

# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

## August 2016

**Table.** 46 Emergency Department (ED) visits related to unintentional, non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in North Carolina were identified.

Age Group	N (%)	Sex	N (%)
0–17	11 (24)	Female	20 (43)
18–34	14 (30)	Male	26 (57)
35–54	13 (28)	<b>Insurance</b>	
55+	8 (17)	Medicaid	13 (28)
<b>Disposition</b>		Medicare	3 (7)
Admitted	4 (9)	Private	3 (7)
Discharged	30 (65)	Self-pay	13 (28)
Left without advice	2 (4)	Workers' compensation	11 (24)
Transferred	9 (20)	Unknown	3 (7)
Unknown	1 (2)		

## Sources of Carbon Monoxide



## August 2016 CO Exposure Descriptions

- Eight employees, two children, and five EMS personnel were exposed to CO from a broken water heater in a workplace and taken to a local hospital. Nine of them were airlifted to a second hospital for hyperbaric oxygen treatment.
- Seven people were exposed to CO from a generator at their home.
- Four workers were exposed to CO while operating power tools in a basement with little ventilation.
- Four people were exposed to CO while cooking on a gas grill inside their home.

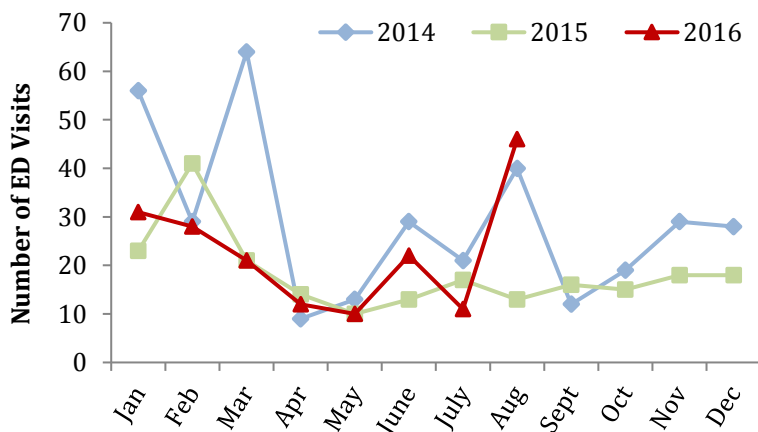
## Carolinas Poison Center (CPC)

The CPC received 24 calls<sup>1</sup> related to unintentional CO exposure in North Carolina, one call related to CO alarm use, and two calls requesting CO information.

- 51 exposed people were mentioned:
  - 14 (27%) ages 0–17
  - 22 (43%) ages 18–34
  - 6 (12%) ages 35–54
  - 6 (12%) ages 55+
  - 3 (6%) age unknown
- Site of exposure:
  - 36 (71%) Residence
  - 13 (25%) Workplace
  - 2 (4%) Other/Unknown

<sup>1</sup>We do not have the ability to determine if CPC calls were related to fires.

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



**NOTE:** NC DETECT ([www.ncdetect.org](http://www.ncdetect.org)) search criteria for ED visits: ICD-10-CM code T58 for N.C. residents who visited N.C. hospitals. ED visits for self-inflicted or fire-related exposures were excluded. CPC calls were filtered by substance and included when unintentional CO exposure, CO alarm use, or a request for CO information was documented.

NC DETECT is a statewide public health syndromic surveillance system, funded by the N.C. Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant and managed through collaboration between NC DPH and UNC-CH Department of Emergency Medicine's Carolina Center for Health Informatics. The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee is not responsible for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented.