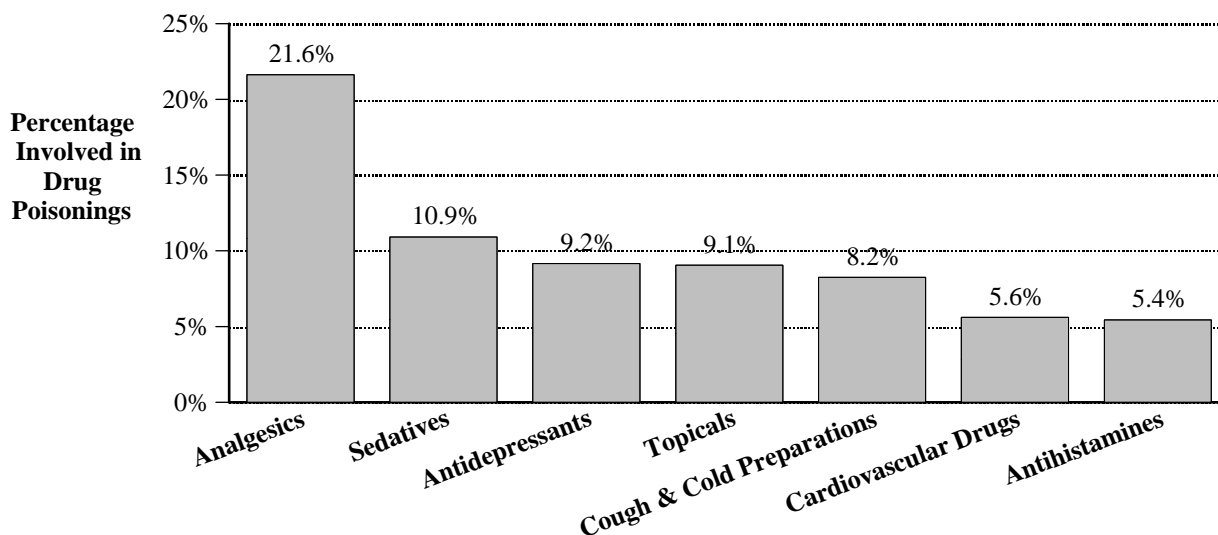


More than Half of Substances Involved in Maryland Poisonings Are Drugs; Analgesics Are Most Commonly Reported Drug

More than one-half (53%) of the 39,408 substances responsible for poisonings reported in Maryland in 2003 were drugs, according to data from the Maryland Poison Center. Analgesics were most frequently responsible, accounting for more than one-fifth (21.6%) of reported poisonings. Other substances responsible for reported drug poisonings in 2003 included sedatives (10.9%), antidepressants (9.2%), topicals (9.1%), and cough and cold preparations (8.2%). The majority (82%) of the poison exposures, involving both drug and non-drug substances, were unintentional exposures; only 15% were intentional exposures due to misuse, abuse, or suicide attempts (data not shown).

Percentage of Substances Involved in Drug Poisonings Reported to the Maryland Poison Center, 2003*

(N=20,912 Drug Substances Involved in Poisonings)



*Other substances involved in drug poisonings were antimicrobials (4.6%), gastrointestinal (4.1%), hormones (4.1%), vitamins (3.9%), street drugs (3.5%), and other (9.6%).

NOTE: Patients may be exposed to more than one substance in a poisoning event.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Maryland Poison Center, "2003 Statistical Report," *ToxAlert*, July 2004. Available online at http://www.mdpoison.com/Site/PDFs/2003_annual%20report.pdf. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani at erin@cesar.umd.edu.