

Poisoning

Summary

- Poisoning is the 5th leading cause of injury in children aged 0 to 12 years.
- In 2019, 417 children were treated for ingestion of poisonous substances
- The majority (83%) were asymptomatic or mild symptoms; 21 (6%) cases were severe, of which 33% were due to pesticides
- Poisoning disproportionately affects younger children; 80% were under 5 years.
- Boys were treated 1.5 times more frequently than girls.
- Poisoning is most frequently caused by ingestion of various medicines, household cleaning materials, paraffin and pesticides.



We could reduce the burden of poisoning in young children through:

- Locking medications, industrial and cleaning materials away in cupboards, out of child reach.
- Make us of child resistant packaging.
- Storing toxic substances in their original packaging.

Poisoning by type

