

# The North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology Conference September 2009

San Antonio, Texas

## ELLENHORN AWARD & LECTURE



Dr. Steven Marcus, Executive and Medical Director of NJPIES presented the lecture in receipt of the “Ellenhorn Award”

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## PLATFORM PRESENTATIONS



**Digital Imaging: Consistency among Mycologists**  
DeBellonia RR, Marcus SM, Ruck B, Chu AF

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# POSTER PRESENTATIONS



## A New At-risk Population: Suicide Attempts by Poisoning in Patients 40-64 Years of Age

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### Introduction

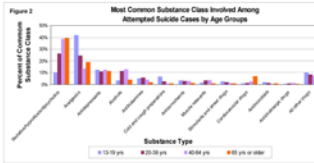
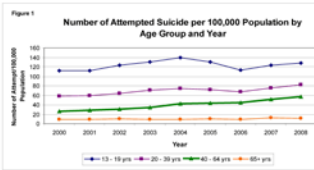
1. Suicide rates by all methods are rising nationally, and the population experiencing the most rapid rise is the 40-64 year age group:
  - increasing 2-3% annually over the last 10 years
  - compared to 1% increases in the general population.
2. We evaluated the age-specific rates of suicide attempts by poisoning to determine whether there was a parallel trend in poisoning, and to evaluate the characteristics of suicide attempts in this age group.

### Methods

1. A retrospective review of the electronic records of exposures reported to NJPIES from 2000-2008
2. Cases categorized as "intentional suspected suicide" were included
3. Data collected:
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Substance class
  - Number of Drugs ingested
  - Management site
  - Medical outcome
4. Analysis performed on SAS statistical package, version 9.1, Cary, NC

### Results

1. The overall rate of suicide increased from 36.4 to 50.2 per 100,000 people over the nine-year period with an annual increase of 4.7%.
2. The 40-64 age group had the highest rate increase of 10.1% annually during the study period (Figure 1)
3. Approximately 60% of these were female



1. The most common substance class involved was sedative-hypnotics, in contrast to the overall population in which analgesics was most common (Figure 2)

2. In contrast to other groups, this age group was:
  - More likely to have >2 substances ingested
  - More likely to be evaluated in a healthcare facility
  - More likely to have a serious outcome

### Discussion

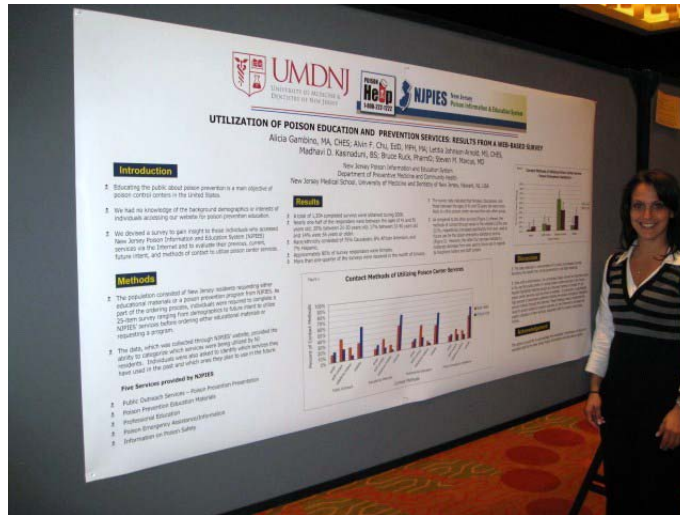
1. Suicide rates by all methods in the 40-64 age group are rising nationally
2. We discovered a parallel trend in suicide attempts by poisoning, with this age group having the highest rate of rise in the last nine years
3. These suicide attempts were more likely to have poly-pharmacy ingestions of prescription drugs, particularly sedative-hypnotics
4. This largely unrecognized trend requires further attention and surveillance to guide effective treatment and prevention strategies

### Conclusion

1. Although much attention is appropriately focused on the prevention of suicide in younger age groups, there has been a steady rise in the older age groups which became steeper each year
2. Primary prevention efforts should include psychiatric and emotional health screening in this group
3. It is imperative that poison centers are cognizant of this increase and consider all over doses in this age group as serious suicide attempts

# A New At-Risk Population: Suicide Attempts by Poisoning in Patients 40-64 Years of Age

Cialelo DP, Chu AF, Marcus SM



## Utilization of Poison Education and Prevention Services: Results from a Web-based Survey

Gambino AA, Chu AF, Johnson-Arnold L, Kasinadhuni MD, Ruck B, Marcus SM