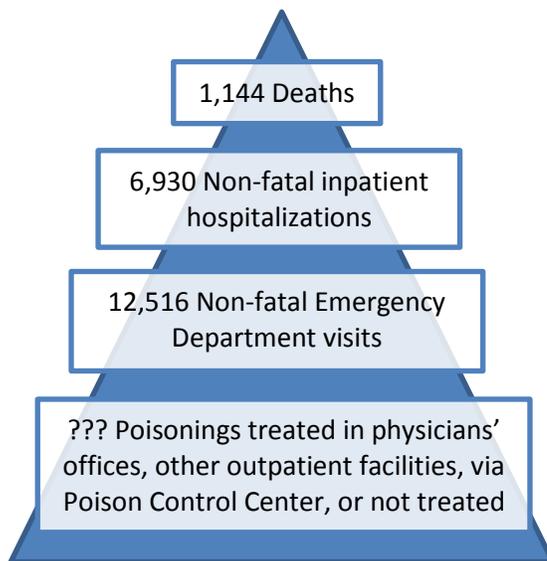


Deaths and injuries resulting from poisonings are significant problems in Arizona. In 2011 alone, poisonings were the underlying cause of death for 1,144 Arizonans. And although the word “poison” conjures up images of bleach and rat killer, these numbers actually refer to extreme illness after consuming substances like heroin, oxycodone/hydrocodone, and especially alcohol (the number one poison listed on death certificates). Emergency Departments (ED) in Arizona regularly see these patients. Because of this, the ED visit can be a powerful “teachable moment” that, when managed effectively, will motivate patients to seek treatment and reduce readmissions.

That’s why the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) has partnered with Kognito Interactive to create and offer *At-Risk for Emergency Department Staff*. This online training simulation is designed to prepare medical staff to screen patients at risk for abusing substances like alcohol and other drugs, as well as those experiencing suicidal ideation.

At-Risk for ED Staff was developed as part of an ADHS/DBHS ED initiative to help hospitals and medical providers in meeting the rising demand for the identification of patients experiencing substance abuse and suicidal thoughts. Using gaming technology, ED staffs engage in simulated conversations with three emotionally responsive “patient” avatars that exhibit signs and symptoms associated with psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse. Afterward, they are well prepared to perform effective intervention and take appropriate precautions with real-life patients. This training is freely available to hospitals in Arizona and is an engaging tool that:

- **Is free and can be completed from any computer with online access**
- Awards 1.50 CMEs or CEUs
- Increases patient safety
- Reduces re-admission rates
- Assists in implementing The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals on Suicide
- Is listed in the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention Programs



Poisonings among Arizona residents, 2011



To learn more about how *At-Risk for ED Staff* is increasing patient safety in Arizona by helping to reduce deaths and injuries due to poisoning, please visit <https://az-ared.kognito.com>. For information on how to implement this training in your ED, you may contact Gabrielle Richard at Gabrielle.Richard@azdhs.gov or Vanessa Nielsen at Vanessa.Nielsen@azdhs.gov.