

# Unsupervised prescription drug intake sends many children to ER

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(HealthDay)—From 2007 to 2011, there were nearly 10,000 emergency hospitalizations per year for unsupervised prescription medication ingestion by young children, according to a study published online Sept. 15 in *Pediatrics*.

Maribeth C. Lovegrove, M.P.H., from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues used nationally representative data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-Cooperative Adverse Drug Event Surveillance project and national retail pharmacy prescription data from IMS Health to determine the frequency and rates of emergency hospitalizations for unsupervised prescription medication ingestions by young children from 2007 to 2011.

The researchers found that an estimated 9,490 emergency hospitalizations occurred annually in the United States for unsupervised prescription medication ingestions among children aged

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