

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS MONTHLY REPORT January 2014

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



Courtesy of CDC: [www.CDC.Gov/CO/](http://www.CDC.Gov/CO/)

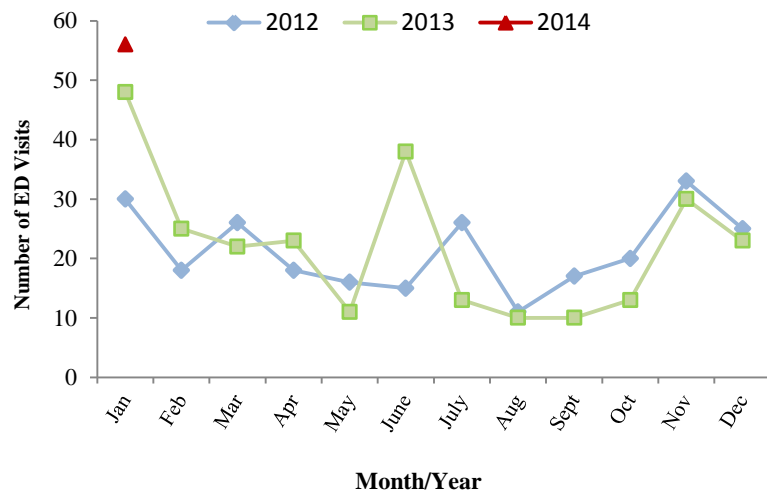
**Emergency Department (ED) Visits:** 56 ED visits related to unintentional non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) exposure were identified

**Table 1.** ED visits related to unintentional non-fire-related CO poisoning, North Carolina

January 2014	ED Visits
	<b>N (%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	56
Female	37 (66.1)
Male	19 (33.9)
<b>Age Group (years)</b>	
0-9	5 (8.9)
10-24	18 (32.1)
25-44	16 (28.6)
45-64	11 (19.6)
65+	6 (10.7)
<b>Exposure Site</b>	
Home	11 (19.6)
Public building	3 (5.4)
Workplace	21 (37.5)
Unspecified	21 (37.5)
<b>Disposition</b>	
Admitted	4 (7.1)
Discharged	49 (87.5)
Transferred	3 (5.4)

**NOTE:** N.C. DETECT (Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool; [www.ncdetect.org](http://www.ncdetect.org)) search criteria: ICD-9-CM diagnostic code 986 or external cause of injury code E868.3, E868.8, E868.9, E982.1, E868.2 or E982.0. ED visits related to self-inflicted or fire-related exposures (identified by keywords "fire" or "smoke") were excluded. CPC calls were filtered by substance and calls were included when unintentional exposure to CO was documented (whether or not additional substances were mentioned). The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee does not take responsibility for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented.

**Figure 1.** ED visits related to unintentional non-fire-related CO poisoning by month and year, North Carolina



**Carolinas Poison Center (CPC):** In addition to ED visits, 33 calls<sup>1,2</sup> related to unintentional CO exposure were captured through the CPC.

- 51 exposed persons were mentioned in the 33 calls
  - 34 (67%) Female
  - 16 (31%) Male
  - 1 (2%) Unidentified
- Site of Exposure:
  - 42 (82%) Residence
  - 6 (12%) Workplace
  - 3 (6%) Unidentified location

### January 2014 CO Exposure Descriptions

- Occupational or residential heater malfunctions were described as the cause of the CO exposures in multiple incidents.
- Kerosene heater use was mentioned in several CO exposure descriptions and resulted in multiple ED patients.
- Headaches and dizziness were common chief complaints expressed among those exposed.

<sup>1</sup>We do not have the ability to determine the extent of overlap (if any) 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.