Opioid Medication: A Risk for Children and Teens

How often are children and teens exposed to opioid medication?

Each year, opioid medication poisoning causes more than 300 deaths in children and teens (1).

Every 45 minutes, poison control centers get a call about children and teens exposed to opioid medication (2).

About 1 in 10 of these cases are admitted to health care facilities (3).

What ages of children and teens are most at risk? (3)

Young children (ages 5 and younger) account for 60% of these calls.

Most cases (86%) are unintentional, like when a child finds pills that are within reach.

Teenagers (ages 13 through 19) account for 30% of the calls.

Most cases (72%) are intentional, like when a teen takes their parents’ medication.

How do I keep my kids safe?

96% of these poisonings happen at home (3).

- Store medications locked up and out of sight.
- Keep track of medications, so you know if any go missing.
- Get rid of old, unwanted medications safely.
- Talk to your teen about medication abuse.

Poison Control is available 24/7: 1-800-222-1222.

Sources


For more information or to view this on the web, visit http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/opioid-medication.