

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



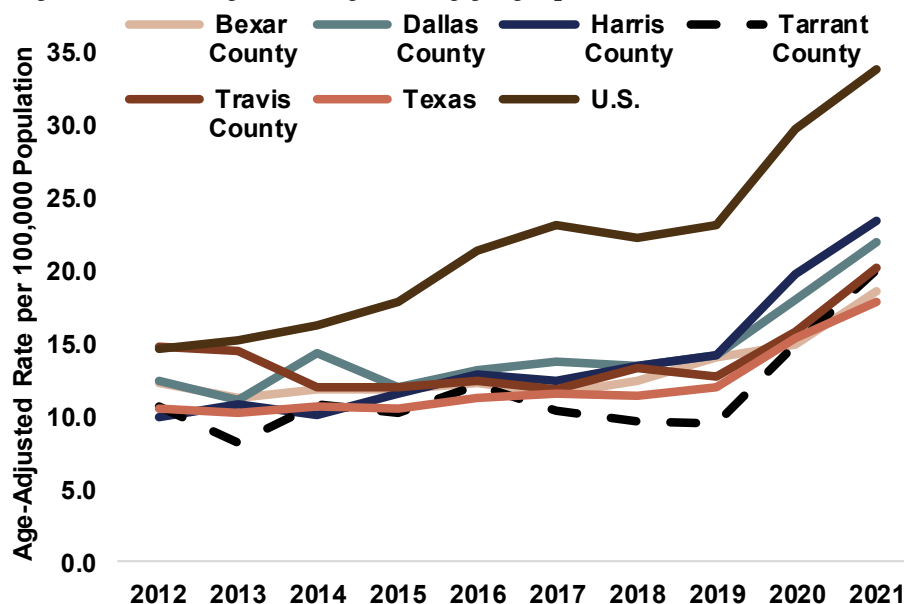
POISONINGS IN TARRANT COUNTY

Poison: anything that causes harm when it is used incorrectly, in different amounts, or by the wrong person. Poisons can be **solids** (pills, batteries, toys, etc.), **liquids** (laundry detergent, cough syrup, gasoline, etc.), **sprays** (pesticides, home cleaners, perfume, etc.), and **gases** (carbon monoxide (CO), propane, etc.). Poisons can cause harm through contact with the eyes or skin, and through inhaling or consuming them. Exposures also occur through **bites and stings** (venom from a snakebite, bee sting, etc.) and **plants** (poison ivy, some mushrooms, etc.).

Poisonings can be fatal and non-fatal depending on how fast they are recognized and treated. They can be unintentional (accidents) or intentional.

Overdose: [see Data Brief] a type of poisoning when the body is overwhelmed by over-the-counter, prescription, and/or illegal drugs.

Figure 1. Poisoning mortality rates by geographic location, 2012-2021



Poisoning mortality rates are derived from the underlying cause of death codes (X40-X49, X60-X69, X85-X90, and Y10-Y19) in CDC WONDER

All locations had a significant increase in poisoning mortality rates from 2012 to 2021
The U.S., Texas, and Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties had significant increases each year from 2019 to 2021

Figure 2. Top 3 causes of death* among poisoning deaths by geographic location, 2021

Rank	U.S. N (%)	Texas N (%)	Bexar County N (%)	Dallas County N (%)	Harris County N (%)	Tarrant County N (%)	Travis County N (%)
1	X44 44,065 (39%)	X44 2,064 (39%)	X44 130 (34%)	X44 218 (37%)	X44 516 (46%)	X42 148 (34%)	X44 138 (49%)
2	X42 43,193 (39%)	X42 1,562 (30%)	X42 115 (30%)	X42 197 (33%)	X42 378 (34%)	X44 124 (29%)	X42 69 (25%)
3	X41 10,589 (10%)	X41 947 (18%)	X41 103 (27%)	X41 105 (18%)	X41 111 (10%)	X41 96 (22%)	X41 37 (13%)

* Causes of death are identified by specific ICD-10 codes ; N = number of times that cause of death was indicated among poisoning deaths for that location ; % = N / total number of poisoning deaths for that location

[X44] Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biological substances (e.g. drugs acting on smooth and skeletal muscles or the respiratory, cardiovascular, or gastrointestinal systems, hormones, antibiotics, etc.)

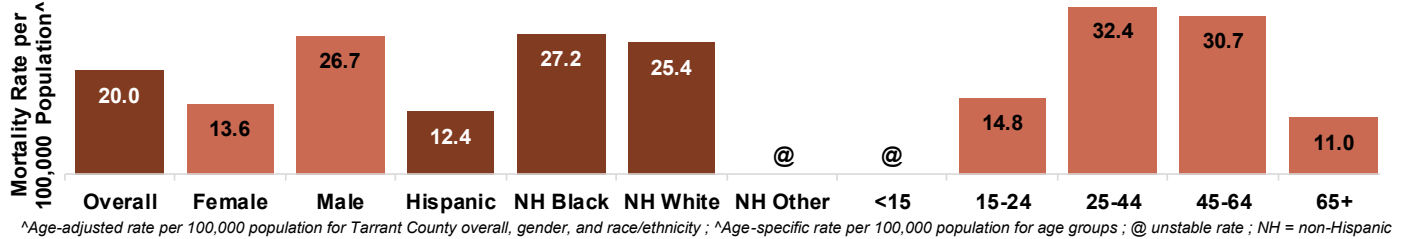
[X42] Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens] (e.g. cannabis (derivatives), cocaine, codeine, heroin, lysergide [LSD], methadone, morphine, opium (alkaloids), etc.)

[X41] Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs (e.g. antidepressants, barbiturates, psychostimulants, tranquilizers, etc.)



In 2021, there were 432 fatal poisonings among Tarrant County residents and 91% were unintentional (accidents)
In 2021, Tarrant County had a significantly lower poisoning mortality rate than the U.S. and Harris County

Figure 3. Tarrant County poisoning mortality rates[^] by gender, race/ethnicity, and age group (in years), 2021



Among Tarrant County residents, poisoning mortality rates were significantly higher among males, non-Hispanic blacks and whites, and individuals aged 25-44 and 45-64 years

Figure 4. Top 10 exposures reported to the Texas Poison Center Network from Tarrant County residents by substance major category, 2022 (n= 13,112)[‡]

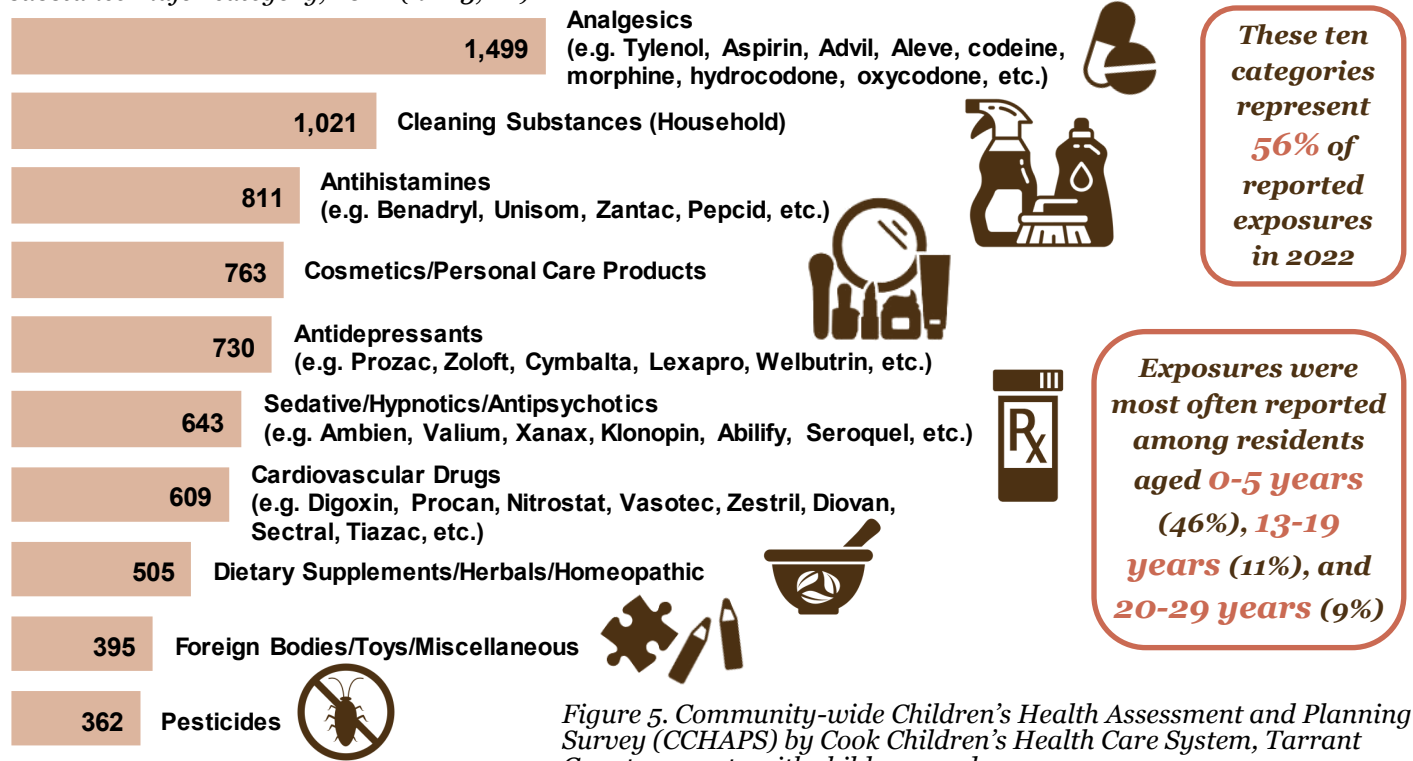
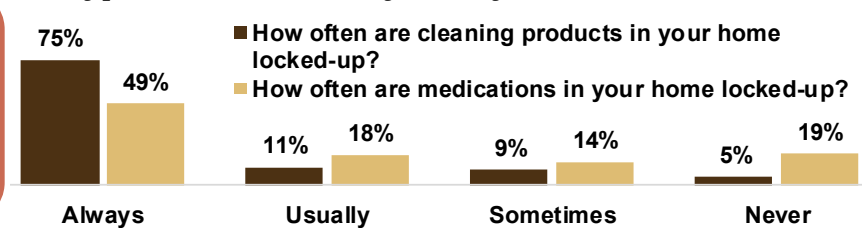


Figure 5. Community-wide Children’s Health Assessment and Planning Survey (CCHAPS) by Cook Children’s Health Care System, Tarrant County parents with children aged 0-17 years, 2023



Safe Kids North Texas - Fort Worth, led by Cook Children’s, distributed 72,334 educational items (medication schedule pads and brochures) as well as 10,191 prevention tools (medication lock boxes and cabinet locks) to caregivers in the community from Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Education and Prevention

- Save the Poison Control Hotline number in your phone.
 - Purchase medication from official medical providers and pharmacies only.
 - Lock up medications, cleaners, care products, chemicals, etc. in a lockbox, safe, or locking cabinet. Store them out of sight and out of reach. [upandaway.org]
 - Follow product directions and read warnings! For medications, follow the instructions and talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.
 - Properly dispose of expired, unused, and unwanted medications at official drop boxes/take back locations or events. Do not share them with others! Check the FDA’s flush list: [fda.gov/media/85219/download]
 - Carry Naloxone (Narcan) to reverse opioid poisonings. [narcan.com]
- [cdc.gov/medicationsafety/index.html]
 [cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety/poison-prevention/]
 [poisoncenters.org/prevention] [poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/resources/toolkits]

Resources and Services

- Poison Control Hotline
Call 1-800-222-1222 (24/7)
[poisoncontrol.org]
- Poison Control Online Tool
[webpoisoncontrol.org]
- Local Medication Drop Boxes
[meddropbox.org]
- DEA Drug Take Back Days
[dea.gov/takebackday]
- Request FREE Naloxone
[naloxonetexas.com]



[‡]Exposures reported to the Texas Poison Center Network may involve multiple substances (major categories); All significant differences detected at the 95% confidence level; Data sources: CCHAPS 2023 (Cook Children’s Health Care System), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Safe Kids North Texas - Fort Worth, Texas Poison Center Network; Data Brief provided by: Office of Health Informatics