



MORTALITY FROM ACCIDENTAL POISONING

1956

Reference Paper No. 86

Published by Authority of The Honourable Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Health and Welfare Division Vital Statistics Section

9004-528-126

Price 25 cents

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1958

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APKP 2980396

MORTALITY FROM ACCIDENTAL POISONING 1956

In the past ten years over 3,000 Canadians have died as a result of accidental poisoning. Of all forms of accidental death, poisoning ranks fifth, accounting for 328 fatalities in 1956¹. Five major causes were responsible for over seventy-five per cent of this total. Utility (illuminating) gas claimed 25 per cent of poisoning victims, motor-vehicle exhaust and other carbon monoxide gas 22 per cent. barbituric acid 15 per cent, alcohol 10 per cent and acetyl salicylic acid ("headache pills") and salicylates 5 per cent. Almost two-thirds of accidental poisonings occur in and around the house and only a small fraction arise out of or in the course of employment. In 1956 the overall death rate for poisonings at 2.0 per 100,000 population was made up of a male rate of 2.7 and a female rate of 1.4.

Over the past decade deaths from poisonings have increased but in recent years the increase has been particularly noticeable in poisonings by solid and liquid substances rather than by gases and

POISONING RANKS FIFTH AMONG ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1956



1. While accidental poisonings, amounting to 328 in 1956, form the subject matter of this report, it should be noted that there were 845 deaths through the effect of poisons, the latter figure including 253 poisonings as a result of suicide, 2 poisonings under the heading of homicide and 262 poisonings classified to fire, explosions and other accidents. vapours. Deaths from barbituric acid and derivatives have jumped from 19 and 20 in 1950 and 1951 to 57 and 50 in 1955 and 1956. Fatalities from alcohol have shown a rise from 24 in 1950 to 46 in 1955 and 34 in 1956. There has been a decline in deaths due to illuminating gas from 110 in 1952 to 81 in 1956 but the number of fatal accidents from motor-vehicle exhaust gas has jumped from 50 in 1955 to 62 in 1956.

In the years from 1921 to 1956 the death rate per 100,000 population has varied from a high of 3.2 in 1921 to a low of 1.5 in 1940. During the decade 1946-1956 the rate has moved upward from 1.6 to 2.3 in 1953 and has remained as high as 2.0 in 1956. The provinces showed marked variations in 1956. from a high of 6.4 for British Columbia to a low of 0.5 for Newfoundland. While the trends for particular kinds of poisonings will be noted later it should be emphasized at the outset that it is poisoning from solids and liquids that is showing an upward trend and causing concern; accidental poisoning by gases and vapours shows a decline over the past decade. The statistical measurement of this movement will be found in Table II at the back of the report while Table I presents a historical summary of total poisoning deaths.

TYPICAL MALE PREDOMINANCE IN POISON FATALITIES





Fatal Poisonings by Age and Sex, 1956

Age Period	Both sexes	Males	Females
		Number	
All ages	328	218	110
Under 15 15-39 40-69 70 and over	40 100 144 44	23 75 99 21	17 25 45 23
	Percentage distribution		bution
All ages Under 15 15-39	1 00 12 31	100 11 34	100 15 23
40-69 70 and over	44 13	45 10	41 21
	Rate per 100,000 population		opulation
All ages	2.0	2.7	1.4
Under 15 15-39 40-69 70 and over	0.8 1.7 3.4 5.6	0.9 2.6 4.5 5.5	0.7 0.9 2.2 5.8

Poisoning is not only the fifth leading cause of accidental death but the third most fatal type of accident in the home, exceeded only by falls and fires. While its victims include both sexes at all ages, over 60 per cent of poisonings comprise adults in the typical working years from twenty to sixtyfive. Of the total of 328 deaths from poisoning in 1956, 218 or two-thirds were males. The mortality from accidental poisoning was less than 1 in 100,000 among children under 15 years, remained at a rate of less than 2 for the ages from 15 to 39, rose to 3.4 for the age group from 40-69 and 5.6 for those of 70 and over. In all age groups under 70 years poisoning took a greater toll of males than females. Particularly striking was the gap between male and female rates for the age group 15-39 and 40-69. Despite the low poisoning mortality rate for ages under 15, almost ten per cent of deaths were of children 1 to 3 years of age.

International Variation

Canada's mortality rate for accidental poisoning at 2.0 per 100,000 population is significantly lower than rates for Scotland (5.5), Austria (5.3) and Finland (4.5). England has a rate approximately equal to our own. On the other hand a number of countries including Ceylon and Italy have a poisoning mortality rate of less than 1 per 100,000 population.

Canada's Rate in Middle Position (Rate per 100,000 population)

Austria 5.3	Germany 1.6
Canada 2. 0	Italy 0.8
Ceylon 0.8	Japan 1.4
Denmark	Netherlands 1.2
England 2.1	Scotland 5.5
Finland 4.5	Sweden 1.0
France 3.1	U.S.A 1.7

When poisoning rates are subdivided according to age and sex there is an even wider variation among countries. In the age groups of 60 and over Canada's mortality from accidental poisoning was 6 per 100,000 population for males compared with nearly 14 for Scotland on the one hand and 0.4 for Ceylon on the other. Canada's female rate at a little over 4 per 100,000 population for the age groups of 60 and over may be compared with 20.8 for Scotland and 2.0 for Ceylon. While poisoning in Canada now accounts for $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of total accidental mortality, in Austria the percentage is over 12, in England nearly 10 and in Scotland more than 16.

Regional Variation

Within Canada the mortality rate per 100,000 population for accidental poisoning varied from a high of 6.4 for British Columbia to a low of 0.5 for Newfoundland. Since the year 1921 provincial rates of poisoning mortality have varied from a low of 0.4 in such provinces as Nova Scotia in 1955 and New Brunswick in 1954 to a rate of 7.6 for British Columbia in 1952. Deaths and rates for accidental poisoning for Canada and provinces from 1921-56 will be found at the end of this report.

In	1956	llighest	Rate	in	British	Columbia
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	Number	Rate per 100,000 population
Canada	328 1	2.0
Newfoundland	2	0.5
Prince Edward Island	5	5.1
Nova Scotia	7	1.0
New Brunswick	8	1.4
Quebec	56	1.2
Ontario	89	1.6
Manitoba	13	1.5
Saskatchewan	16	1.8
Alberta	38	3.4
British Columbia	90	6.4

1. Includes four deaths in Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Seasonal Fluctuation

Fatal poisonings were consistently higher for males than females throughout the year but there was not a great deal of seasonal variation. Erratic movement in the number of fatalities from month to month emphasizes the purely accidental nature of this cause of death and is suggestive of the potential value of programs of prevention such as the one outlined at the end of this report.

Chief Agents of Accidental Poisoning

Of the 328 poisoning deaths in 1956, 255 or more than three-quarters were caused by five principal agents. Heading the list was utility gas which accounted for 81 deaths, followed by motor-vehicle exhaust and other carbon monoxide gas with 73 deaths, barbituric acid and derivatives 50 deaths, alcohol 34 deaths and acetyl salicylic acid (headache pills) and salicylates 17 deaths. In the age groups under 15 years salicylates and utility gas each caused a large number of deaths while many fatalities were accounted for by unspecified solid and liquid substances. Accidental poisoning is particularly common in the 1-4 age group and many pre-school children are poisoned by apparently innocuous household substances. In addition to headache preparations there is grave danger from other pills, often sugar coated to make them palatable, which are left around because adults do not realize the risk involved. In the age groups from 15-39 motorvehicle exhaust gas accounted for the most poisonings, a total three times as high as the next most frequent agent, utility gas. The age groups from 40-69 reported barbituric acid and derivatives as the main poisoning agent followed closely by utility gas. And utility gas was the most frequent cause of accidental poisoning for the age groups of 70 and over. It must also be noted that in the adult age groups the suspicion of suicide lurks between the lines of many a death certificate assigning death to accidental poisoning.



SEASONAL MOVEMENT OF POISONING FATALITIES SHOWS



CHIEF AGENTS OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING, 1956

Utility Gas (25% of poisonings)

%

Deaths			
	Both sexes	Males	Females
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956	100 87 110 113 112 95 81	67 63 70 72 83 60 45	33 24 40 41 29 35 36

Age Distribution, 1956

Under 15	7 16
40-69	41 36
	100

In 1956 there were 81 deaths from utility (illuminating) gas amounting to a quarter of poison fatalities. This title includes acetylene gas, carbon monoxide gas from any utility gas and gas used for cooking, heating, lighting or other purpose. Recent years have witnessed a downward trend in the fatalities arising from this hazard which accounted for as many as 113 deaths in the year 1953. In 1956 males made up 45 of the victims compared with 36 females. The death rate from utility gas poisoning is very low in childhood, increases with advancing age and registers its maximum at the highest age period. Of all fatalities from this source in 1956 no less than 77 per cent were of 40 years of age and over.

Most of the fatalities are caused by illuminating gas which generally contains from 6 to 30 per cent carbon monoxide. The escape of illuminating gas is due to a variety of circumstances: to flexible pipe becoming detached from the heater, to the inadvertent turning on of gas jets, to defective tubing, to leaky gas fixtures, or to the extinction of gas flames by water boiling over or by a gust of wind. Poisoning by carbon monoxide gas emanating from coal, gas, or oil heaters used without flues in poorly ventilated rooms, is another cause of considerable mortality. In some instances asphyxiation occurs when stove or furnace pipes become disconnected or when the drafts are so set that partially burned gases escape

into the cellar or other parts of the house. As might be expected mortality from utility gas is lowest during the summer and reaches a maximum in the winter months, when home-heating appliances are most in use.

Motor-Vehicle Exhaust and Other Carbon Monoxide Gas (22% of poisonings)

1954

1955

1956

There were 73 deaths from motor-vehicle exhaust and other carbon monoxide gas in 1956, a substantial increase from the 60 reported in 1955. This was the second main poisoning category accounting in 1956 for 22 per cent of all accidental poisonings¹. Males predominate among victims from this cause and in 1956 were responsible for 61 of the 73 deaths. No children under 15 died from motor-vehicle exhaust and other carbon monoxide gas in 1956 and 63 per cent of fatalities were between 15 and 40 years of age. It is of vital importance that operators of automobiles should be repeatedly cautioned, especially when cold weather sets in, against the danger of running engines while garage doors are closed. It is still not generally realized that the exhaust fumes of a single car can render the atmosphere of a small, ill-ventilated garage deadly within five minutes. Wide publicity should also be given to the fact that carbon monoxide usually gives no warning and that the first effect is often a muscular weakness which renders the victim helpless.

1. This title includes accidental poisoning by exhaust gas from any type of motor vehicle not in transit and any type of combustion engine not installed in watercraft. It excludes accidental poisoning by carbon monoxide from aircraft while in transit, motor vehicles while in transit and watercraft whether or not in transit. The title also includes poisonings by other carbon monoxide gas such as blast furnace gas, charcoal fumes, coke fumes, kiln vapour and producer gas but excludes carbon monoxide poisoning by smoke and fumes due to conflagration or explosion.

Both Males Females sexes 1950 56 47 1951 58 50 1952 55 63 1953 56 67

54

60

73

45

53

61

9 8

11

9 7

12

%

Deaths

Age Distribution, 1956	%
Under 15	_
15-39	63
40-69	32
70 and over	5
All ages	100

Barbituric Acid and Derivatives (15% of poisonings)

Barbituric acid and derivatives, the third ranking cause of accidental poisonings, were responsible for 50 deaths in 1956. Over the past five years deaths from this cause have more than doubled¹. Of the 50 victims of this cause of accidental poisoning, 27 were female and 23 male in 1956. More than twothirds of the victims were between the ages of 40 and 69. There were only three deaths at the ages of 70 and over. The control of fatalities from barbiturates presents a very difficult problem. Greater efforts might be made to acquaint the general public with the dangers inherent in the careless use of such drugs. Further restrictions on the sale of the barbiturates has also been advocated as a means of reducing the death toll from this growing threat.

•	Both sexes	Males	Females
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956	19	5	14
	20	13	7
	23	9	14
	26	11	15
	32	11	21
	57	23	34
	50	23	27

Doothe

Age Distribution, 1956

Under 15	2
10-69	24 68
70 and over	6
All ages	100

^{1.} This title includes such drug preparations as the barbituric derivatives but excludes chronic poisoning from narcotic, soporific and analgesic drugs.

Alcohol (10% of poisonings)

Deaths				
<u> </u>		Both sexes	Males	Females
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956		24 29 36 35 40 46 34	20 23 31 28 31 40 28	4 5 7 9 6 6

Age Distribution, 1956	
Under 15	. –
15-39	24
40-69	. 76
70 and over	
All ages	. 100

Alcohol, even apart from alcoholism and alcoholic psychosis, was the fourth main cause of accidental poisoning and led to 10 per cent of poisoning fatalities in 1956. While the number of fatalities was well above the level of a decade ago there was a decrease reported in 1956 in comparison with 1955 and 1954. It must be carefully noted that this title excludes alcoholic psychosis to which 15 deaths were ascribed in 1956 as well as alcoholism which claimed 114 victims¹.

Of the 34 victims of accidental poisoning by alcohol in 1956, males accounted for 28. Over threequarters of the fatalities were classified in the age groups between 40 and 69. Most of the fatalities were attributed to wood and denatured alcohol. The loss of life from such causes as this can be reduced by keeping drugs and medicines in properly marked containers, by storing insecticides and disinfectants away from food or other edibles and by keeping poisonous substances out of reach.

1. In addition alcohol may have been a further contributory factor in a number of poisoning deaths assigned to other specific causes.

Acetyl Salicylic Acid (Headache Pills) and Salicylates (5% of poisonings)

Deaths				
	Both sexes	Males	Females	
1950 1951 1952 1953 1953 1954 1955 1956	13 20 14 15 20 22 17	6 12 10 10 13 15 9	7 8 4 5 7 7 8	
Age Distribution, 1956			%	
Under 15		•••••		
40-69	••••••			
70 and over	••••••			
All ages			100	

Poisoning by headache pills and salicylates caused 5 per cent of poisoning deaths in 1956. Over the past seven years the number has varied from 13 to 22 per year and has always been a problem of particular importance for children. This title includes accidental poisoning by acetyl salicylic acid, methyl salicylate, phenyl salicylate, any compound of salicylic acid and salol.

Of the 17 deaths from this cause in 1956 there were 9 males and 8 females. Seven of the victims were under 15 and 5 of these were 1 or 2 years of age. This was a result of the tendency of very young children to put into their mouths practically everything they can reach. The figures again suggest the necessity for proper care in the handling and storage of poisonous materials and the need to keep medicine well out of the reach of children.

Other Accidental Poisonings (23% of poisonings)

A large variety of specified and unspecified poison agents made up the balance of mortality from accidental poisoning. Of the total deaths by gases and vapours amounting to 168 in 1956, the two principal agents, utility gas and motor-vehicle exhaust and other carbon monoxide gas accounted for all but 14 fatalities. These 14 were all males and 13 of them were between the ages of 15 and 60. Of the accidental poisoning total of 160 deaths through solid and liquid substances, barbituric acid and derivatives, salicylates and alcohol accounted for 101 fatalities. The remainder included deaths from morphine, bromides, other analgesic and soporific drugs, strychnine, petroleum products, industrial solvents, corrosive aromatics and a number of unspecified substances. The age and sex distribution of these agents will be found in Table III at the end of this report.

Conclusion:

Poisoning merits a place of special importance in the allocation of resources to public health and to preventive and safety programs. This is the fifth ranking cause of accidental death and there is reason to anticipate the need for even greater safety precautions in the future with the advance of the chemical age. While many other accident risks present obvious dangers, for example crossing the street or swimming in deep water, the danger from poisoning is insidious and often unknown. The problem of poisonings in the home environment continues to pose a challenge as it is unreached by the wellestablished safety programs in industry. With existing knowledge much can be done to reduce mortality in childhood from poisons but there are disturbing elements in the application of safety measures to adults in the working years from 20 to 65 who constitute over 60 per cent of poisoning victims. International comparisons of poisoning rates indicate that some countries have much lower rates than Canada although this country is by no means alone in facing this problem of needless loss of life.

A special project of the Food and Drug Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare has resulted in the setting up of a number of Poison Control Centres beginning in May 1957 and embracing a dozen units at the end of 1957 with ten more in the process of formation. The units are attached to leading hospitals in various parts' of Canada. Specific antidotes for most types of poisons and an analysis of many commercial products containing poisons is available in a quick-reference file. In case of emergency immediate information can be obtained by telephone. Early reports from these centres have shown children consuming insecticides, moth balls, mouse seeds, rat poison, floor wax, laundry and bleaching fluids, drug preparations and petroleum products. Already the program has resulted in a saving of human life. The units are in operation 24 hours a day and calls to any hospital can be relayed to a Poison Control Centre; the long-distance telephone has already carried vital information to outlying areas in emergency cases. It is impossible to over-emphasize the importance of early treatment.

There is no shortage of specific means through which definite precautions may be taken. Vigorous and widespread educational campaigns are required to combat the dangers of gas poisoning, particularly in the house and in the garage. It remains of vital importance to see that the general public is acquainted with the dangers inherent in the careless use of the barbiturates. Poisonings from alcohol, salicylates and other drugs and chemicals fall into three useful categories from the viewpoint of prevention: (a) poisonous substances picked up and consumed by children (b) poisons mistaken for medicines, and overdoses of medicines (c) ignorant use of substitutes for alcohol and fluids mistaken for alcoholic beverages.

A useful summary of safety suggestions has been published by the United States Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization as follows:

POISON PREVENTION

1. In the event of an accident, immediately call a physician or the nearest hospital.

2. Keep all drugs, poisons, and other household chemicals out of the reach of children and away from food.

3. Lock up all dangerous substances.

4. Do not store poisonous or inflammable substances (kerosene, gasoline, rat poisons, and so on) in food or beverage containers.

5. Read all labels and carefully follow "caution" statements. Even if a chemical is not labelled "poison", incorrect use may be dangerous.

6. Do not eat or serve foods which smell or look abnormal and remember that they may poison household and farm animals.

7. Be sure all poisons are clearly marked. This can be done by sealing with adhesive tape or using a special marker.

8. When you throw away drugs or hazardous materials be sure the contents cannot be reached by children or pets.

9. Warn small children not to eat or drink drugs, chemicals, plants, or berries they find, without your permission. Insist on this.

10. Use cleaning fluids with adequate ventilation only, and avoid breathing vapours.

11. Protect your skin and eyes when using insect poisons. weed killers, solvents, and cleaning agents. Be sure to wash thoroughly after use of such things and promptly remove contaminated clothing.

12. Do not allow food or food utensils to become contaminated when using insect sprays, aerosol mists, rat poisons, weed killers, or cleaning agents.

13. Do not take or give medicine in the dark. Be sure you can clearly read the label on the container.

14. When measuring drugs give it your full attention. Give infants and young children drugs only as directed by your physician.

15. Before measuring liquid medicine always shake the bottle thoroughly.

16. Safeguard tablets which are candied, flavoured or coloured, since children eat them like candy.

17. Do not take medicine from an unlabelled bottle-transparent tape over the label will protect it.

18. Date all drug supplies when you buy them.

19. Weed out the left-overs regularly from your medicine chest—especially any prescription drugs that your physician ordered for a particular illness.

20. Use a prescription drug only for the patient for whom the physician ordered it.

21. Read all directions and "Caution" statements on the drug label each time you plan to use it.

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Year	Canada ¹	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.
1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930	283 270 219 196 218 260 252 228 241 244		3 	10 16 11 6 4 10 17 13 13 5	8 3 6 7 6 7 4 3 5 8	58 72 61 58 68 79 61 61 77	112 116 77 64 93 92 86 82 92 75	17 9 13 9 10 10 11 9 7 14 15	36 24 23 17 17 16 18 19 21 22	22 19 13 19 16 34 18 21 21 21	17 11 15 14 12 22 21 21 13 18		
1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940	252 263 211 234 215 199 189 210 194 165	Not available	2 2 3 2 1 2 3 2 1 2 3 2 2 3 2	8 5 13 8 8 6 4 3 8	9 14 8 3 7 4 5 3 3 2	66 72 50 60 45 53 62 61 38	91 102 72 84 77 58 63 56 64 51	17 12 7 14 4 23 9 16 5 12	24 21 20 23 21 19 13 19 12 13	17 14 14 25 16 19 10 22 17 19	18 21 24 19 21 23 28 25 29 20	Not available	Not available
1941 1942 1943 1945 1945 1947 1948 1949	199 194 218 229 242 199 225 288 269 288	7 2	4 - 4 1 - 1 - 3 1	6 9 3 7 10 5 12 10 4	2 5 10 22 7 7 4 8 11 3	55 45 57 63 61 48 67 69 51 59	76 67 79 73 78 61 102 77 97	14 9 7 16 15 12 8 14 18	18 17 15 8 16 8 18 11 12 8	15 17 19 25 16 18 24 22 18	9 25 36 32 36 17 39 54 62 77	_	1
1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956	294 318 346 340 347 328	2 3 3 6 4 2	3 3 1 4 1 5	7 6 13 10 3 7	7 5 7 2 5 8	47 57 73 55 77 56	94 105 89 130 91 89	14 16 20 24 15 13	21 11 13 11 21 16	28 20 31 24 45 38	69 91 93 72 79 90	- 1 1 3 1 1 2	1 - - 1 5 2
· .		Rates per 100,000 population											
1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1920	3.2 3.0 2.4 2.3 2.8 2.8 2.8 2.4 2.4	Not available	3.4 - 2.3 - 1.1 1.1	1.9 3.1 2.1 1.2 0.8 1.9 3.3 2.5 2.5 1.0	$2.1 \\ 0.8 \\ 1.5 \\ 1.8 \\ 1.5 \\ 1.8 \\ 1.0 \\ 0.7 \\ 1.2 \\ 2.0$	2.5 3.0 2.5 2.4 2.3 2.6 3.0 2.2 2.2 2.7	3.8 3.9 2.6 2.1 3.0 2.9 2.7 2.5 2.8 2.2	2.8 1.5 2.1 1.4 1.6 1.7 1.4 1.1 2.1 2.2	4.8 3.1 3.0 2.1 2.1 1.9 2.2 2.4 2.4	3.7 3.2 2.2 3.2 2.7 5.6 2.8 3.2 3.1 3.4	3.2 2.0 2.7 2.5 2.0 3.6 3.4 3.3 2.0 2.7	Not available	Not available

TABLE I. Deaths from Accidental Poisonings

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Year	Canada ¹	Nfld.	P.E.I.	n.s.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.
				R	ates per	100,000	popula	tion - c	oncluded				
1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940	2.4 2.5 2.0 2.2 1.8 1.7 1.9 1.7	Not available	2.3 2.2 3.3 2.2 1.1 2.2 3.2 3.2 2.1	1.6 1.0 2.5 0.8 1.5 1.5 1.1 0.7 0.5 1.4	$\begin{array}{c} 2.2\\ 3.4\\ 1.9\\ 0.7\\ 1.6\\ 0.9\\ 1.1\\ 0.7\\ 0.7\\ 0.4 \end{array}$	2.32.51.72.02.01.51.71.91.91.2	2.7 2.9 2.1 2.4 2.2 1.6 1.7 1.5 1.7	2.4 1.7 1.0 2.0 0.6 3.2 1.3 2.2 0.7 1.6	2.6 2.3 2.2 2.5 2.3 2.0 1.4 2.1 1.3 1.4	2.3 1.9 1.9 3.3 2.1 2.5 1.3 2.8 2.2 2.4	2.6 3.0 3.3 2.6 2.9 3.1 3.7 3.2 3.7 2.5	Not available	Not availabl
1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1948 1949	1.7 1.9 1.9 2.0 1.6 1.8 2.3 2.0 2.1	2.0 0.6	4.2 4.4 1.1 1.1 - 1.1 - 3.2 1.0	1.0 1.5 0.5 1.3 1.1 1.6 0.8 1.9 1.6 0.6	0.4 1.1 2.2 4.8 1.5 1.5 0.8 1.6 2.2 0.6	$1.7 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.6 \\ 1.8 \\ 1.7 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.8 \\ 1.8 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.5 $	$\begin{array}{c} 2.0\\ 1.7\\ 1.7\\ 2.0\\ 1.8\\ 1.9\\ 1.5\\ 2.4\\ 1.8\\ 2.2 \end{array}$	1.9 1.2 1.0 2.2 2.1 1.6 1.1 1.8 2.3	$2.0 \\ 2.0 \\ 1.8 \\ 1.0 \\ 1.9 \\ 1.0 \\ 2.2 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.0 $	1,9 2.2 2.4 1.1 3.1 2.0 2.2 2.8 2.5 2.0	1.12.94.03.43.81.73.75.05.66.8	æ 	6.3
1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956	2.1 2.2 2.3 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.0	0.6 0.8 1.5 1.0 0.5	3.1 3.0 1.0 4.0 1.0 5.1	1.1 0.9 2.0 1.5 0.4 1.0	1.4 1.0 1.3 0.4 0.9 1.4	1.2 1.4 1.7 1.3 1.7 1.2	$2.0 \\ 2.2 \\ 1.8 \\ 2.5 \\ 1.7 \\ 1.6$	1.8 2.0 2.5 2.9 1.8 1.5	$2.5 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.5 \\ 1.3 \\ 2.4 \\ 1.8 $	3.0 2.1 3.1 2.3 4.1 3.4	5.9 7.6 7.5 5.6 5.9 6.4	11.1 11.1 33.3 10.0 9.1 16.7	6.3 - 5.9 27.8 10.5

TABLE I. Deaths from Accidental Poisonings - Concluded

1. Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories from 1950 and Newfoundland from 1949.

TABLE II. Inter	national Statistical C	lassification of	Accidental	Poisonings,	1950-56
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Causes of death	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Accidental poisoning by solid and liquid substances Morphine and other opium derivatives Barbituric acid and derivatives Aspirin and salicylates Other analgesic and soporific drugs Sulphonamides Belladonna, hyoscine, and atropine	121 2 19 13 - 8 - 10	142 4 20 20 2 6 - 8	136 4 23 14 - 9 - 3	152 3 26 15 4 5 - 6 1	164 4 32 20 	186 3 57 22 1 10 - 5	160 4 50 17 1 9 3 1
Other and unspecified drugs Noxious foodstuffs Alcohol Petroleum products Industrial solvents Corrosive aromatics, acids, and caustic alkalis Mercury and its compounds Lead and its compounds Arsenic and antimony, and their compounds Fluorides Other and unspecified solid and liquid substances	4 1 24 2 5 10 - 4 2 - 17	6 29 3 11 9 -2 3 -17	5 36 4 5 11 2 2 1 - 14	6 1 35 6 9 10 2 3 3 - 17	$ \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 40 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 11 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \overline{17} \end{array} $	8 -46 32 5 32 3 -16	4 2 34 5 7 - 1 1 16
Accidental poisoning by gases and vapours Utility (illuminating) gas Motor vehicle exhaust gas Other carbon monoxide gas Cyanide gas Other specified gases and vapours Unspecified gases and vapours	167 100 45 11 - 10 1	152 87 48 10 - 7 -	182 110 56 7 1 5 3	194 113 48 19 2 8 4	176 112 46 8 - 8 2	161 95 50 10 - 6 -	168 81 62 11 - 10 4

				Both sexes		
No		All ages	Under 15	15-39	40-69	70 and over
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
1	Accidental poisoning by solid and liquid substances	160	34	34	82	10
2	Morphine and other opium derivatives	4	-	3	-	1 .
3	Barbituric acid and derivatives	50	1	12	34	3
4	Acetyl salicylic acid and salicylates	17	7 -	2	6	2
5	Bromides	1	-	-	1	_
6	Other analgesic and soporific drugs	9	2	2	5	
7	Sulphonamides	-	_	-	_	_
8	Strychnine	3	3	-	_	_
9	Belladonna, hyoscine, and atropine	1	1	-		-
10	Other and unspecified drugs	4	2	1	-	1
11	Noxious foodstuffs	2	2	-	-	-
12	Alcohol	34	-	8	26	-
13	Petroleum products	5	3	2	-	-
14	Industrial solvents	5	2	-	3	-
15	Corrosive aromatics, acids, and caustic alkalis	7	3	1	3	
16	Mercury and its compounds		-	-	-	-
17	Lead and its compounds	-	-	-	-	-
18	Arsenic and antimony, and their compounds	1	-	-	-	1
19	Fluorides	1	-	-	1	-
20	Other and unspecified solid and liquid substances	16	8	3	3	2
21	Accidental poisoning by gases and vapours	168	.6	66	62	34
22	Utility (illuminating) gas	81	6	13	33	29
23	Motor vehicle exhaust gas	62	-	40	21	1
24	Other carbon monoxide gas	11		6	2	3
25	Cyanide gas	-	-		-	
26	Other specified gases and vapours	10	_	5	5	_
27	Unspecified gases and vapours	4	-	2	1	1

TABLE III. Accidental Poisoning by Age and Sex, 1956

		Males				Ŧ	remales			
All ages	Under 15	15-39	40- 69	70 and over	All ages	Under 15	15-39	40-69	70 and over	No.
98	20	22	51	5	62	14	12	31	5	1
2	_	2	_	_	2	-	1	_	1	2
23	1	5	17	-	27	_	7	17	3	3
9	3	1	3	2	8	4	1	3		4
_	-	-			1	_	_	1	_	5
6	2	_	4	_	3	_	2	1	_	6
-	_	-	_	_	— .	-	_	_	_	7
1	1	-	-		2	2		_	-	8
1	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	_	9
2	1	-	-	1	2	1	1		_	10
1	1	-	_	-	1	1	-	-	· _	11
28	-	8	20	-	6	-	-	6	-	12
3	1	2	-	-	2	2	_	_	_	13
3	1	-	2	-	2	1	-	1	-	14
6	2	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	15
-	_	-	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	16
-	· _		-		-	-	-	-	-	17
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	_	1	18
-	-		-	-	1	-	-	1	-	19
13	6	3	2	2	3	2	-	1	-	20
	i									
120	3	53	48	16	48	2	12	14	19	21
			10	10	10	J	15	17	10	21
45	3	9	22	11	36	3	4	11	18	22
52	-	32	19	1	10	-	8	2	_	23
9	-	5	1	3	2	-	1	1	-	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	25
10		5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
4	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	27

TABLE III. Accidental Poisoning by Age and Sex, 1956

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