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FastStats: Medication Safety Data







AT A GLANCE

- As adults get older, they often take more medicine, which increases their risk of an adverse drug event (ADE).
- An ADE is when a medication causes harm to someone. They are a serious public health threat.
- Finding and eating or drinking medicines without adult supervision is the main cause of emergency visits for ADEs among children aged 5 years and younger.
- ADEs are most commonly related to anticoagulants (blood thinners), diabetes agents (insulin), or antibiotics.

Importance

- More than 1.5 million people visit emergency departments for ADEs each year in the United States, and almost 500,000 require hospitalization.
- Older adults (65 years or older) visit emergency departments more than 600,000 times each year, more than twice as often as younger people.
- Understanding the key drivers of ADEs can help guide prevention.
- Leading causes of emergency department (ED) visits for ADEs
 - Anticoagulants (approximately one in five, 21%)
 - Diabetes agents such as insulin (almost one in seven, or 14%)
 - Antibiotics (almost one in eight, or 13%)

Resources

- [Drug Overdose](#), CDC
- [Be Antibiotics Aware](#), CDC
- [Blood Thinner Pills: Your Guide to Using them Safely](#) , Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- [Ensuring Safe Use of Medicine](#) , Food and Drug Administration
- [Taking Medicines Safely as You Age](#)  NIH National Institute on Aging
- [Let's Talk About Meds](#)  , AARP
- [ConsumerMedSafety.org](#) , Institute for Safe Medication Practices

SOURCES

CONTENT SOURCE:
[National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\)](#)