

# Poisoning in Canada

Safe Communities America

August 2012





- Amalgamation of Safe Communities Canada, Safe Kids Canada, SMARTRISK and ThinkFirst Canada
- Intentional and unintentional injuries
- All ages

# Poisoning in Canada

- 14 deaths per year
- 1,700 hospitalizations per year
- 80,000 + calls to poison control centres for children < 14 years old

# Poisoning in Canada

- Age
  - Under 5 are at most risk of poisoning
- Top products
  - Over-the-counter & prescription medications
  - Household cleaning products
  - Personal care products
- Location
  - Home

# Major Poisoning Issues in Canada

- No national surveillance system that collects poison centre information
  - Provincial database systems; majority still paper-based
- Lack of a 1-800 number that would direct callers to the closest poison centre for service

# Major Poisoning Issues in Canada

- Public believes poisonings have been ‘solved’ but the number of calls to poison centres tells a different story
- Poisoning is not a reportable incident
- Over-the-counter medications are available in bulk