

Poisoning injuries take too many lives: Mapping and prevention need to be developed and increased in Sweden



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INTRODUCTION

- Poisonings have increased significantly between 1997 – 2013
- Medications, narcotics, and alcohol
- Men are at highest risk - 80 % of poisoning deaths
- The highest risk age group - 20-69 years

This study investigates the distribution of mortality and morbidity of poisoning injuries in homes and other settings.

METHODS

Data Sources:

- The Swedish Cause of Death Register
- The Patient Register (hospitalization)
- The Injury Data Base (IDB) for the years 2010-2013

Included unintentional events described as poisoning; cases involving insect bites and from venomous snakes; self-harm/suicide; and poisoning with unclear intention.

We matched these data with Statistics Sweden's Register of Housing Conditions.

RESULTS

(Swedish population 2013: 9,6 million)

Poisoning mortality in 2013:

- 437 unintentional injuries,
- 281 suicides and
- 248 with unclear intention.

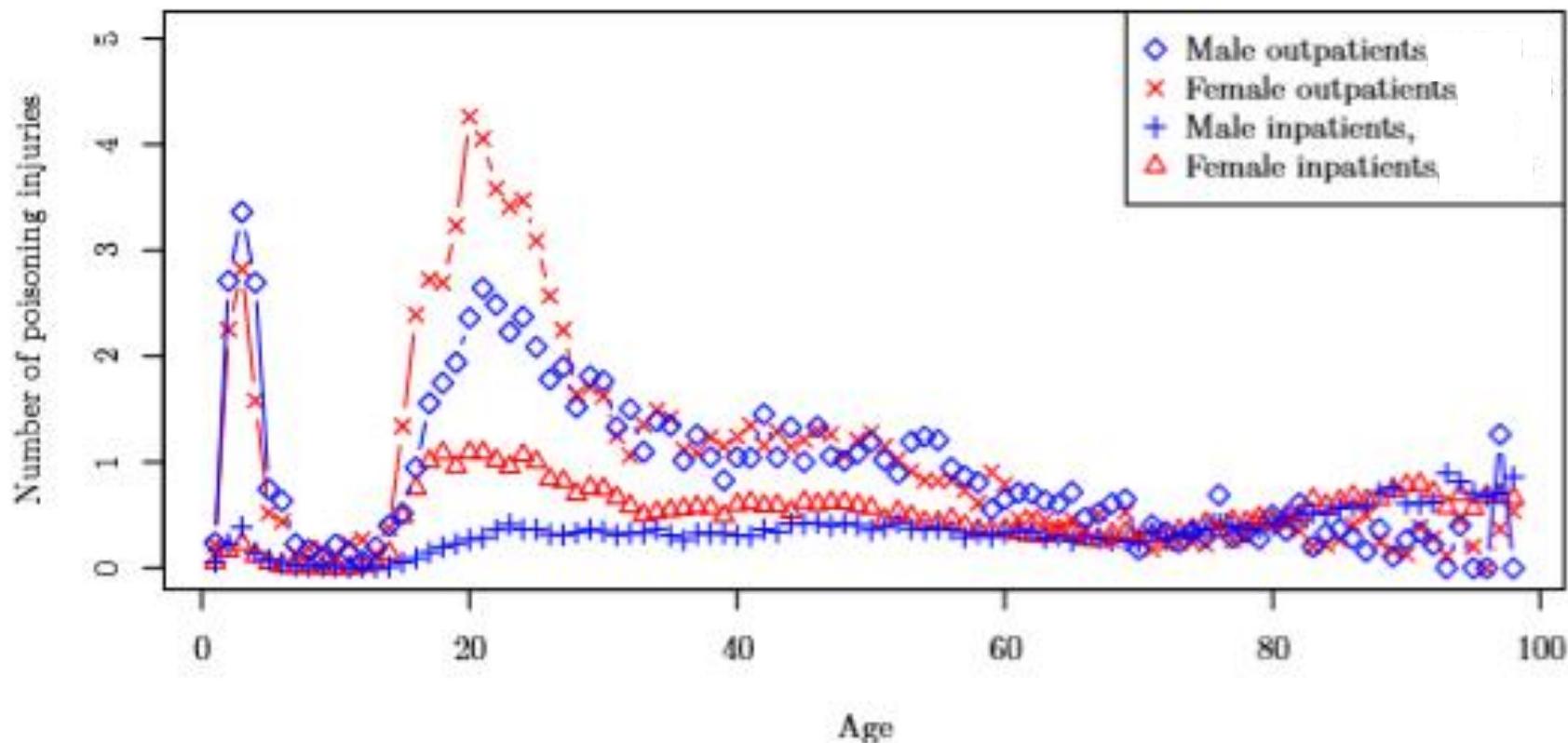
About 2000 people are hospitalized annually due to *unintentional poisoning injuries*.

More than 4000 males and 3000 females visit A&E annually for poisoning.

(adolescents, younger adults and small children)

About 3.9 poisoning events per 1000 inhabitants/year (all poisoning injuries) occur to people living in high density housing areas, compared to 0.9 events involving people living in lower density areas with single-family housing predominating. This difference is significant.

Number of poisoning injuries per 1000 persons per year



Number of poisoning injuries per 1000 persons per year. Source: Own calculations based on National Patient Register (PAR), 1999-2013 and Injury Data Base (IDB) Sweden 2001-2013.

Number of poisoning injuries per person	Number of persons	Number of poisoning injuries	Proportion injuries	Cummulative per cent
1	4255	4255	60.60	60.60
2	580	1160	16.52	77.13
3	172	516	7.35	84.47
4	72	288	4.10	88.58
5	42	210	2.99	91.57
6	20	120	1.71	93.28
7	16	112	1.60	94.87
8	8	64	0.91	95.78
9	5	45	0.64	96.42
10-25	19	251	3.58	100.00

: Repeats in poisoning injuries due to drug intake. Source: Injury Database (IDB), 2001-2013. Total number of persons who had at least one poisoning injury due to drug intake: 5189. Total number of drug related poisoning injury events: 7021.

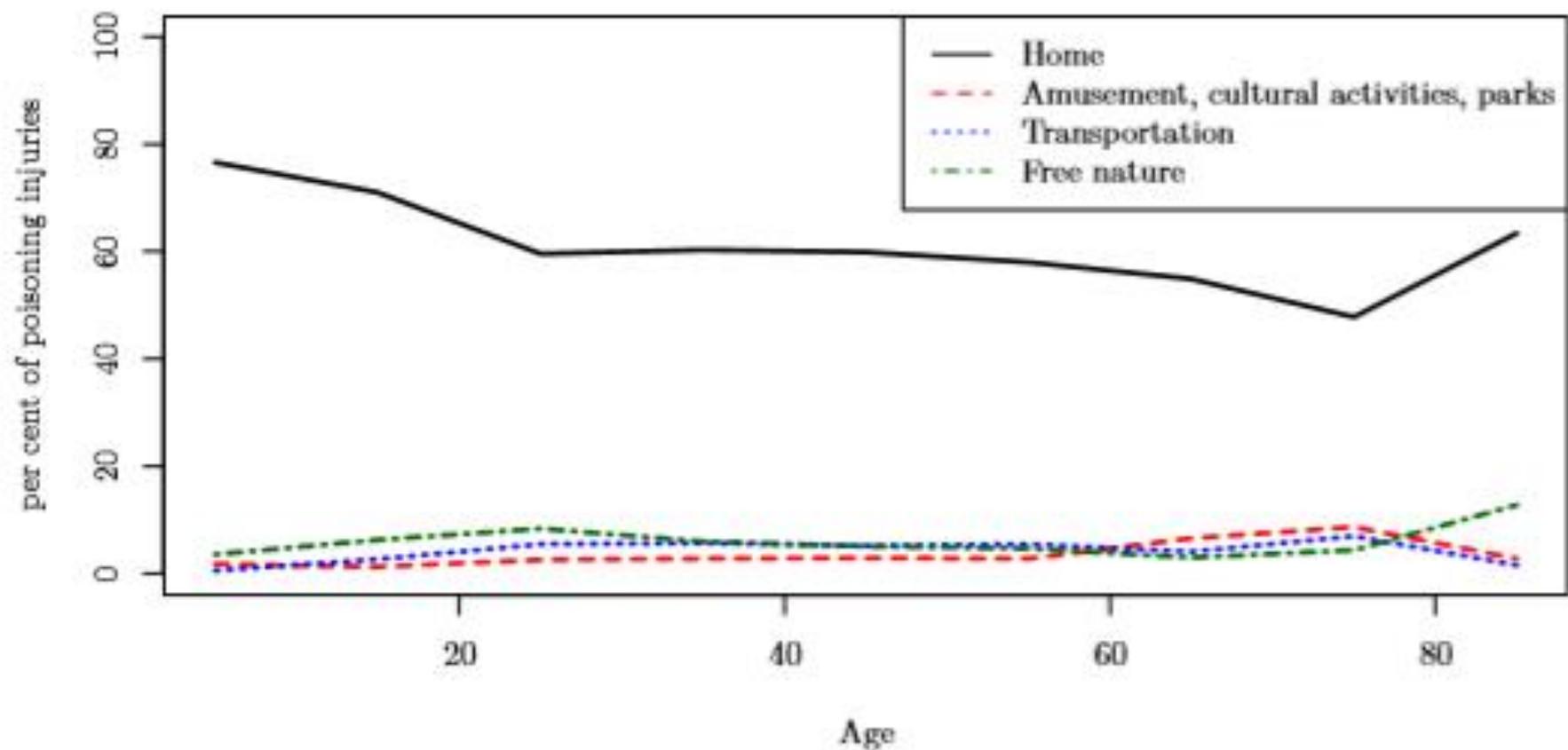
RESULTS

(Swedish population 2013: 9,6 million)

More poisoning events are connected to out door activities in gardens and natural areas for people living in single-family housing areas, including bites and stings from insects.

In both high density and lower density housing areas, the leading cause of poisoning events were due to alcohol and medications,

however, proportionally more to likely to occur in high density housing areas.



Place of occurrence and age in poisoning injuries for the four most common places.
 Source: Own calculations based in IDB Sweden 2001-2013. N = 8983

CONCLUSION AND PREVENTION

Poisoning comprises a substantial public health problem, impacting high risk groups: adolescents, younger adults and small children.

People living in high density housing areas have higher risks for poisoning.

The Swedish Poisoning Information Centre responds to calls about acute poisoning events both for the public and the professionals.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Swedish Poisoning Information Centre. At the top left is the logo, a blue circle containing a white caduceus and a female symbol. To the right of the logo is the text "Giftinformationscentralen" and "Swedish Poisons Information Centre" below it. Below the logo and text is a navigation menu with four items: "Start", "Första Hjälpen", "Sök förgiftningsmedel", and "Aktuellt". Below the navigation menu are two prominent colored boxes. The left box is red and contains the text "När det är akut", "112", and "Begär giftinformation Dygnet runt". The right box is blue and contains the text "I mindre akuta fall", "010-456 6700", and "För allmänheten Dygnet runt".

Giftinformationscentralen
Swedish Poisons Information Centre

[Start](#) [Första Hjälpen](#) [Sök förgiftningsmedel](#) [Aktuellt](#)

När det är akut
112
Begär giftinformation
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<https://giftinformation.se/>

CONCLUSION AND PREVENTION

Strategy for prevention:

Information and education to the public and professionals,

Supervision and improvement of the home environment

and

Increased awareness of different types of products that can cause poisonings.



Thank You!