

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

## June 2016

**Know the Symptoms of CO Poisoning...**

Physical symptoms of CO poisoning vary, depending on the amount of CO in the bloodstream. The higher the concentration, the greater the danger.

**MILD EXPOSURE**

- Slight Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Flu-Like Symptoms

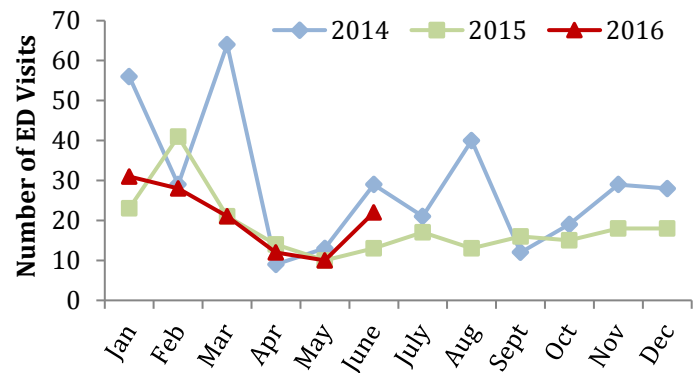
**MEDIUM EXPOSURE**

- Severe Headache
- Drowsiness
- Unconsciousness
- Confusion
- Rapid Heart Rate
- Cardiac/Respiratory Failure
- Death

**SEVERE EXPOSURE**

Image courtesy of Elkridge (MD) Volunteer Fire Department

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



### June 2016 CO Exposure Descriptions

- Ten people, including four children, were exposed to CO while cooking with a propane grill in an enclosed garage.
- A man was exposed to CO while driving a cab with a poor ventilation system.

### Carolinas Poison Center (CPC)

The CPC received 13 calls<sup>1,2</sup> related to unintentional CO exposure in North Carolina and two calls related to CO alarm use.

- 26 exposed people were mentioned:
  - 13 (50%) Female
  - 13 (50%) Male
- Site of exposure:
  - 24 (92%) Residence
  - 2 (8%) Workplace

<sup>1</sup>We do not have the ability to determine the extent of overlap between CPC calls and ED visits. Therefore, they are analyzed separately.

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

**Table.** 22 Emergency Department (ED) visits related to unintentional, non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in North Carolina were identified.

	N (%)		N (%)
<b>Sex</b>		<b>Disposition</b>	
Female	6 (27)	Admitted	5 (23)
Male	16 (73)	Discharged	16 (73)
<b>Age Group (yrs.)</b>		Transferred	1 (5)
0-9	4 (18)	<b>Insurance</b>	
10-24	4 (18)	Medicaid	7 (32)
25-44	4 (18)	Medicare	3 (14)
45-64	9 (41)	Private	3 (14)
65+	1 (5)	Self-pay	8 (36)
		Other	1 (5)

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**NOTE:** NC DETECT ([www.ncdetect.org](http://www.ncdetect.org)) search criteria for ED visits: ICD-10-CM code T58 for N.C. residents who visited N.C. hospitals. ED visits related to self-inflicted or fire-related exposures were excluded. CPC calls were filtered by substance and included when unintentional CO exposure, CO alarm use or a request for CO information was documented.

NC DETECT is a statewide public health syndromic surveillance system, funded by the N.C. Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant and managed through collaboration between NC DPH and UNC-CH Department of Emergency Medicine's Carolina Center for Health Informatics. The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee is not responsible for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented.