



American Association of Poison Control Centers

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2019

Contact: Court Squires

Senior Manager of Communications
and Public Outreach

squires@aapcc.org; 703-894-1861

American Association of Poison Control Centers Publishes 35th Annual Report of the National Poison Data System: Cases from Health Care Facilities Continue to Rise

Alexandria, VA – The recently published 35th Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers' (AAPCC) National Poison Data System (NPDS) reveals that in 2017, someone called a poison control center about every 12 seconds. America's poison control centers managed 2,607,413 encounters, 2,115,186 of which were human exposure cases. U.S. Poison Control Centers made 2.7 million follow-up calls in 2017. Human exposure calls to poison control showed a 2.03% decline from 2016. However, health care facility (HCF) human exposure cases increased by 3.06% from 2016, representing almost a quarter of all human exposure calls, and calls with more serious medical outcomes have increased by 4.44% per year since 2000.

"The staff of the nation's poison control centers are challenged daily to assist in the treatment of patients exposed to an ever changing landscape of new and emerging drugs of abuse," said Mark Ryan, Pharm.D., Director of the Louisiana Poison Center, and current AAPCC President. "The data, collected by our specialists in poison information and uploaded into the National Poison Data System, helps develop the most appropriate therapies to drugs never seen before. Fentanyl continues to be a scourge causing both serious injury and death. Not only do we make treatment recommendations, but centers have robust education departments providing training about the dangers of drug abuse."

As in previous years, the large majority of exposures were reported from residences, but poison control centers also received a significant number of calls from places of work, school, and outdoors. "One of the major benefits of the poison control system is that specialists are able to treat most cases at the site of the exposure with relative ease, saving about \$1.8 billion annually," said Stephen T. Kaminski, JD, AAPCC CEO and Executive Director.

"Poisoning continues to be the number one cause of injury-related death in the country. Poison control centers are equipped, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, to manage an array of calls, from poison-related information to treatment advice for more serious exposures. Anyone can experience a poison emergency; however, the public can easily prepare for these types of emergencies by programming the Poison Help phone number, 1-800-222-1222, into their mobile telephone," said Kaminski.

In an effort to make poison control expertise even more accessible to the public, AAPCC launched PoisonHelp.org. PoisonHelp.org is an online triage tool that allows users to input a substance to which someone may have been exposed, and get an instant tailored recommendation on the next steps they should take. AAPCC also set up an automated texting service such that if one texts "POISON" to 797979, he or she can download the complete contact information for poison control, and be prepared for a poisoning emergency.

Data for the Annual Report comes from NPDS. AAPCC maintains NPDS, the data repository for the nation's 55 poison control centers. NPDS is the only comprehensive, near real-time poisoning surveillance database in the United States and contains information on more than 66 million poison exposures mapped to a products database of over 435,000 specific products.

“Through NPDS, America’s poison control centers are among the most important tools we have for public health surveillance,” said David Gummin MD, lead author of the report. “In addition to using it to describe the kinds of cases managed by poison control annually as we did in this report, we can use NPDS to gain valuable insights about anything from the 2010 Gulf oil spill to most recently tackling the growing opioid crisis in the United States.”

The full report contains a comprehensive overview of cases managed by poison control centers and can be accessed [here](#). An overview of the annual report, the Poison Control Center Data Snapshot, is available as well.

About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison center members in their efforts to treat and prevent drug, consumer product, animal, environmental and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**

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