

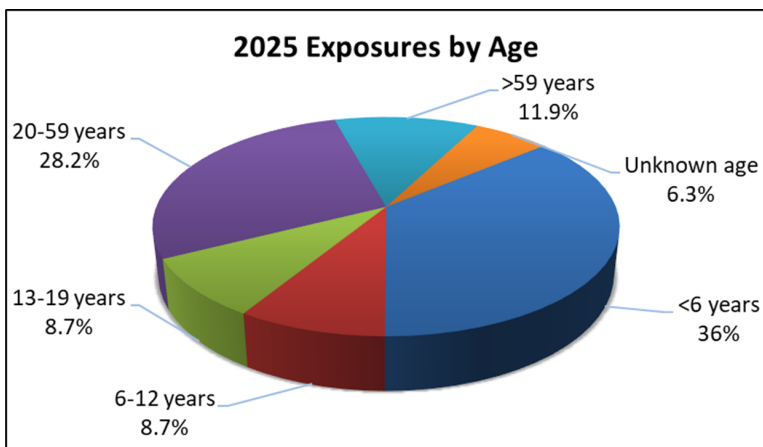
Poisoning continues to be the leading cause of injury related death in the U.S.¹ The Maryland Poison Center (MPC), a service of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, has provided poisoning treatment advice, education, and prevention services since 1972. In 2025, the MPC managed more than 56,000 cases; more than 47,000 of which were related to people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances (exposures). As of April 2025, the MPC serves Maryland and the District of Columbia.

WHO?

Who calls the Maryland Poison Center?

The MPC receives calls from the public, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and first responders. Poison Centers take calls from and manage cases about people of all ages. While 36 percent of exposure cases managed by the MPC involved children younger than six, the more serious cases occurred in adolescents, adults, and older adults. More serious cases often require multiple follow-up calls between the MPC and health care providers.

When someone calls the Maryland Poison Center, who answers the phone? Cases are managed by experts – nurses and pharmacists who have extensive medical training in poison prevention and treatment.



WHAT?

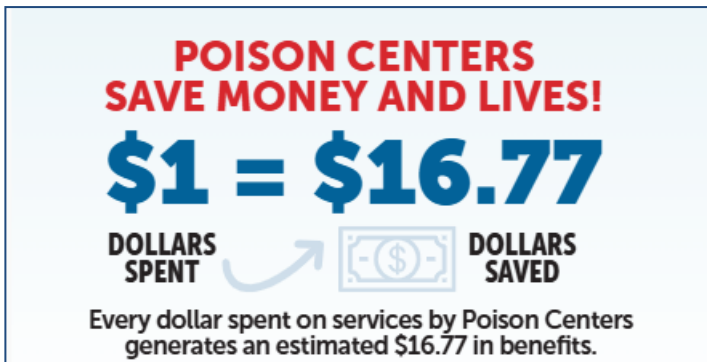
About what kinds of things do people call the Maryland Poison Center? Cases reported to the MPC involved medicines, household or automotive products, plants, mushrooms, pesticides, animal bites and stings, and many other things. Patients may be exposed to more than one substance in a poisoning or overdose case.

Top 5 Human Exposure Substance Categories By Age Group, 2025				
Young Children (<6 yrs)	Tweens (6-12 yrs)	Teens (13-19 yrs)	Adults (20-59 yrs)	Older Adults (>59 yrs)
(n=17,270)	(n=4,172)	(n=4,173)	(n=13,473)	(n=5,665)
Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	Foreign Bodies and Toys	Analgesics (pain relievers)	Analgesics (pain relievers)	Heart Medicines
Household Cleaning Products	Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	Antidepressants	Antidepressants	Analgesics (pain relievers)
Analgesics (pain relievers)	Antihistamines	Antihistamines	Sleep Medicines and Antipsychotics	Hormones (including insulin, diabetes, and thyroid medicines)
Foreign Bodies and Toys	Analgesics (pain relievers)	Stimulants and Street Drugs	Household Cleaning Products	Antidepressants
Dietary Supplements	Arts, Crafts, and Office Supplies	Sleep Medicines and Antipsychotics	Alcohols	Sleep Medicines and Antipsychotics

¹ CDC WISQARS: <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/>

WHEN?

When do people call the Maryland Poison Center? Experts answer calls to the MPC 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. In 2025, the MPC managed an average of 156 new cases per day. Call volume tends to be higher in the evening and increases in the summer.



WHERE?

Where do most poison exposures occur?

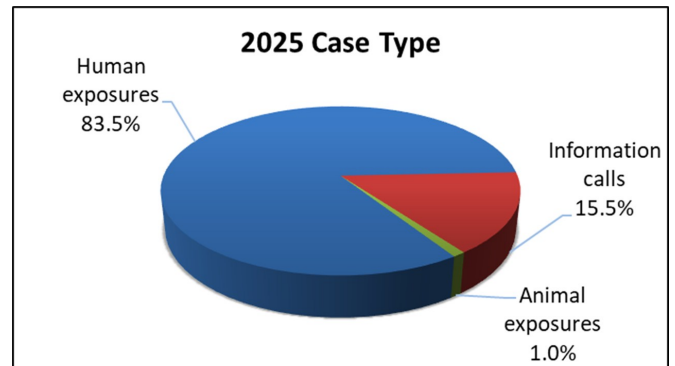
The majority of human exposures occurred at a residence, but they also occurred in the workplace, schools, health care facilities, and other places. Most cases were managed safely at the caller's location, saving millions in unnecessary medical expenses. In fact, Poison Centers nationwide save Americans more than \$3.1 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity!²

WHY?

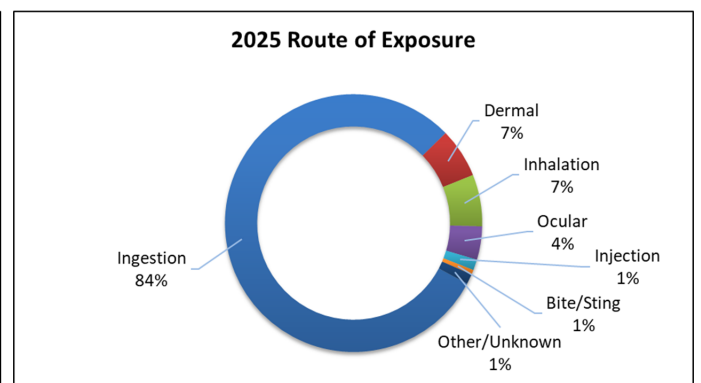
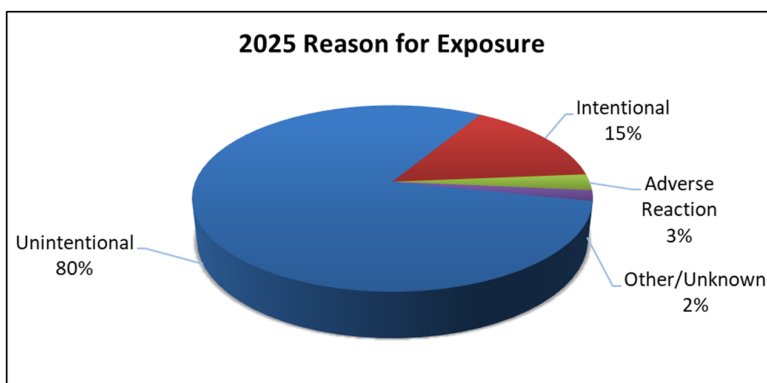
Why do people call the Maryland Poison Center?

People call the MPC when they think they may have been exposed to something poisonous. People also call the MPC for information about medicines, pesticide use, workplace chemicals, bites and stings, and many more topics.

As in previous years, in 2025 most poison exposures were unintentional (80 percent). The MPC also manages cases about other types of poisonings: medicine side effects, substance abuse, malicious poisonings, and suicide attempts.



In 2025, about 84 percent of poison exposures involved people who swallowed a drug or potential poison. However, people were also exposed through the lungs, skin, eyes, and in other ways.



For more information, visit www.mdpoison.com



² <https://poisoncenters.org/national-impact-study>