

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

## MONTHLY REPORT March 2014

### POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CO POISONING



Courtesy of Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services: [Hermistonfire.com](http://Hermistonfire.com)

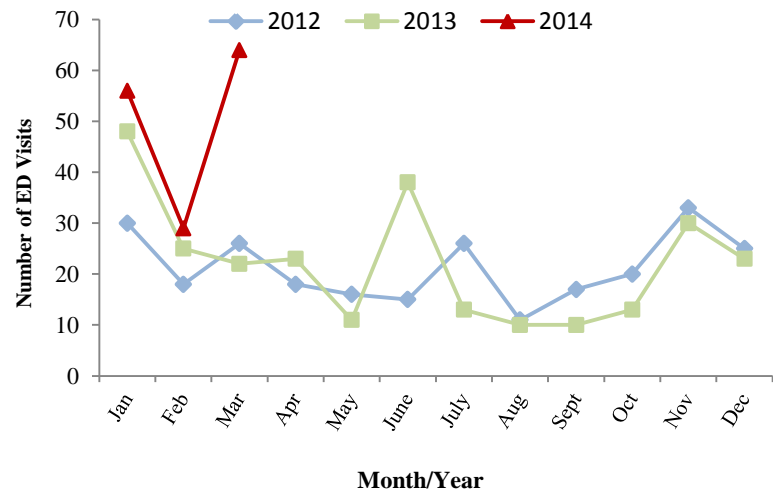
**Emergency Department (ED) Visits:** 64 visits related to unintentional non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning were identified.

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

March 2014	ED Visits
	<b>N (%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	64
Female	35 (55)
Male	29 (45)
<b>Age Group (years)</b>	
0-9	10 (15)
10-24	14 (22)
25-44	14 (22)
45-64	21 (33)
65+	5 (8)
<b>Exposure Site</b>	
Home	24 (38)
Public building	1 (1)
Workplace	2 (3)
Unspecified	37 (58)
<b>Disposition</b>	
Admitted	2 (3)
Discharged	58 (91)
Transferred	4 (6)

**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, 13 calls<sup>1,2</sup> related to unintentional CO exposure were captured through the CPC

- 62 exposed persons were mentioned in the 30 calls:
  - 30 (48%) Female
  - 32 (52%) Male
- Site of exposure:
  - 56 (90%) Residence
  - 4 (6%) Workplace
  - 1 (2%) Public Area
  - 1 (2%) Unspecified

### March 2014 CO Exposure Descriptions

- Higher numbers of ED visits were noted during March's ice and snow storms, which resulted in many power outages.
- Higher numbers of ED visits were also noted on days of extreme cold and snow in January.
- Use of generators, portable heaters, and charcoal grills were reported sources of multiple CO exposures.
- Children aged 0 to 17 made up 33 percent of CPC calls and 28 percent of ED visits.
- Medicaid and self-pay combined made up 45 percent of the payment sources for ED visits.

<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.