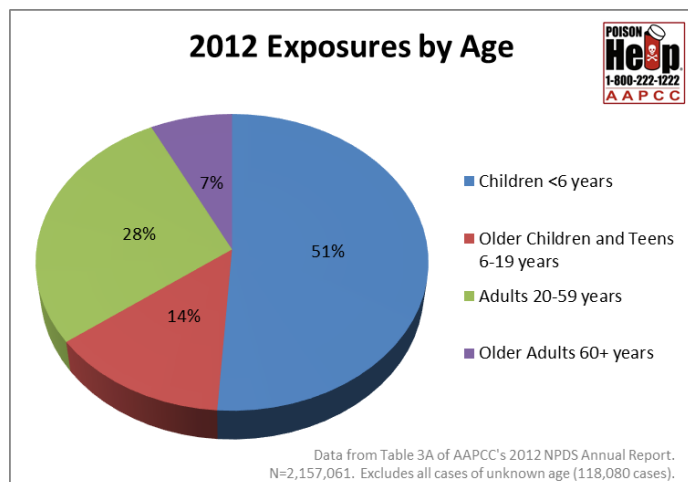




# Poison Center Data Snapshot - 2012

## Overview of the 2012 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers' National Poison Data System<sup>1</sup>

In 2008, poisoning became the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S.<sup>2</sup> In 2012, there were 57 poison centers serving 318 million people nationwide. Poison centers managed 3.37 million cases; over 2.2 million of which were about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances (“exposures”).



### WHO?

#### Who calls the poison center?

Poison centers take calls from and manage cases about people of all ages. Just over half of exposure cases managed by poison centers involved children younger than six, but the more serious cases occurred in adolescents and adults.

#### When someone calls the poison center, who answers the phone?

Poison center cases are managed by *experts* – doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who have extensive medical training in poison prevention and treatment.

### WHAT?

**About what kinds of things do people call the poison center?** In 2012, about half of poison exposures involved medications, or pharmaceuticals.<sup>3</sup> Other exposures were to household or automotive products, plants, mushrooms, pesticides, animal bites and stings, and many other things (nonpharmaceuticals).

Top 5 Human Exposure Substance Categories By Age Group, 2012									
All human exposures*		Young children (<6 yrs)**		Older children (6-12 yrs)**		Teens (13-19 yrs)**		Adults (>19 yrs)**	
(n=2,662,442)		(n=1,070,661)		(n=132,889)		(n=126,166)		(n=687,948)	
Analgesics	12%	Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	15%	Foreign Bodies, Toys, and Miscellaneous	9%	Analgesics	17%	Analgesics	10%
Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	8%	Household Cleaning Substances	10%	Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	7%	Antidepressants	6%	Household Cleaning Substances	8%
Household Cleaning Substances	7%	Analgesics	10%	Analgesics	7%	Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Antipsychotics	6%	Bites and Envenomations	6%
Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Antipsychotics	6%	Foreign Bodies, Toys, and Miscellaneous	7%	Antihistamines	5%	Stimulants and Street Drugs	6%	Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Antipsychotics	6%
Foreign Bodies, Toys, and Miscellaneous	4%	Topical Preparations	7%	Vitamins	5%	Cold and Cough Preparations	6%	Pesticides	6%
* Based on total case mentions, table 22. ** Based on single substance exposures, table 22. Single substance exposures account for 89% of all human exposure cases. All data from AAPCC's 2012 NPDS Annual Report.									

<sup>1</sup> Mowry JB, Spyker DA, Cantilena LR Jr, Bailey JE, Ford M. 2012 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers' National Poison Data System (NPDS): 30th Annual Report. Clin Toxicol (Phila). 2013 Dec;51(10):949-1229. <http://www.aapcc.org/annual-reports/>

<sup>2</sup> Warner M, Chen LH, Makuc DM, Anderson RN, Miniño AM. Drug poisoning deaths in the United States, 1980-2008. NCHS Data Brief. 2011 Dec;(81):1-8. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db81.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> From Table 22 – 51.8% of single-substance exposures involved nonpharmaceuticals and 48.2% involved pharmaceuticals. Single-substance exposures comprise 89% of all human exposures.

## WHEN?

**When do people call the poison center?** Experts answer calls to the poison center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. In 2012, on average poison centers managed a new case every 10 seconds! Similar to other years, in 2012, higher call volumes were observed in the warmer months.

## Poison Centers Save Money!

Dollars Spent

\$1



Dollars Saved

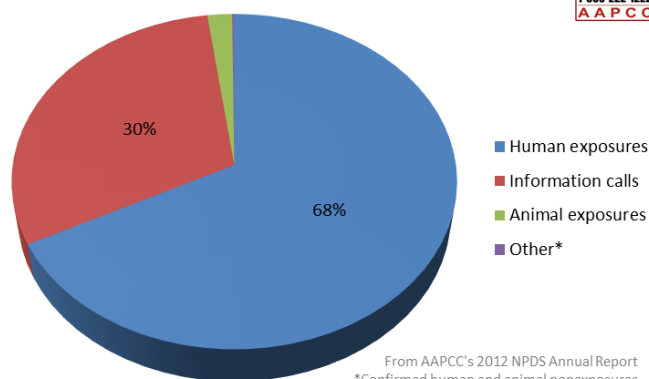
\$13.39

Every dollar invested in the poison center system saves \$13.39 in health care costs and lost productivity.

## WHERE?

**Where do the most poison exposures occur?** In 2012, 94% of human exposures occurred at a residence, but they can also occur in the workplace, schools, healthcare facilities, and others. Most cases were managed safely at the caller's home, saving millions in unnecessary medical expenses. In fact, poison centers save Americans more than \$1.8 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity!<sup>4</sup>

## 2012 Poison Center Case Types



From AAPCC's 2012 NPDS Annual Report  
\*Confirmed human and animal nonexposures

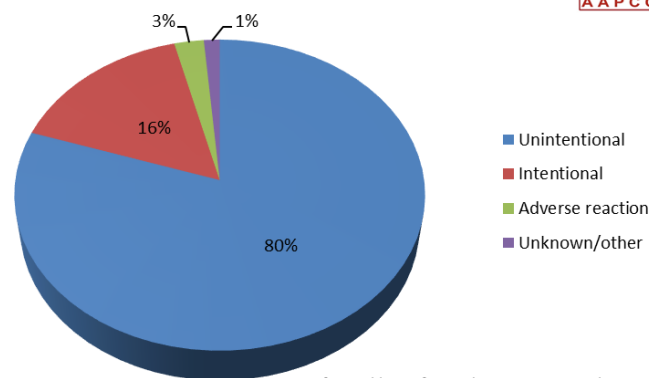
## WHY?

**Why do people call the poison center?** People call the poison center when they think they may have been exposed to something poisonous. People also call the poison center for information about medications, pesticide use, workplace chemicals, bites and stings, and many more topics.

As in previous years, in 2012, most poison exposures were unintentional (80%). Poison centers also received calls about other types of poisonings: medication side effects, substance abuse, malicious poisonings, and suicide attempts.

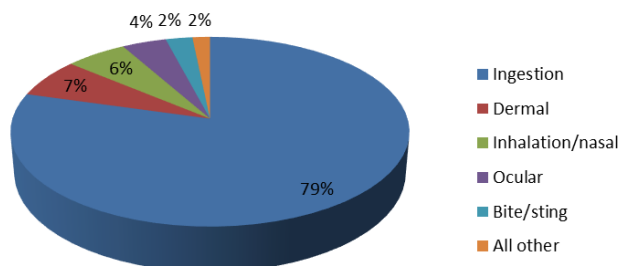
In 2012, about 80% of poison exposures involved people who swallowed a drug or potential poison. However, people were also exposed through the lungs, skin, eyes, and in other ways.

## 2012 Reasons for Exposures



Data from Table 6A of AAPCC's 2012 NPDS Annual Report

## 2012 Routes of Exposure



Data from Table 9 of AAPCC's 2012 NPDS Annual Report  
N=2,389,521

To locate your local poison center call 1(800) 222-1222 or visit

<http://www.aapcc.org/centers/>.

Interested in more detailed poison center data? Visit <http://www.aapcc.org/data-system/>.

<sup>4</sup> [https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/releases/Lewin\\_Report\\_News\\_Release.pdf](https://aapcc.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/releases/Lewin_Report_News_Release.pdf)

