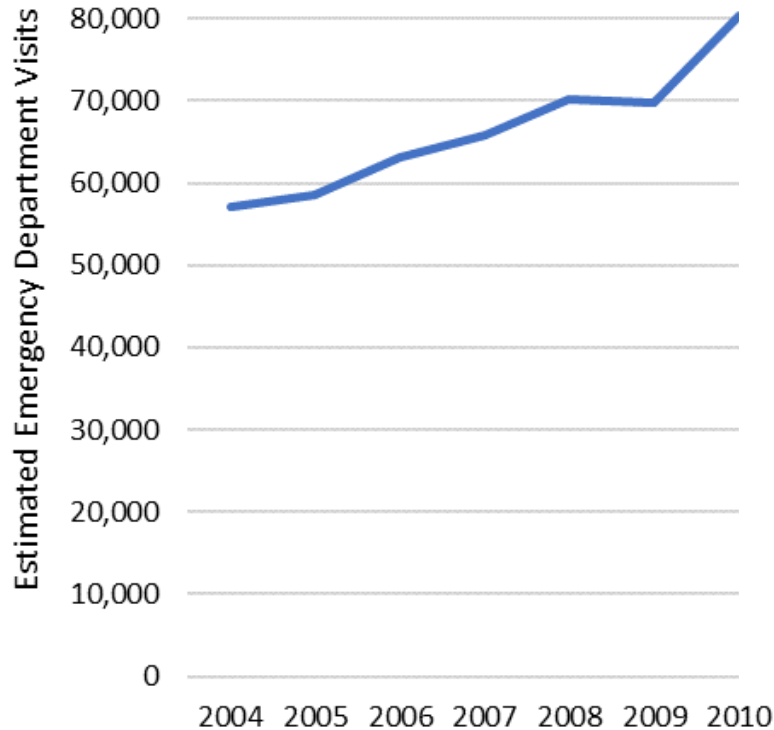
- Prescription product
- Supplement (vitamin, herb, homeopathic)
- Over-the-counter product
- Vaccine

- Allergic Reactions
- Side Effects
- Supra-therapeutic Effects (Therapeutic Overdoses)
- Errors
- Misuse/Abuse
- Self-Harm
- Unknown Intent

HOW many Outpatient ADEs occur? WHICH patients experience ADEs?



Increase in emergency visits for medication overdoses and exposures in children <6 years



NEISS-CADES, PROTECT Initiative Meeting 2021





*Prevention of Overdoses and Treatment Errors in
Children Taskforce*

- 3-Pronged Approach
 1. **Improve Safety Packaging** to reduce unsupervised ingestions
 2. **Standardize Labeling** to reduce medication errors
 3. **Update educational messages** on safe use and storage

HOW to prevent ADEs among children (liquid meds)?

TYLENOL For Healthcare Professionals For Consumers | News & Events |

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For Pediatric HCPs

Order Resources
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Pediatric Product Enhancements

NEW PRODUCT DOSING DEVICE ENHANCEMENTS FOR INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S TYLENOL®

April 14, 2011

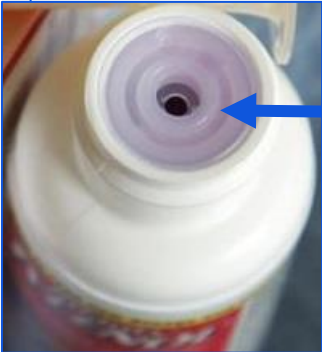
Dear Healthcare Professional:

I am pleased to inform you that McNeil Consumer Healthcare will be introducing dosing device enhancements on Infants' and Children's TYLENOL® products that will be available this upcoming cold and flu season. These enhancements are intended to help reduce the incidence and magnitude of accidental acetaminophen exposures in cases of unsupervised ingestions. McNeil has also shared these plans with other manufacturers of pediatric acetaminophen products.

Infants' TYLENOL® will include a new, enhanced bottle with a protective flow restrictor opening and push-in syringe. We believe this innovation will:

- Increase dosing accuracy through use of the new, product-specific dosing syringe
- Provide caregivers with better control when dispensing the medication, reduce spillage and increase the ease of administration to infants
- Further reduce the risk of children being able to get to the medicine in the bottle

Children's TYLENOL® will feature a new, enhanced bottle with a protective flow restrictor opening designed to be used with a dosing cup.



Flow restrictors...



ORIGINAL ARTICLES

www.jpeds.com • THE JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS

Frequency of Poison Center Exposures for Pediatric Accidental Unsupervised Ingestions of Acetaminophen after the Introduction of Flow Restrictors

Eric P. Brass, MD, PhD¹, Kate M. Reynolds, MPH², Randy I. Burnham, MS³, and Jody L. Green, PhD⁴

Objective To assess the temporal association of flow restrictor introduction and the rate of accidental unsupervised ingestions (AUIs) of liquid acetaminophen products.

Study design The National Poison Data System was used to identify AUIs of single ingredient acetaminophen in patients aged <12 years reported between 2007 and 2015. Six regional poison centers obtained additional information using a structured telephone survey.

Results Pediatric AUIs involving acetaminophen averaged 30 000 exposures per year between 2007 and 2012. From 2012 to 2015, after flow restrictor introduction, exposures steadily decreased at a rate of 2400 fewer exposures annually, reaching 21 677 exposures in 2015. Normalized to sales volume, exposures involving liquid acetaminophen products decreased by 40% from 2010 to 2015. Exposures involving products with flow restrictors tended to have a lower estimated ingestion per exposure, fewer exposures exceeding a 150 mg/kg acetaminophen threshold, and were associated with lower rates of hospital admissions when compared with products without restrictors. Caregivers reported improper storage and child confusion of the medicine with treats as common contributing factors to exposures.

Conclusions The introduction of flow restrictors was associated with a decrease in pediatric AUIs of liquid acetaminophen products. Decreases in the dose ingested and risk of hospital admission per exposure may also have resulted. Efforts to optimize flow restrictors and increase their use with medicines associated with high pediatric overdose risk should be encouraged. (*J Pediatr* 2018;198:254-9).



ASTM INTERNATIONAL

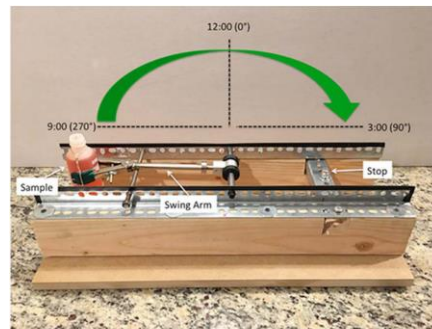


FIG. 1 Example Apparatus for Deceleration (Swing) Test

Restricted Delivery Systems: Flow Restrictors for Oral Liquid Drug Products

Guidance for Industry

DRAFT GUIDANCE

This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.

Comments and suggestions regarding this draft document should be submitted within 60 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit electronic comments to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

For questions regarding this draft document, contact Rhiannon Leuter (CDER) at 240-402-5998.

For questions about this document regarding CBER-regulated products, contact the Office of Communication, Outreach, and Development (OCOD) at 1-800-835-4709 or 240-402-8010.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)
Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH)
Office of Combination Products (OCP)

March 2020
Drug Safety

are efficacious

are effective

can be tested

are recommended
for broader use

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23896185/>

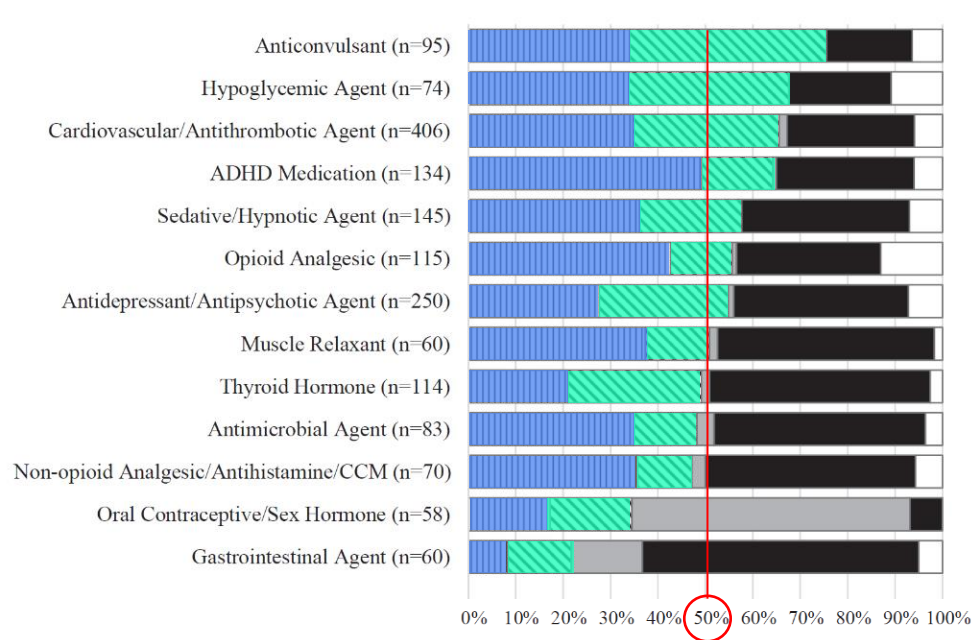
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29622340/>

<https://www.astm.org/f3375-19.htm>

<https://www.fda.gov/media/136170/download>

Adults intentionally removing pills from original packaging is an underlying cause of many pediatric ingestions

Calls to 5 poison centers for pediatric ingestions of pills by container type, 2017





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One Pill Can Kill

September 8, 2023 by Adam and MaryBeth Gillan, Maisie's parents

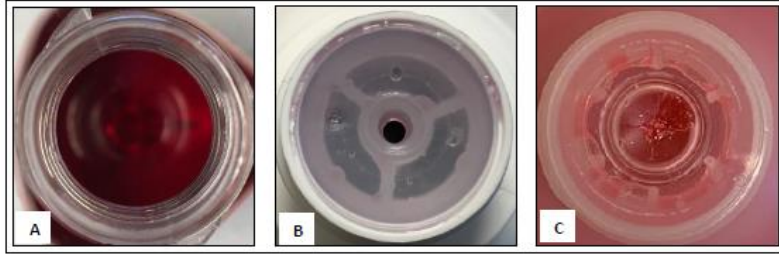
Our daughter, Maisie, died after ingesting a methadone pill at a neighbor's house that was on the floor. Six adults, three of them doctors, were with her the entire evening. Still, the small white pill found her hand, and then, as a nine-month-old baby would do, found her mouth. After putting Maisie to bed during her normal routine, her mother MaryBeth found her dead from an overdose the following morning.

Screams, tears, paramedics, heart breaking phone calls, funeral services, and a police investigation followed. None of it changed the outcome. Maisie died because medication was not safely stored up and away, out of her sight and reach. Maisie's death should never have happened.

Eventually, Maisie's tragic death was casually labeled to be simply an "unintentional overdose" - with no accountability or action, only the traumatic loss of life and grieving parents, friends, and family. As her parents, we have spread her story and legacy to whomever will listen via local news, the front page of *USA Today*, podcasts, health organizations, advocacy groups, and with the government at both local and federal levels with one goal: **We do not want there to be any more families with our experience.** We want changes in behavior, packaging, and practices so no families suffer like ours and there are no funerals for an unnecessary victim of the opioid epidemic.



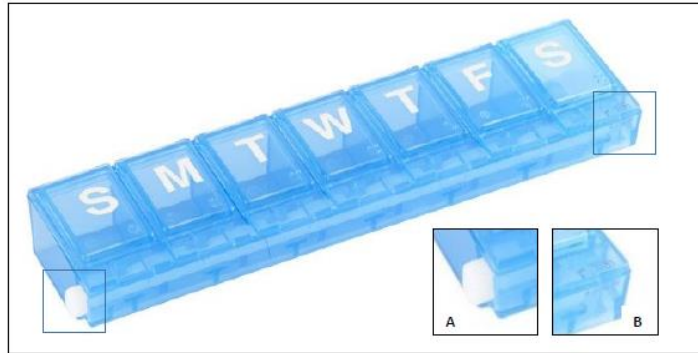
Maisie Gillan



eFigure 1. Examples of the openings of liquid medication bottles. Bottle without a flow restrictor (A); Bottle with a small bore open orifice flow restrictor (B); Bottle with a valved flow restrictor (C). Medication is removed from bottles with flow restrictors using an oral syringe or by squeezing into a dosing cup.



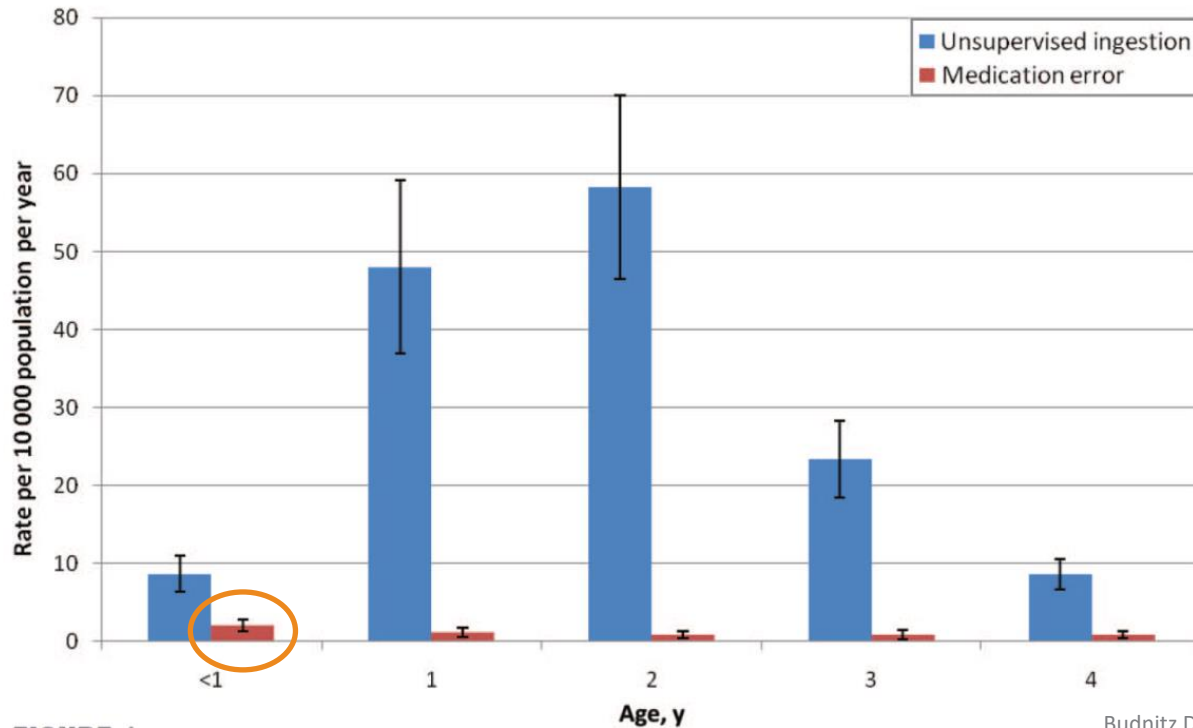
eFigure 3. Examples of existing packaging that can encourage adults to keep pills within the packaging and can be designed with child-resistant features. Blister packaging with perforations between doses, child-resistant or non-child-resistant designs available (A); Strip of unit dose pouches, currently typically non-child-resistant (B); Multi-dose blister card, currently typically non-child-resistant (C).



eFigure 4. Example of locking pill organizer. Push and hold button to release latch and open compartment lid (Inset A). Latch is spring loaded so automatically re-engages when lid is closed (Inset B).

ED Visits for ADEs Relatively Common in Children <5

Medication Errors Most Common Among Youngest Children



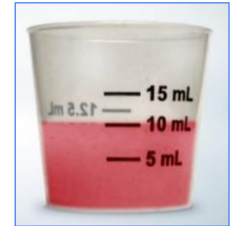
Budnitz DS and Salis S. *Pediatrics* 2011;127:1597-9

Cohen AL, et al. *J Pediatr* 2008;152: 416-421

Schillie SF, et al. *Am J Prev Med* 2009;37:181-7

Administration mix-ups can lead to multi-fold medication overdoses (and underdosing errors)

Instruction	Mix-up	Outcome
Give 1 teaspoon	Gave 1 <u>Table</u> spoon	3-fold overdose
Give 1/2 teaspoon	Gave <u>2</u> teaspoons	4-fold overdose
Give 1 milliliter (mL)	Gave 1 <u>teaspoon</u>	5-fold overdose
Give .1 milliliter (mL)	Gave <u>1</u> mL	10-fold overdose
Give 1.0 milliliter	Gave <u>10</u> mL	10-fold overdose



Encouraged **EDUCATION**

- For Prescribers



- For Parents/Caregivers



Encouraged **ENGINEERING**

- Encourage production of mL-only dosing devices



Encouraged **ADOPTION**



Up & Away Educational Campaign



CDC
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Official

Keep your kids safe! New data show that [#melatonin](#) ingestions by young children are up over the last 10 years. Be sure to put all medicines, supplements, and vitamins out of sight and reach of children. Learn more: upandaway.org. [#MedsUpAway](#)



Keep Medicines Out of Sight and Reach

12:00 PM · Aug 9, 2022 · Sprout Social



CDC en Español
@CDCespanol · Aug 15
Official

Los niños pequeños son muy curiosos. Para evitar accidentes, debes colocar los medicamentos, vitaminas y otros suplementos como la [#melatonina](#) fuera del alcance y de la vista de los niños. [#MedsUpAway](#)



8

11



Keep your child safe.

More than 60,000 young children end up in emergency departments every year because they got into medicines while their parent or caregiver was not looking.

Always put every medicine and vitamin up and away every time you use it. And keep the Poison Help number in all of your phones: (800) 222-1222. Or text "POISON" TO 797979 to automatically save it.

To learn more, visit UpandAway.org

Put your medicines up and away and out of sight.

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Up & Away Core Messages

1. Put medicines up and away and out of children's reach and sight.
2. Put medicines away every time.
3. Make sure safety caps are locked.
4. Teach your children about medicine safety.
5. Tell guests about medicine safety.
6. Be prepared in case of an emergency.



Keep your child safe.

More than **35,000** young children end up in emergency departments every year because they got into medicines while their parent or caregiver was not looking.

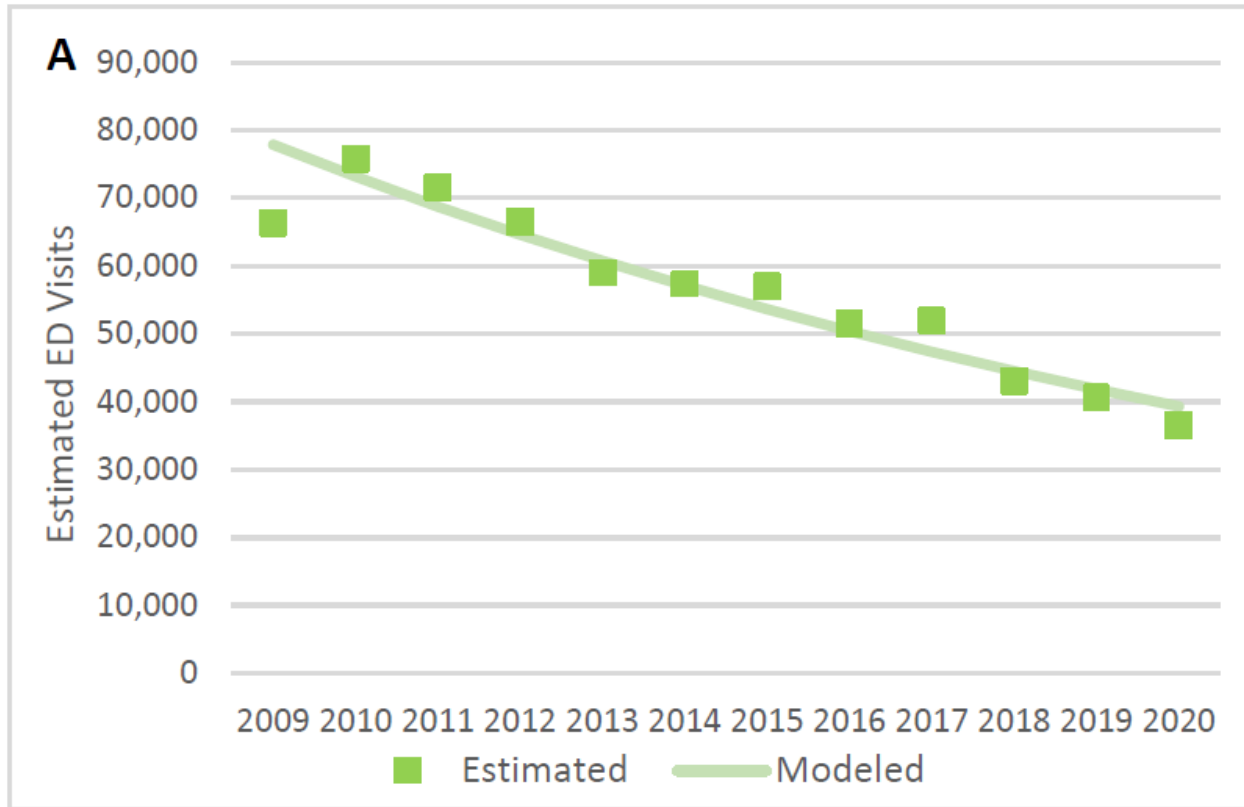
Put every medicine, vitamin, and supplement—especially those in gummy form—up and away every time you use it. And keep the Poison Help number in all of your phones: (800) 222-1222. Or text "POISON" TO 797979 to automatically save it.

Put your medicines
up
AND
away
and out of sight!

To learn more, visit UpandAway.org

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Recent Declines in Estimates of ED Visits for Unsupervised Medication Exposures, Children Aged ≤5 Years



Declines in Unsupervised Exposure ED Visits Across Many Medications

Table 3. Medication Classes Implicated in Emergency Department Visits for Unsupervised Medication Exposures Among Children Aged ≤5 Years

Medication class and Dosage form combination	2009–2012			2017–2020			Difference in estimate			% Change 2009–2012 to 2017–2020	95% CI	
	Annual national estimate			Annual national estimate			2009–2012 to 2017–2020					
	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI		%	95% CI			
Solid dosage form prescription medications												
Antidepressants	3,801	5.4	(4.6, 6.2)	2,446	5.7	(4.6, 6.7)	–1,354	–35.6	(–51.7, –19.6)	↓		
Prescription opioids	4,845	6.9	(5.8, 8.0)	2,249	5.2	(4.1, 6.3)	–2,596	–53.6	(–67.1, –40.1)	↓		
Amphetamine-related stimulants	2,031	2.9	(2.2, 3.6)	1,582	3.7	(2.6, 4.8)	–449	–22.1	(–52.1, 7.9)			
Anticonvulsants	1,763	2.5	(2.0, 3.1)	1,568	3.6	(2.6, 4.7)	–195	–11.1	(–47.0, 24.9)			
Benzodiazepines	4,165	5.9	(4.9, 7.0)	1,529	3.5	(2.5, 4.6)	–2,636	–63.3	(–79.3, –47.3)	↓		
Centrally acting antiadrenergics	1,652	2.4	(1.8, 2.9)	1,501	3.5	(2.3, 4.6)	–151	–9.1	(–38.1, 19.8)			
β-blockers	2,265	3.2	(2.6, 3.8)	1,490	3.5	(2.7, 4.2)	–775	–34.2	(–58.5, –9.9)	↓		
Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors	1,353	1.9	(1.5, 2.4)	1,179	2.7	(1.8, 3.6)	–174	–12.9	(–52.6, 26.8)			
Calcium channel blockers	1,290	1.8	(1.2, 2.5)	1,121	2.6	(1.8, 3.4)	–169	–13.1	(–47.1, 20.8)			
Atypical antipsychotics	1,603	2.3	(1.7, 2.8)	1,058	2.5	(1.6, 3.4)	–546	–34.0	(–64.4, –3.7)	↓		
Oral hypoglycemic agents	1,525	2.2	(1.5, 2.9)	925	2.1	(1.4, 2.9)	–600	–39.4	(–71.8, –6.9)	↓		
Thyroid hormones	879	1.3	(0.8, 1.7)	583	1.4	(0.9, 1.8)	–296	–33.7	(–61.4, –6.0)	↓		
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	902	1.3	(0.9, 1.7)	469	1.1	(0.5, 1.6)	–433	–48.0	(–79.8, –16.1)	↓		
Skeletal muscle relaxants	1,536	2.2	(1.8, 2.6)	430	1.0	(0.5, 1.4)	–1,106	–72.0	(–88.4, –55.6)	↓		
Angiotensin receptor blockers	349	0.5	(0.2, 0.8)	423	1.0	(0.6, 1.4)	74	21.2	(–67.5, 109.9)			
Antilipemic agents	686	1.0	(0.6, 1.4)	365	0.8	(0.4, 1.3)	–321	–46.9	(–79.8, –13.9)	↓		
Diuretics	792	1.1	(0.8, 1.5)	356	0.8	(0.4, 1.2)	–437	–55.1	(–80.8, –29.4)	↓		
Nonbenzodiazepine sedative/hypnotic agents	766	1.1	(0.6, 1.6)	326 ^a	0.8	(0.3, 1.2)	–440 ^a	–57.5 ^a	(–91.9, –23.0) ^a	↓		
Solid dosage form OTC medications												
Herbal/alternative remedies	1,566	2.2	(1.8, 2.7)	2,594	6.0	(4.6, 7.5)	1,028	65.6	(9.5, 121.7)	↑		
Acetaminophen	3,028	4.3	(3.4, 5.3)	2,533	5.9	(4.3, 7.5)	–495	–16.3	(–52.8, 20.2)			
Vitamins/minerals	2,862	4.1	(3.3, 4.9)	1,824	4.2	(3.1, 5.3)	–1,038	–36.3	(–60.8, –11.7)	↓		
Ibuprofen	1,758	2.5	(1.9, 3.2)	1,737	4.0	(2.8, 5.2)	–21	–1.2	(–39.1, 36.8)			
Diphenhydramine	718	1.0	(0.6, 1.4)	1,136	2.6	(1.8, 3.5)	419	58.3	(–25.8, 142.4)			
Selective antihistamines	970	1.4	(1.0, 1.8)	776	1.8	(1.1, 2.5)	–194	–20.0	(–66.4, 26.4)			
Aspirin	1,011	1.4	(0.8, 2.1)	558	1.3	(0.8, 1.8)	–453	–44.8	(–83.2, –6.4)	↓		
Acetaminophen- or aspirin-containing analgesic combinations	1,234	1.8	(1.4, 2.2)	507	1.2	(0.8, 1.6)	–726	–58.9	(–75.3, –42.5)	↓		
Cough and cold medications	935	1.3	(0.9, 1.8)	–	–	–	–	–	–			

Significant Increase in ED Visits for Melatonin Exposures

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421.1% increase (95% CI=68.3%, 774.0%) in ED visits for melatonin exposures

Characteristics of ED Visits for Unsupervised Medication Exposures, Children Aged ≤5 Years, 2019-21

Characteristic	National Estimates 2019-2021			
	Melatonin Products		Other Medications	
	No.	%	No.	%
Age				
<1 – 2 Years	3,471	46.5	76,091	74.1
3 – 5 Years	3,989	53.5	26,529	25.9
Sex				
Female	3,443	46.2	47,361	46.2
Male	4,017	53.9	55,259	53.9
Disposition				
Hospitalized	--	--	19,678	19.2
Not Hospitalized	7,019	94.1	82,942	80.8
No. Implicated Medications				
1	6,496	87.1	88,936	86.7
>1	--	--	13,684	13.3

ED Visits for Pediatric Melatonin Exposures Involved Older (Young) Children Than Other Medication Exposures

Characteristic	National Estimates 2019-2021			
	Melatonin Products		Other Medications	
	No.	%	No.	%
Age				
<1 – 2 Years	3,471	46.5	76,091	74.1
3 – 5 Years	3,989	53.5	26,529	25.9
Sex				
Female	3,443	46.2	47,361	46.2
Male	4,017	53.9	55,259	53.9
Disposition				
Hospitalized	--	--	19,678	19.2
Not Hospitalized	7,019	94.1	82,942	80.8
No. Implicated Medications				
1	6,496	87.1	88,936	86.7
>1	--	--	13,684	13.3



CANDY Confused

Pills and candy can look, smell, and even taste alike.

IF YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE, YOUR KIDS PROBABLY CAN'T EITHER!

Every year, approximately **35,000** young children end up in the emergency room after getting into medicines, vitamins, or supplements left within their reach.

That's nearly 4 school busloads of children per day!

Store medicine **UP AND AWAY** and out of sight of young children, even between doses.

GUMMI BEAR
or
MULTIVITAMIN?

ALTOID MINT
or
ASPIRIN?

SWEETART
or
ANTACID?

Make sure your kids don't accidentally get into medicine thinking that it's candy.

Updated Safe Storage Messaging to Include “Gummies”



CDC
@CDCgov



Whether at home or on the go, it's important to store medicine safely. Keep medicines, vitamins, and other supplements — including gummies — in a safe place young kids can't see or reach. Learn more: bit.ly/3mQn3BD #MedsUpAway



You Can't Be Everywhere

A photograph of two women and a baby. The woman on the left is a Black woman with her hair pulled back, smiling warmly at the baby. The woman on the right is a white woman with curly hair, also smiling. The baby is in the center, wearing a blue headband and a blue patterned shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

Healthy People 2030

Building a healthier future for all

Healthy People 2030 Measure

- **Objective:** Reduce ED visits for medication overdoses in children <5 years
- **Baseline:** 25.6 estimated ED visits per 10,000 children <5 years in 2016/2017

Healthy People 2030 Measure

- **Objective:** Reduce ED visits for medication overdoses in children <5 years
- **Baseline:** 25.6 estimated ED visits per 10,000 children <5 years in 2016/2017
- **Target:** 16.6 estimated ED visits per 10,000 children <5 years in 2026/2027

Thank You!

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For more information, contact CDC
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TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov



The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.