



Poison Centers...Making a case

- Acute poisoning is a common medical emergency.
- Events are under-reported in the Caribbean.
- Poison Centers facilitate documentation, generation of reports and institution of poison prevention measures.
- When data from parts of the Caribbean was compared with data from USA, the age pattern for poison cases was similar. (Bushay, October 30th 2005)



Statistical Data

- USA est. 5M cases p.a. ,51.6% < 6 y o
- Canada > 200,000 reported cases p.a., >50% involve children < 5 y o
- WHO 50% of cases of pesticide poisonings occur in developing countries (use is only 15% of world demand)..Brown-Myrie 2004



Statistical Data

Epidemiological Evidence cont'd

- Barbados > 50% of documented cases <5y o
- Surinam est. 82% of documented cases, < 5 y o
- ❖ Trinidad & Tobago >23% of documented cases < 5 y o



Statistical Data

Epidemiological Evidence cont'd

- Jamaica 80 % of cases <5 y o (2004), 85% of cases < 5 y o (2005 Jan.-Sept.)

Causative agents(2004)

- Bleach 50%, Kerosene 13%, Pesticide 13%,

Pharmaceuticals 12% ...MOH Surveillance Unit