INCREASED PROPORTION OF INQUIRIES TO THE PIC DUE TO SELF-INFlicted INCIDENTS.

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OBJECTIVE Our objective is to investigate the attributes of inquiries to the poisons information center and their trends.

METHODS Annual reports from 1984-1995 and 2 separate inquiry-databases for the period 1996-2012 were searched for data regarding self-inflicted incidents or incidents related to abuse (hereafter called self-inflicted incidents).

RESULTS The number of calls per year has risen from approximately 2500 in the mid-80’s to 41 000 in 2008, while there has been a reduction over the last 4 years. This reduction is likely due to more readily accessible information on the internet.

In the 1980’s/1990’s the majority of calls involved small children: approximately 60% younger than 4 years of age. In 2012 only 40% were under 5 years old.

The number of acute exposures due to home accidents has dropped from 90% in 1990 to 67% in 2012. The percentage of acute exposures that are self-inflicted has risen from 6% in the late 1980’s to 21% in 2012. In the same period the proportion of incidents regarding pharmaceuticals that were self-inflicted increased from 31% to 42.5%.

Numbers for 2012: Where the sex of the patient is identified, women and men are responsible for 60% and 40% of the self-inflicted incidents, respectively. 66% of self-inflicted pharmaceutical incidents involve women, while men are responsible for 63% of other self-inflicted incidents (illegal drugs, gases, household products etc.). Drugs in the ATC-group N are the main agent in 80% of the inquiries regarding pharmaceuticals.

CONCLUSION The proportion of acute incidents that are self-inflicted has risen to 21%, similar to the number for USA which was 20.1% in 2010. (1)

REFERENCE: