

# FAST FACTS

## Poisonings Among Children Ages 0–14 in 2018



This Fast Facts focuses on unintentional poisonings among children ages 0–14 in the U.S. in 2018. Poisonings among children ages 15–19 are often the result of unintentional overdoses of drugs taken intentionally that, while important, are outside of Safe Kids Worldwide’s mission.

### Magnitude of Poisonings Among Children Ages 0–14<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Deaths in 2018

66

#### Hospitalizations in 2018

8,219

#### Emergency Room (ER) visits in 2018

62,263

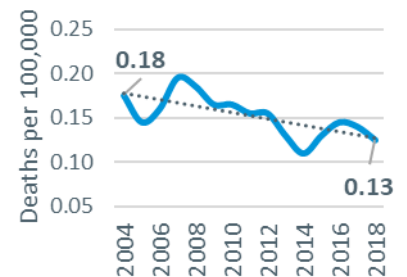
In 2018, poisonings among children ages 0–14 resulted in:

**1** death per week

**158** hospitalizations per week

**1,197** ER visits per week

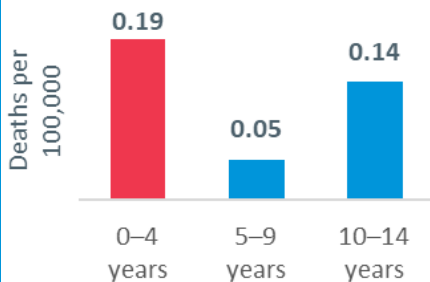
The rate of poisoning death among children ages 0–14 decreased by 28 percent from 2004–2018.\*



\*Based on 2-year moving average.

### Deaths by Age, 2018<sup>1</sup>

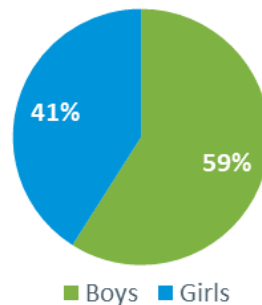
Children ages 0–4 years were at greater risk of poisoning death.\*



\*Based on data for 2016–2018 combined.

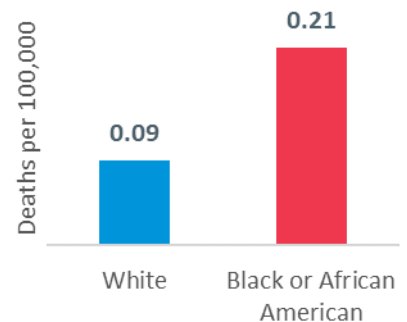
### Deaths by Gender, 2018<sup>1</sup>

Boys made up a larger proportion of poisoning deaths than girls.



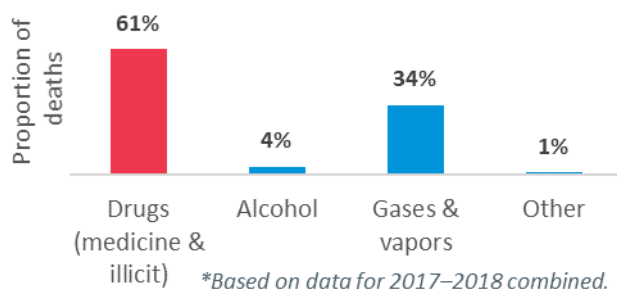
### Deaths by Race, 2018<sup>1</sup>

Black/African American children were at greater risk of poisoning death.



### Deaths by Poison Type, 2018<sup>1</sup>

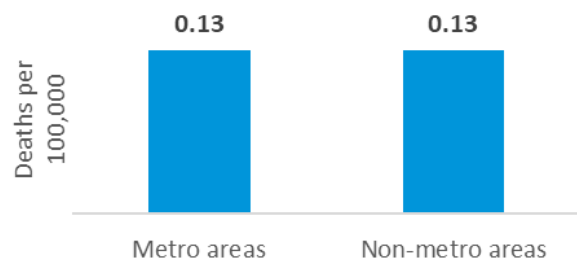
6 in 10 poisoning deaths were drug-related (medicine & illicit drugs).\*



\*Based on data for 2017–2018 combined.

### Deaths by Geographical Area, 2018<sup>1</sup>

Children living in metro areas and non-metro areas were at equal risk of poisoning death.\*



\*Based on data for 2016–2018 combined.

## Cost of Poisonings, 2017 (the latest year for which cost data are available)<sup>3</sup>

### Medical costs in 2017

**\$176.5 million**

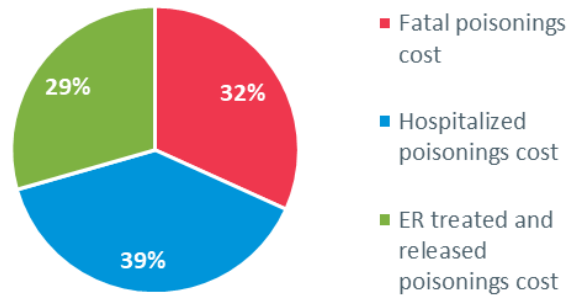
### Work-loss costs in 2017

**\$167.4 million**

### Combined costs 2017

**\$343.9 million**

Poisonings resulting in hospitalization accounted for the largest proportion of the total costs of child poisonings.



## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup>Data on fatal unintentional poisonings were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports, National, Regional and State and the CDC Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) Underlying Cause of Death online query systems.

<sup>2</sup>Data on ER treated and released and hospitalized poisonings were obtained from the CDC WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Reports, 2000-2018 online query system.

<sup>3</sup>Cost of injury data were calculated using 2017 data within the WISQARS Cost of Injury Reports application, unintentional poisonings that were serious enough to require an ED visit. Total combined medical and work loss costs are likely underestimated, as WISQARS cost estimates do not include ED treatment costs for poisoned children who were hospitalized.

Last updated November 2020.

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