



Poison Prevention Press

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How You Can Get Involved in 2022

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- Sign up for this [Poison Prevention Press](#) e-newsletter
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- Follow the MPC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
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- Visit our [eAntidote blog](#) for two new posts a month
- Join us for National Poison Prevention Week – March 20-26 – as we raise awareness of the MPC and share poison prevention tips

Did you know that...

- The MPC's poison specialists have over 250 years of combined experience?
- All [donations made to the MPC](#) go directly to support the lifesaving services as well as to the outreach initiatives that the center provides?

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Maryland Poison Center's 50 Years of Expert Care

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022.

Mission

Since 1972, it has been our mission to decrease the cost and complexity of poisoning and overdose care while maintaining and/or improving patient outcomes. We do this by providing emergency assessment and treatment of poisonings, and prevention information, to Maryland's citizens and health care professionals.

About Us

The MPC is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) as one of 55 regional poison centers in the country. Our service area covers 4.1 million Marylanders, in 21 counties and Baltimore City.

The MPC is staffed 24/7/365 by pharmacists and nurses who are certified specialists in poison information (CSPI). In addition to the CSPI's, the MPC's staff consists of directors, board certified clinical toxicologists, toxicology fellows, health educators, IT support, and administrative staff. While the 24/7 telephone service is what we are most commonly known for and is a vital service, other important activities and education take place at the poison center.

50 Years of Expert Care

Over the last 50 years, the MPC has managed approximately 2.5 million cases. These cases include poisoning emergencies in humans, animals, as well as calls for information about poisons and poison safety. During the first year, the center managed 5,600 cases and kept paper records. In 2021, the MPC managed more than 37,000 cases using a sophisticated electronic system.

MPC's Role in Public Health Events

The MPC has played an important role in significant public health events in Maryland. These events range from things drug use trends, food poisoning outbreaks, product recalls, potential acts of terrorism, and more. Here is a small look at some of those events:

- 1979— long lines at gas pumps forced some people siphon gasoline from one car to put another causing people to swallow gasoline.
- 1982— Tylenol was contaminated with a harmful chemical, cyanide.
- 2001— Train fire in a Baltimore City tunnel causing a release of toxic smoke into the air.
- 2009, 2010, 2011— carbon monoxide exposures from the use of generators during major blizzards and tropical storms.
- 2015— Newly designed laundry packets commonly being ingested by children; began administration of bystander naloxone for opioid overdose.
- 2018— K2/Spice contaminated with brodifacoum leading to severe bleeding.
- 2019— E-cigarette or Vaping Use-Associated Lung Injury (EVALI)
- 2020-Present— COVID -19 pandemic