Poisoning Encyclopedia Article

Poisoning

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Poisoning

Poisoning, either from naturally occurring or manmade **chemicals**, can result from ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact with the toxin. It can also be either acute (a one-time, high amount such as a drug overdose) or chronic (a smaller, amount over a long period of time, such as **lead** poisoning). Poison control centers in many countries can provide information on treatment and prevention of accidental poisoning from household or industrial products. There are more than 13 million known **toxins**, but less than 3,000 cause most incidents of poisoning. Several practices put in place since the 1950's have reduced accidental poisoning by ten-fold. These practices include the accurate labeling of potentially poisonous household compounds, and the use of monitoring devices such as carbon-monoxide detectors. One of the most successful prevention tactics is the use of child-resistant caps on containers of medicine and household products.