

Unintentional Poisoning

Why Is This Important?

Poisoning among Canadians is a serious preventable public health concern. Unintentional poisonings include a wide variety of drugs and substances including analgesics, sedatives, narcotics, alcohol, solvents, gases and vapours, pesticides and other chemicals. Poisonings exclude those taken with intent to self-harm.

Poisonings are especially lethal for children, as it is the second leading cause of hospitalizations for children under 5 years old in Canada.

People living in low socio-economic status are more likely to be affected by poisonings than other groups. Click [here](#) for more information on health equity.

What Is Being Done?

Poisoning prevention information from [Parachute](#)

[Toll free help-line](#) for Saskatchewan residents for poisonings

To Learn More:

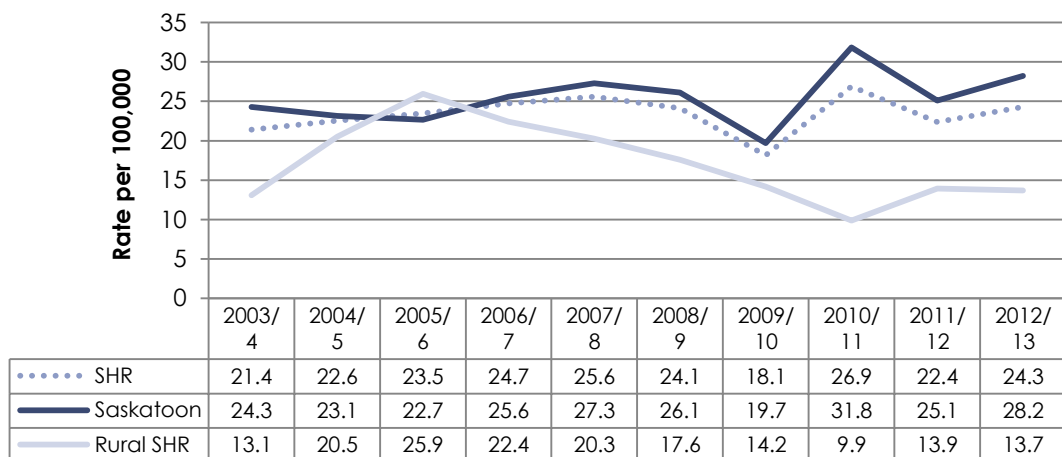
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

Poisoning rates are much higher among those living in the least advantaged areas of the Region.

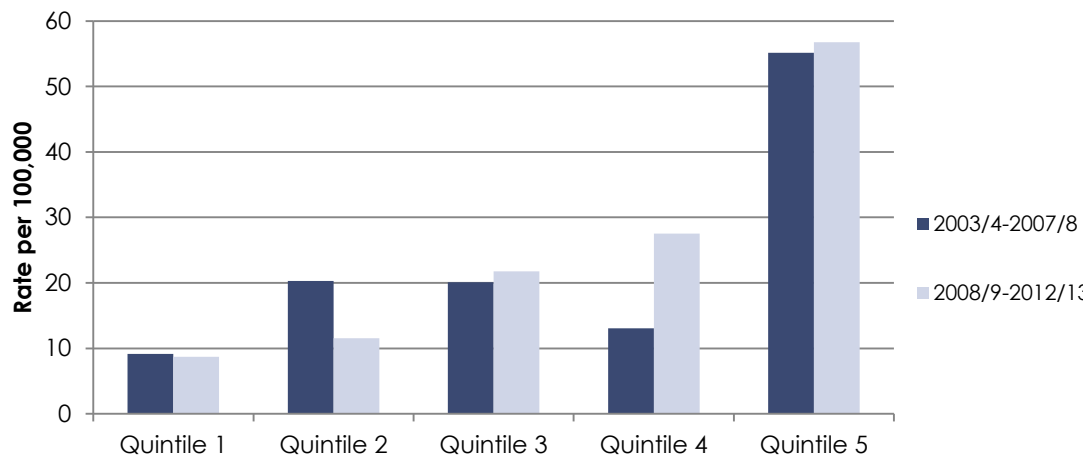
- There were 78 poisoning-related hospitalizations for a rate of 24.3 per 100,000 in 2012/13. Poisoning hospitalization rates were higher for Saskatoon city residents compared to residents living in rural areas of the Region (*Figure 1*).
- Individuals living in the least advantaged areas of Saskatoon had higher poisoning hospitalization rates (up to six times higher) compared to those living in the most advantaged areas (*Figure 2*).
- Unintentional poisoning hospitalization rates vary by sub-group. Click [here](#) to see rates by geographic area and socio-economic status.

Figure 1: Age Sex Standardized Unintentional Poisoning Hospitalization Rates, Saskatoon Health Region, 2003/04 to 2012/13



Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

Figure 2: Age Standardized Unintentional Poisoning Hospitalization Rates, Areas of Advantage, Saskatoon, 2003/04 to 2012/13



Note: Quintile 1 represents the most advantaged areas whereas quintile 5 represents the least advantaged areas.

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health