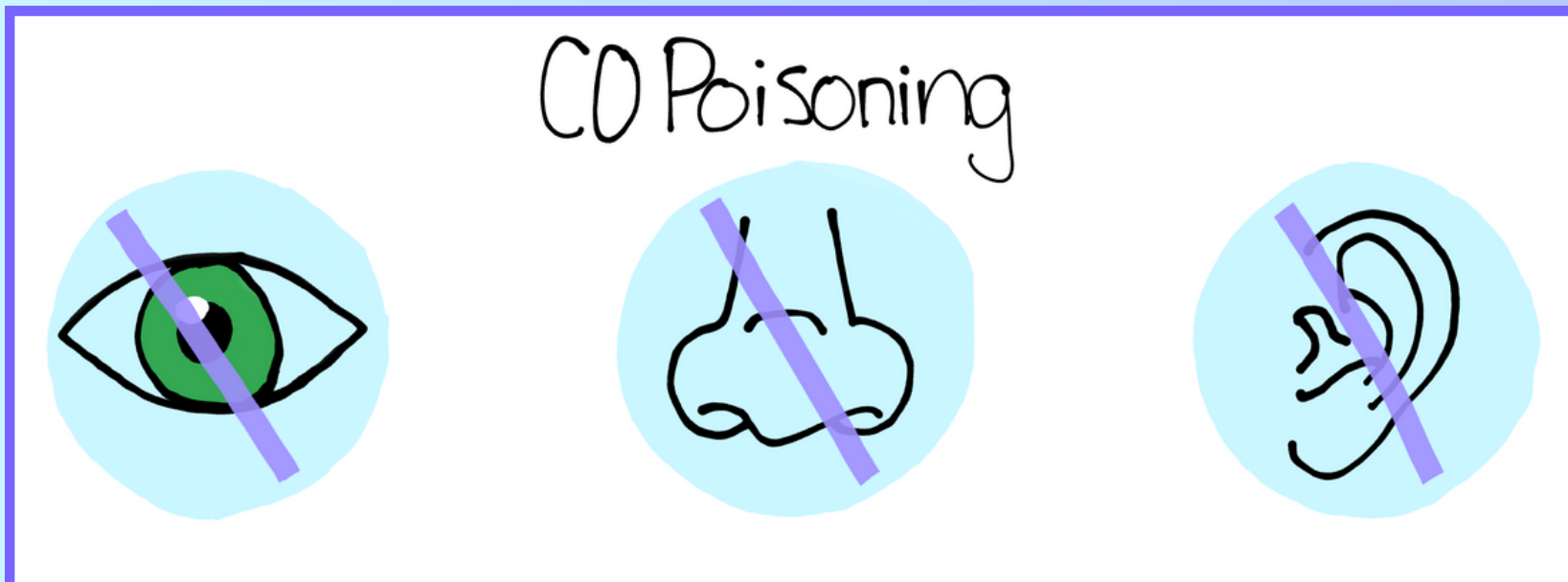


Carbon Monoxide (CO): the Silent Killer

A Public Service Announcement
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What is CO Poisoning?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a gas that has no odor, taste or color. Poisoning occurs when CO builds up in the blood. When too much CO is in the air, the body replaces the oxygen in the red blood cells with CO.



Causes

Many fuel-burning products and engines make CO. Most often the amount of CO from these sources isn't cause for worry in areas with good air flow. But if they're used in a partly closed or closed space, the CO level can be a danger.

CO Poisoning and Equity

The average cost of a carbon monoxide detector on Amazon is \$30, with some up to \$100. These are hard purchases for low-income families, making them more susceptible to poisoning. Gas leaks are also more common in low-income areas, putting low-income individuals at higher risk.



Actions to Take

Audience

Carbon monoxide poisoning can affect *anyone*, young or old, rich or poor.

1. Buy a carbon monoxide detector for your home and check batteries regularly
2. Educate family and friends about the dangers and signs of CO poisoning
3. Donate CO detectors to vulnerable communities through Operation Save a Life

Prevention + Safety

Have CO detectors in the home. Put them near each sleeping area on every level of the house. Check the batteries at least twice a year at the same time as checking the smoke detector batteries.

Health Impacts

CO poisoning can lead to serious tissue damage, or even death (which has had an upward trend in recent years). Additionally, the brain damage that extensive poisoning causes never heals. Lastly, the damage inflicted on the heart can lead to life-threatening heart problems.



Headache



Dizziness



Weakness



Nausea and vomiting



Loss of Consciousness

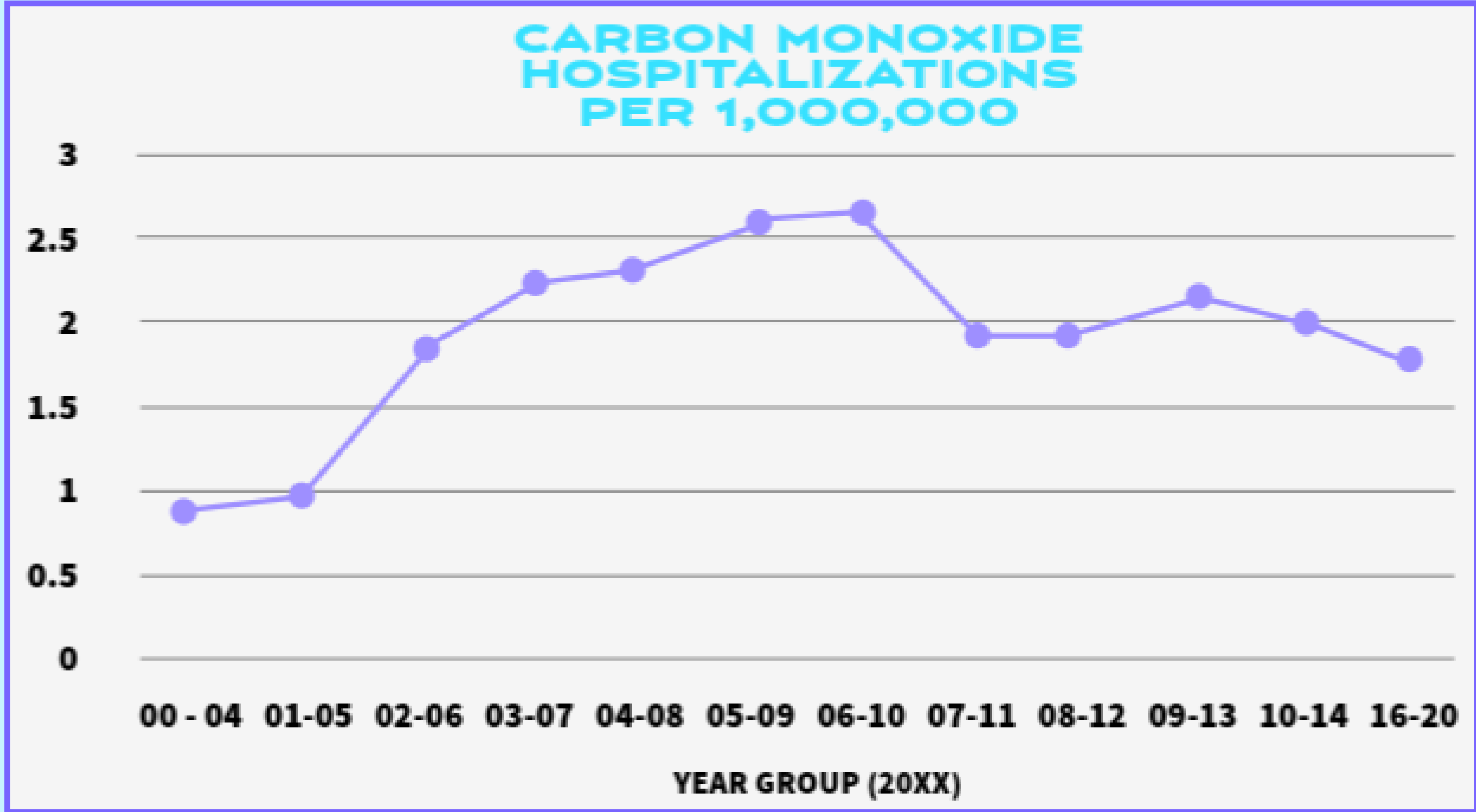


Chest Pain



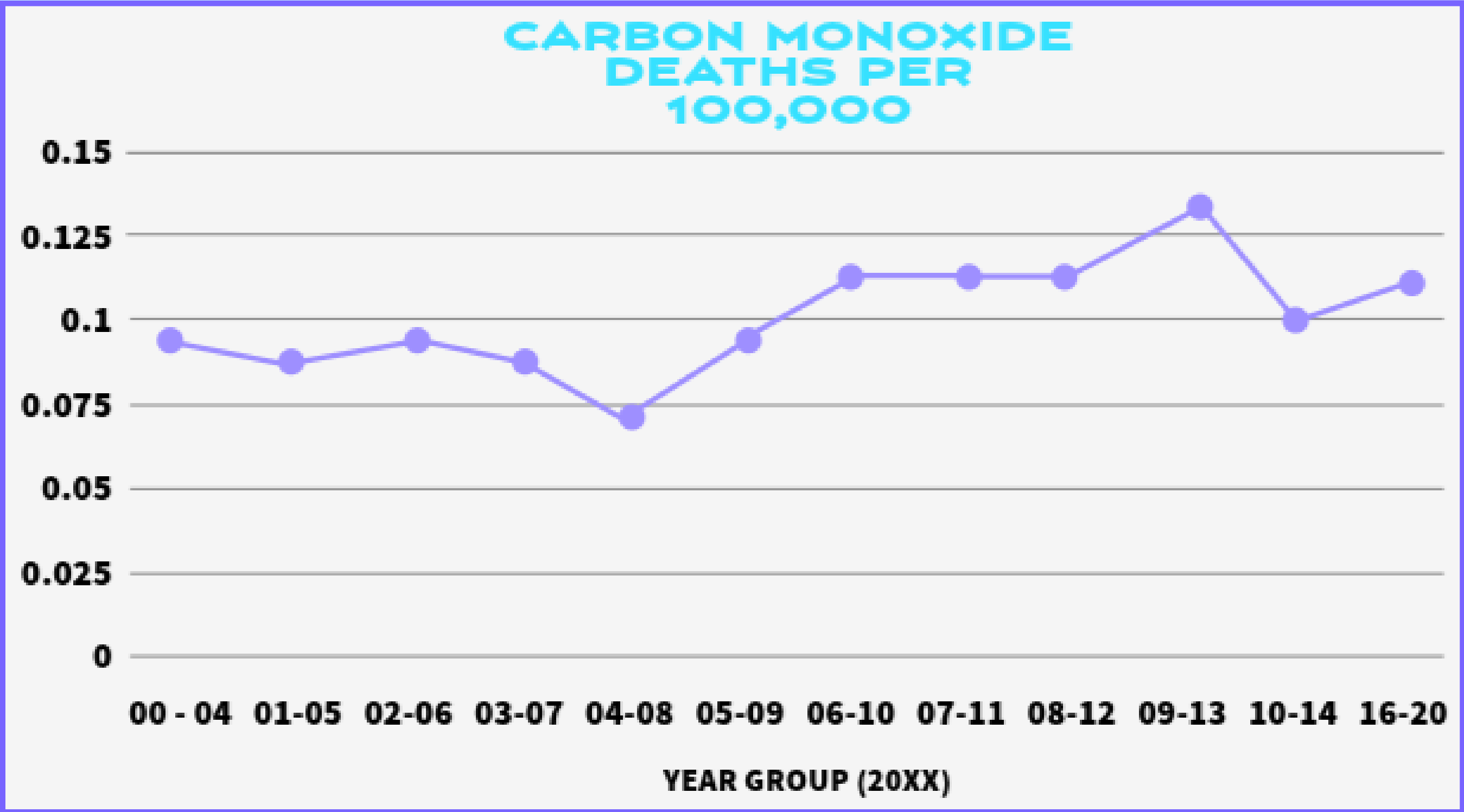
Confusion

Data on Poisoning (Hospitalizations)



Though the number of hospitalizations is small, people are affected by CO every day.

Data on Poisoning (Deaths)



CO deaths are on an upward trend. Spreading awareness about preventative measures is more important than ever.

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