

# THE LETHAL DOSES OF 55 SUBSTANCES

HOW MUCH OF THESE 55 SUBSTANCES DOES IT TAKE TO BE LETHAL?

In toxicology, the median lethal dose, or LD<sub>50</sub> (which is an abbreviation for "lethal dose, 50%"), is a measure of the lethal dose of a pathogen, toxin, or radiation. The value of the median lethal dose of a substance is the dose required to kill half of the tested population during a specific test duration. LD<sub>50</sub> is often used as a general indicator of the acute toxicity of a substance. **A lower LD<sub>50</sub> means greater toxicity.**



Please note that the majority of these substances have been tested on animals, so it may not be a precise indication of how toxic they are to humans due to physiological differences (such as how chocolate is not toxic to humans but it is to many mammals, and some snake toxins are specialized to be lethal to mice). However, mammals generally have very similar physiology, and scientists use the data from these tests to determine human LD<sub>50</sub>, so it provides a decent sense of how toxic a substance is.

Sources:  
 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Median\_lethal\_dose  
 ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/ld50.html  
 aatbio.com/resources/toxicity-lethality-median-dosedtd50-ld50