



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System
Serving New Jersey Since 1983

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please distribute to the public; your local radio, magazines and newspapers;
websites; etc.

Designated regional poison center
for New Jersey by New Jersey
Department of Health and Senior
Services and the American
Association of Poison Control
Centers

Date: July 2009
Contact: Alicia Gambino, MA, CHES
973-972-9280

BREAKING NEWS

Poisonings Cause More Deaths Than Motor Vehicle Accidents

(Newark, NJ) – According to a study just released by the CDC*, poisonings are a leading cause of death in the United States. Between 2005 to 2006, deaths from poisonings surpassed deaths from motor vehicle accidents. Over ninety percent (90%) of the deaths from poisoning during this time period were drug related

New Jersey has experienced a steady increase in unintentional poisoning deaths. Prescription drug abuse is increasing among all ages from children through adults. If you are between the ages of 34 and 56, you are at a greater risk of dying from medication poisonings than from a motor vehicle accident.

The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) urges all NJ residents to

1. take only medications that are prescribed for you. Never take or share other people's medications.
2. never take more or less medicine than your healthcare professional prescribes.
3. avoid drug interactions. Make sure your healthcare professional knows all medications you are currently taking.
4. read directions and warning labels on packages before taking medicine.
5. get rid of medicines that have expired or are no longer needed.

Contact the NJ Poison Control Center IMMEDIATELY if

- you or anyone you know has taken more medication than prescribed
- you experience side effects from medications you take and/or chemicals you work with or are exposed to

Remember Help Is Just A Phone Call Away! 1-800-222-1222

For immediate treatment advice, as well as for prevention information, call the NJ Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Trained medical professionals handle all calls. The hotline is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Services are free and confidential. Hearing impaired may call 973-926-8008. **For Press follow-up, please call 1-800-222-1222.**

*QuickStats: Motor-Vehicle Traffic and Poisoning Death Rates, by Age --- United States, 2005—2006. MMWR Weekly. July 17, 2009 / 58(27):753

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

140 Bergen Street, Suite G1600, Newark, NJ 07101-1709

Telephone: 973-972-9280

Fax: 973-643-2679

Website: WWW.NJPIES.ORG