

# TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



## POISONINGS IN TARRANT COUNTY

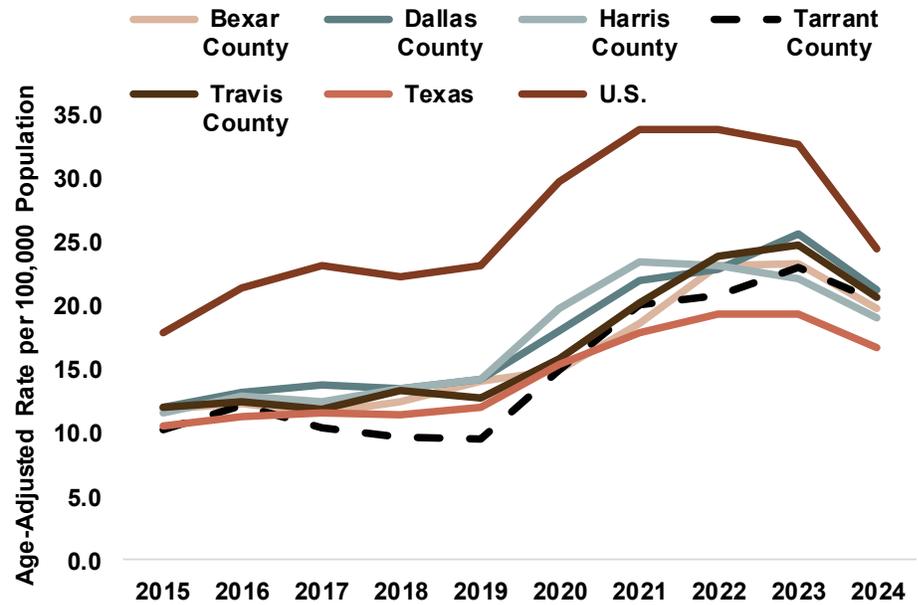
**Poison:** anything that causes harm when used incorrectly, in different amounts than directed, or by the wrong individual. Poisons can cause harm through contact with the eyes or skin, and through inhaling or consuming them. Poisons can be:

- **Solids** (pills, batteries, toys, etc.)
- **Liquids** (laundry detergent, cough syrup, gasoline, etc.)
- **Sprays** (pesticides, perfume, home cleaners, etc.)
- **Gases** (carbon monoxide, radon, methane, propane, etc.)
- **Bites and Stings** (venom from a snakebite, bee sting, etc.)
- **Plants** (poison ivy, poison oak, some mushrooms, etc.)

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

**Overdose:** a type of poisoning when the body is overwhelmed by toxic levels of drugs or medication (over-the-counter, prescription, and/or illegal). [\[Data Brief linked here\]](#)

Figure 1. Poisoning mortality rates by geographic location, 2015-2024

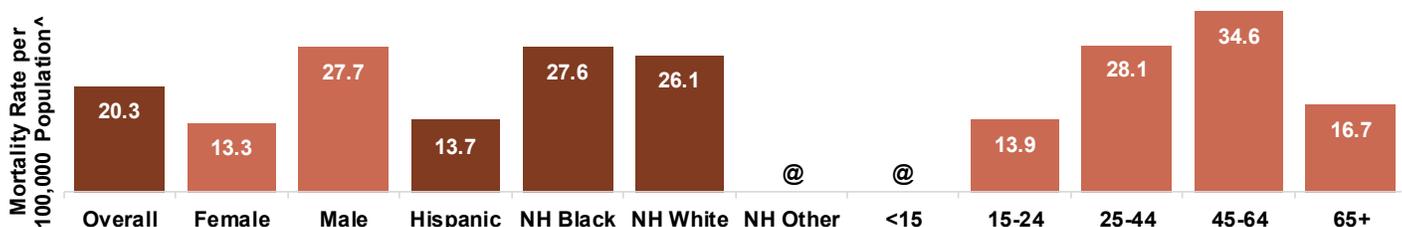


Each geographic location had a **significant increase** in poisoning mortality from 2015 to 2024

There was a **significant increase** in poisoning mortality in Texas and Bexar, Tarrant, and Travis counties from 2020 to 2024

There were **459 fatal poisonings** among Tarrant County residents in 2024 and **92% were unintentional**

Figure 2. Tarrant County poisoning mortality rates by gender, race/ethnicity, and age group (in years), 2024



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**

Poisoning mortality rates are derived from the underlying cause of death codes (X40-X49, X60-X69, X85-X90, and Y10-Y19) 2024 data are provisional and subject to change; ^ Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population for Tarrant County overall, gender, and race/ethnicity & age-specific rate per 100,000 population for age groups; @ = unstable rate; NH = Non-Hispanic; All significant differences detected at the 95% confidence level; Data sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Poison Help - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Data Brief provided by: Statistical Analysis Team

Figure 3. Top 3 causes of poisoning death by ICD-10 code\* by geographic location, 2024

Rank	U.S. N (%)	Texas N (%)	Bexar County N (%)	Dallas County N (%)	Harris County N (%)	Tarrant County N (%)	Travis County N (%)
1	X44 34,561 (41%)	X44 1,841 (35%)	X44 143 (34%)	X44 220 (38%)	X42 378 (39%)	X44 170 (37%)	X44 127 (41%)
2	X42 27,824 (33%)	X42 1,621 (31%)	X41 123 (29%)	X42 213 (36%)	X44 360 (37%)	X42 136 (30%)	X42 93 (30%)
3	X41 10,381 (12%)	X41 1,084 (21%)	X42 114 (27%)	X41 95 (16%)	X41 120 (12%)	X41 107 (23%)	X41 61 (20%)

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

**In 2024, all geographic locations had the same top 3 causes of death (X44, X42, and X41) for fatal poisonings**

**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.)

Figure 4. Tarrant County poisoning deaths by month, 2022-2024

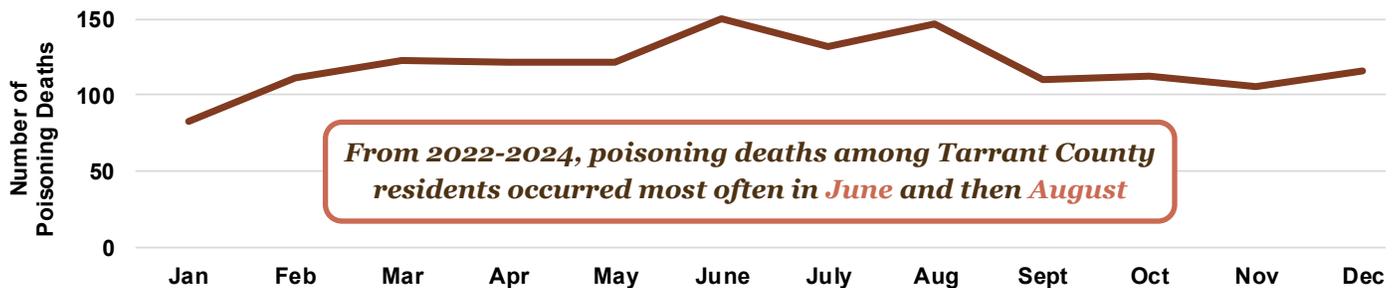
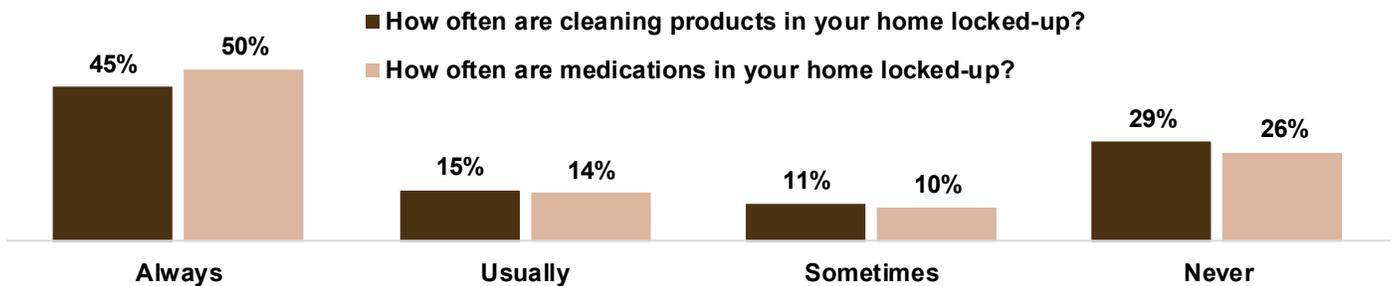


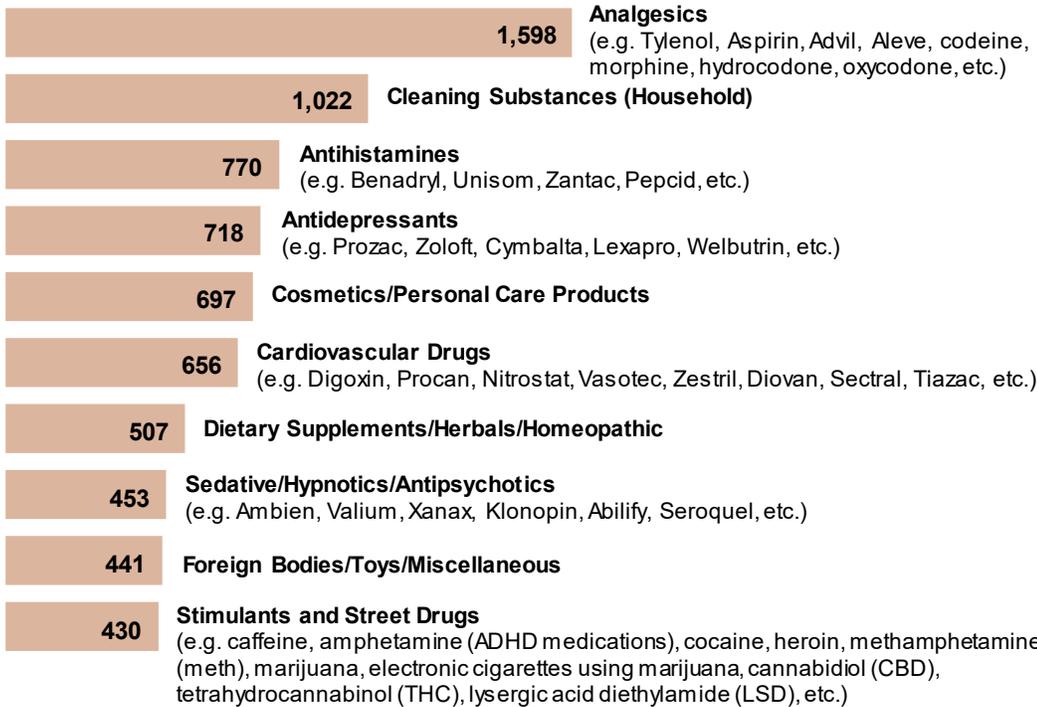
Figure 5. Poisoning prevention questions from the Parent/Caregiver Survey by Cook Children’s Health Care System, Tarrant County parents with children aged 0-17 years, 2024



**The Injury Prevention Collaborative led by Cook Children’s, distributed 12,589 educational items (brochures and slim cards), as well as 4,603 prevention items (medication lock boxes, cabinet locks, and medication schedule pads) to families and community partners in Tarrant County from October 2024 to September 2025**

\* Causes of death are identified by specific International Classification of Disease Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes  
 Data sources: 2024 Parent/Caregiver Survey (Cook Children’s Health Care System), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Injury Prevention Collaborative (Cook Children’s Health Care System)  
 Data Brief provided by: Statistical Analysis Team

Figure 6. Top 10 exposures reported to the Texas Poison Center Network from Tarrant County residents by substance major category, 2025 (n= 13,377)\*



*These ten categories represent 55% of reported exposures in 2025*

*Exposures were most often reported among residents aged 0-5 years (45%) and females (54%)*

*During the DEA’s National Drug Take Back Days in April and October 2025, the DEA Dallas Field Division collected 47,218 pounds of medication across Texas locations in their jurisdiction, including Tarrant County*



### Education and Prevention

- Save the **Poison Control Hotline** number in your phone
- Learn how to **prevent poisonings** and make your home safer [[poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/resources/toolkits](https://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/resources/toolkits)]
- Purchase medication from **official medical providers and pharmacies only** [[dea.gov/onepill](https://dea.gov/onepill)] [[onepillkillstx.com](https://onepillkillstx.com)]
- **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](https://upandaway.org)]
- **Follow product directions carefully and read warnings!** For medications, follow instructions (correct dosage/amount) and talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions [[cdc.gov/medication-safety/about/index.html](https://cdc.gov/medication-safety/about/index.html)]
- **Properly dispose** of expired, unused, and unwanted medications at official drug take back locations, drop boxes, and events [[meddropbox.org](https://meddropbox.org)]. **Do not share medication!** [[fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know](https://fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know)]
- **Carry Naloxone (Narcan)** to reverse opioid poisonings [[cdc.gov/stop-overdose/caring/naloxone.html](https://cdc.gov/stop-overdose/caring/naloxone.html)] [[txopioidresponse.org](https://txopioidresponse.org)]
- People struggling with distress are at greater risk for misusing medication. It is important to get **mental health help** to prevent potential poisonings **Call/Text 988** [[988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)]

### Resources and Support

- Poison Control Hotline** Call **1-800-222-1222** [[poisoncontrol.org](https://poisoncontrol.org)] [[webpoisoncontrol.org](https://webpoisoncontrol.org)]
- [Drug Take Back Locations & Drop Boxes](https://meddropbox.org) [[meddropbox.org](https://meddropbox.org)]
- [DEA Drug Take Back Events & Red Ribbon Week](https://dea.gov/takebackday) [[dea.gov/takebackday](https://dea.gov/takebackday)] [[dea.gov/redribbon](https://dea.gov/redribbon)]
- [Poison Prevention Resources](https://cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/poison-prevention/) [[cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/poison-prevention/](https://cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/poison-prevention/)]
- [Request FREE Naloxone in Texas](https://naloxonetexas.com) [[naloxonetexas.com](https://naloxonetexas.com)]
- [Challenge of Tarrant County](https://challengetc.org) [[challengetc.org](https://challengetc.org)]
- [MHMR of Tarrant County](https://mhmtarrant.org/addiction-services/) Call **1-800-866-2465** [[mhmtarrant.org/addiction-services/](https://mhmtarrant.org/addiction-services/)]
- [Recovery Resource Council](https://recoverycouncil.org/programs-and-services/) Call **817-332-6329** [[recoverycouncil.org/programs-and-services/](https://recoverycouncil.org/programs-and-services/)]
- [Texas Health and Human Services](https://dshs.texas.gov/environmental-surveillance-toxicology/home-poison-epidemiology/tpc-poison-epidemiology/) [[dshs.texas.gov/environmental-surveillance-toxicology/home-poison-epidemiology/tpc-poison-epidemiology/](https://dshs.texas.gov/environmental-surveillance-toxicology/home-poison-epidemiology/tpc-poison-epidemiology/)] [[hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/)]

\* Exposures reported to the Texas Poison Center Network may involve multiple substances (major categories)  
Data sources: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Texas Poison Center Network  
Data Brief provided by: Statistical Analysis Team