

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

MONTHLY REPORT

June 2014



Image courtesy of Gas Safe Register (UK)

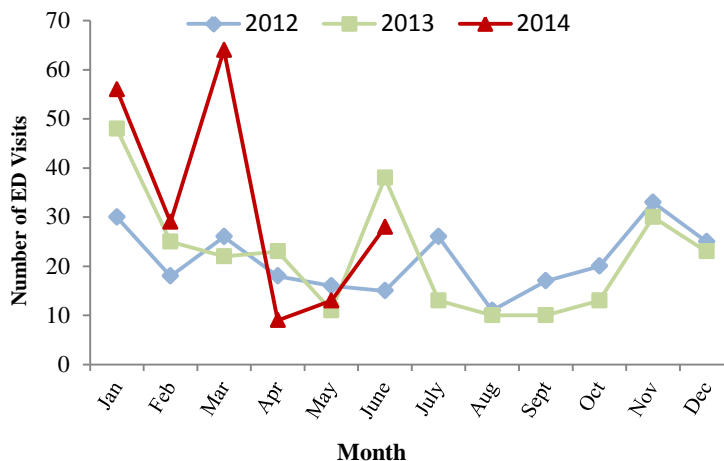
Emergency Department (ED) Visits: 28 visits related to unintentional non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning were identified.

Table 1. ED visits related to unintentional non-fire related CO poisoning, North Carolina.

June 2014	ED Visits
	N (%)
Total	28
Female	12 (43)
Male	16 (57)
Age Group (years)	
0-9	2 (7)
10-24	7 (25)
25-44	12 (43)
45-64	5 (18)
65+	2 (7)
Exposure Site	
Home	7 (25)
Public Building	1 (4)
Vehicle	4 (14)
Workplace	4 (14)
Unspecified	12 (43)
Disposition	
Admitted	2 (7)
Discharged/ Left without Advice	25 (89)
Transferred	1 (4)

NOTE: N.C. DETECT (Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool; www.ncdetect.org) search criteria: ICD-9-CM diagnostic code 986 or external cause of injury code E868.3, E868.8, E868.9, E982.1, E868.2 or E982.0. ED visits related to self-inflicted or fire-related exposures (identified by keywords "fire" or "smoke") were excluded. CPC calls were filtered by substance and calls were included when unintentional exposure to CO was documented (whether or not additional substances were mentioned). The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee does not take responsibility for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented.

Figure 1. ED visits related to unintentional non-fire-related CO poisoning by month and year, North Carolina



Carolinans Poison Center (CPC): In addition to ED visits, 15 calls^{1,2} related to unintentional CO exposure were captured through the CPC.

- 31 exposed persons were mentioned in the 15 calls:
 - 14 (45%) Female
 - 17 (55%) Male
- Site of exposure:
 - 14 (45%) Residence
 - 17 (55%) Workplace

June 2014 CO Exposure Descriptions

- Common symptoms reported included headache, chest pain and dizziness.
- One person passed out from CO exposure after working under a running car.
- Seven workers suffered CO poisoning after using a propane-powered welder inside a warehouse without adequate ventilation.
- A group of friends was exposed to CO while staying at a beach house.

¹ We do not have the ability to determine the extent of overlap (if any) between CPC calls and ED visits. Therefore, they are analyzed separately.

² We do not have the ability to determine if CPC calls were related to fires.