



POISON HELP
1-800-222-1222

Wisconsin Poison Center, located in Milwaukee, is a valuable statewide resource that provides 24-hour, toll-free poison information. Statistics from 2018 have been compiled and reported to illustrate our mission to consistently deliver comprehensive and accurate information to callers from any potential poison or drug. For more information about the WI Poison Center, please visit www.wisconsinpoison.org.

24 hr hotline: 1-800-222-1222



2019 Annual Report

Saving lives, reducing cost and providing the best care for WI residents

Since 2009, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control reports the No. 1 cause of injury deaths for adults ages 25-64 as unintentional poisoning. Health care facilities are treating increasing numbers of severely overdosed patients.

10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths by Age Group, United States – 2017

Rank	Age groups										Total	
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+		
1	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Drowning	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Poisoning
2	Homicide Unspecified	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional Drowning	Suicide Suffocation	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic
3	Unintentional MV Traffic	Homicide Unspecified	Unintentional Fire/Burn	Suicide Firearm	Homicide Firearm	Homicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Unintentional Fall
4	Homicide, Other Spec., Classifiable	Unintentional Suffocation	Homicide Firearm	Homicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Suffocation	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Unspecified	Suicide Firearm
5	Undetermined Suffocation	Unintentional Fire/Burn	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Drowning	Suicide Suffocation	Suicide Suffocation	Homicide Firearm	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Suffocation	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Suffocation	Homicide Firearm
6	Unintentional Drowning	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other	Unintentional Other Land Transport	Unintentional Other Land Transport	Unintentional Drowning	Undetermined Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning	Homicide Firearm	Suicide Poisoning	Adverse Effects	Adverse Effects	Suicide Suffocation
7	Undetermined/ Unspecified	Homicide Other Spec., Classifiable	Homicide Suffocation	Unintentional Fire/Burn	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning	Undetermined Poisoning	Homicide Firearm	Homicide Firearm	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Suffocation
8	Homicide Suffocation	Homicide Firearm	Homicide Cut/Pierce	Suicide Poisoning	Undetermined Poisoning	Unintentional Drowning	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Fire/Burn	Unintentional Fire/Burn	Unintentional Unspecified
9	Unintentional Natural/ Environment	Unintentional Natural/ Environment	Unintentional Firearm	Unintentional Poisoning	Homicide Cut/Pierce	Homicide Cut/Pierce	Unintentional Drowning	Unintentional Drowning	Adverse Effects	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning
10	Three Tied	Unintentional Firearm	Two Tied	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Suffocation	Undetermined Poisoning	Suicide Suffocation	Adverse Effects	Adverse Effects

☐ Poisoning deaths

Data source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System.
Produced by: Office of Statistics and Programming, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC using WISQARS™.

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Making sure patients are safe

Wisconsin Poison Center managed 39,095 cases in 2018, but that number tells only half the story.

Besides receiving an average of 107 reported cases per day, toxicology trained pharmacists and nurses also call back to follow up on patients to ensure their safety and the highest quality of care. Hospital patients throughout the state are checked an average of twice a day until they are discharged. This provides continuity of care and allows for adjustment of treatment recommendations as needed. Patients calling from home who are exposed to certain substances are called-back to monitor for potential symptoms and provide reassurance.

- Poison Center physician-toxicologists provide toxicology education for pharmacy students, medical students, Emergency Medicine fellows and residents, helping ensure quality patient care for future poisoned patients.
- Home managed patients are very satisfied with Poison Center services – 99 percent of those surveyed say they would recommend the service to a friend.
- The quality of patient information is monitored monthly in order to ensure complete and accurate records.
- With 24/7/365 access to Board Certified toxicologists, the Poison Center is an invaluable statewide medical and public resource.
- Studies show that calling the poison center decreases unnecessary ED utilization and cost.

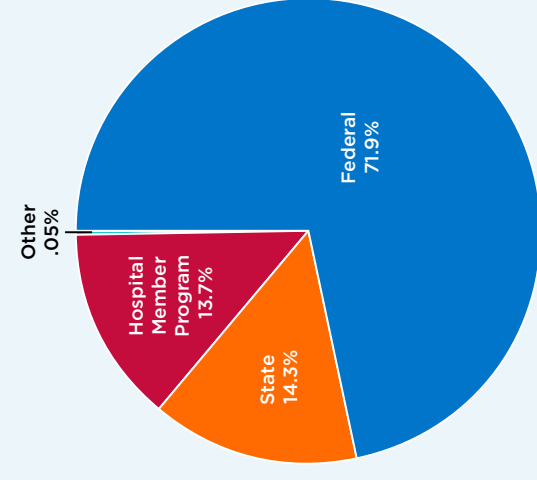
Hospital membership program update

This program, allows patient providers from all hospitals throughout the state of Wisconsin, an opportunity to collaborate with Toxicologists to ensure the best treatment and outcome on the poisoned or drug overdosed patients. In exchange for a membership fee, all member facilities gain 24/7/365 access to Board Certified Toxicologists as well as toxicology trained nurses and pharmacists. The program, is in its fourth year and over 99 percent of the hospitals in Wisconsin have opted for membership in 2018.

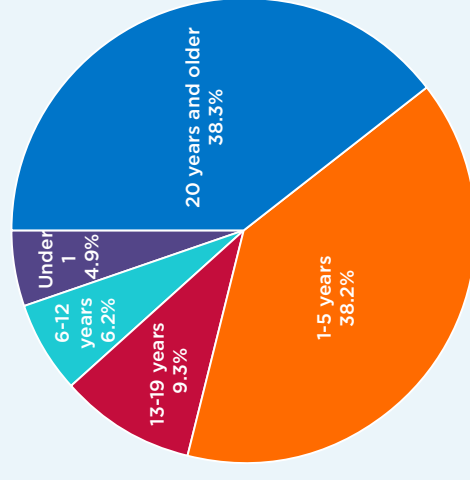
Drug of Abuse contaminated with Rat Poison

After receiving an alert from the Illinois Poison Center in March 2018, Wisconsin physicians began to see an unusual cluster of patients that presented to hospital emergency departments with unexplained bleeding. Thanks to the work done by toxicologists at the Illinois Poison Center, healthcare professionals were able to link patient symptoms to the use of a recreational drug of abuse called spice or K2. The Wisconsin lab of Hygiene collaborated with the WPC to analyze drug samples provided by affected patients and confirm that they were all contaminated with a similar compound. The Poison Center provided recommendations to ED physicians treating these patients and helped source the vitamin antidote needed to treat these patients. In total there were 67 confirmed cases, 16 probable cases and one death. All Wisconsin cases were reported to WI Department of Public Health, who aided in locating adequate supplies of the antidote.

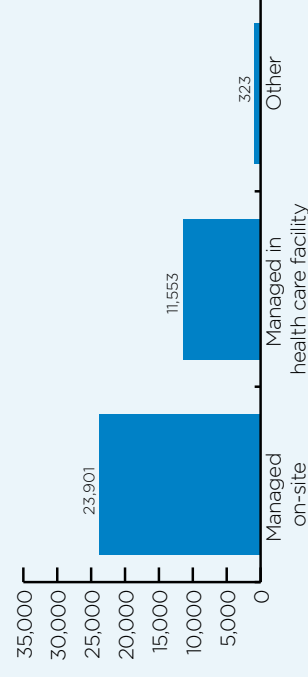
External Funding sources



Age of exposed patient



Treatment site



Number of cases handled by county

