

ABSTRACT

Factors Associated with the Ingestion of Harmful Substances by Children Registered at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BCH) and at the University Hospital of the West Indies in 1990.

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Accidental ingestion of harmful substances in children continues to be a problem. This problem can significantly increase the rate of morbidity among this young population.

This study was aimed at examining the factors relating to the ingestion of harmful substances. The study addressed issues such as the socio-economic status of the child, and the environment in which the child finds himself.

The study included children who were registered at the Bustamante Hospital for Children in 1990, aged 0 - 5 years whose primary diagnosis was related to the ingestion of harmful substances.

The findings revealed that kerosene oil was the substance most often ingested, and children in the 1 - 2 age group were the most frequently affected. Improper handling and storage of the potentially harmful substance contributed to the ingestion of these substances.