2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Wisconsin Poison Center is for ~~Kids~~ EVERYONE!

Poisonings can happen to anyone.

Just under half of calls to poison control centers are about children – but poisonings in teens, adults and older adults are usually more serious.

MOST COMMON POISON EXPOSURES:

YOUNG CHILDREN

- Cosmetics and personal care products
- Household cleaners
- Pain medicines

TWEENS & TEENS

- Pain medicines
- Antidepressants
- Foreign bodies and toys (ages 6-12)

ADULTS

- Pain medicines
- Sleep medicines and anxiety/mood medicines
- Antidepressants

OLDER ADULTS

- Heart medicines
- Pain medicines
- Sleep medicines and anxiety/mood medicines

Other common poison exposures include: household products, plants, mushrooms, pesticides, bites and stings, and carbon monoxide.

Almost anything can be poisonous if it's used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount or by the wrong person.

If you suspect a poisoning, don't take a chance. Call 1-800-222-1222.

Wisconsin Poison Center, located in Milwaukee, is a valuable hotline resource serving the entire state of Wisconsin. Phone lines are open 24 hours/day and calls are answered by nationally poison-certified nurses and pharmacists.

POISON HELP 1-800-222-1222

Wisconsin Poison Center
Serving people of all ages.

wisconsinpoison.org

A day in the life of a Specialist in Poison Information at Wisconsin Poison Center

"Wisconsin Poison Center, this is Maggie, RN. How may I help you?"

That's the beginning of a call to the Wisconsin Poison Center (WPC). The Wisconsin Poison Center is the state's official poison emergency hotline and staff answer poison-related calls from across the state, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Examples of the types of calls the WPC receives include questions and exposures related to medications, household chemicals, fumes, vaping and street drugs, snake bites and plants.

At the WPC, a Specialist in Poison Information (SPI) can be a registered nurse or pharmacist who has been trained in the study of poison. A SPI is a very interesting job that requires the ability to quickly analyze and evaluate a situation and use a specialized base of knowledge. SPIs are required to become board certified as nationally Certified Specialists in Poison Information (CSPI). An individual can qualify to take the certification exam after managing 2,000 human exposure calls and working about two years at the poison center.

SPIs/CSPIs work independently most of the time. They must be ready to make an assessment of a situation and are given full responsibility for managing calls. They do this using evidence-

WISCONSIN POISON CENTER MEDICAL AND CLINICAL STAFF

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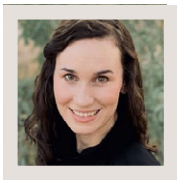

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based, physician-approved treatment guidelines as well as excellent clinical judgment. No two calls are ever the same. There is a medical or clinical toxicologist available to the staff 24/7/365 for any management questions.

The staff feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment after calming a frantic parent or providing treatment recommendations to an emergency department nurse for an overdosed patient cannot be overstated. There is never a dull moment when answering the phones at the WPC. Every call can be an opportunity for a SPI/CSPI to teach and learn.

Specialists in Poison Information provide callers with many combined years of toxicology experience and knowledge. In addition, the clinical physicians and pharmacists who support the center are board certified in emergency medicine and work in emergency departments across Southeast Wisconsin.

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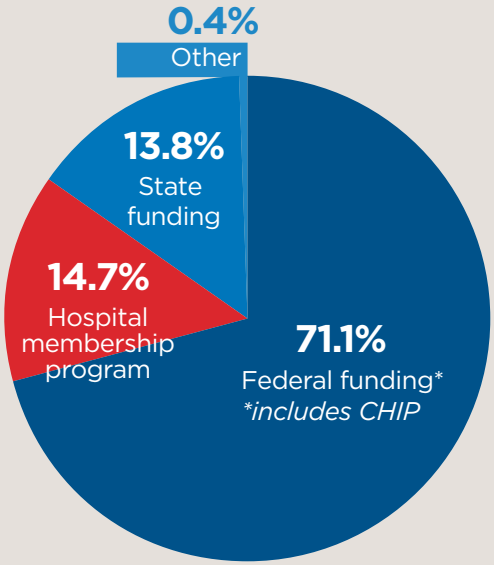
TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2023



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 most current treatment and best outcomes for the poisoned or drug-overdosed patient. 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 twelfth year, and over 99 percent of Wisconsin hospitals chose to be members in 2023.

Poison Center case volumes in 2023

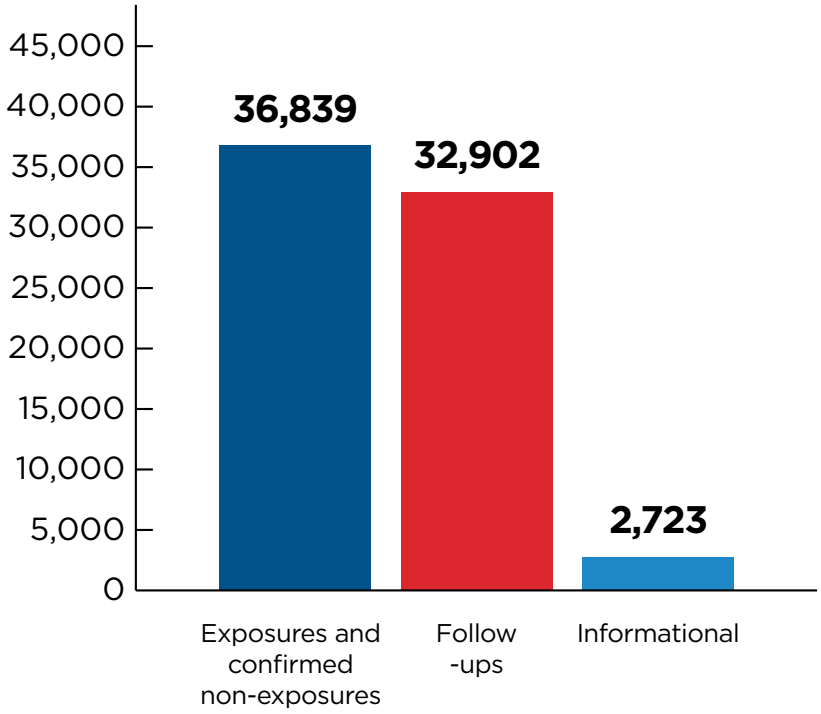
Wisconsin Poison Center (WPC) helped manage 36,839 exposure and confirmed non-exposure cases in 2023. The WPC also received 2,723 requests for information when there was no poison exposure. However, these numbers only tell half the story.

Besides receiving an average of 108 new cases per day, toxicology-trained nurses also call back to follow up on exposed patients to ensure safety and provide the highest quality of care. Hospital patients throughout the state are monitored an average of twice a day until they are discharged. This allows for continuity of care and adjustment of treatment recommendations if needed.

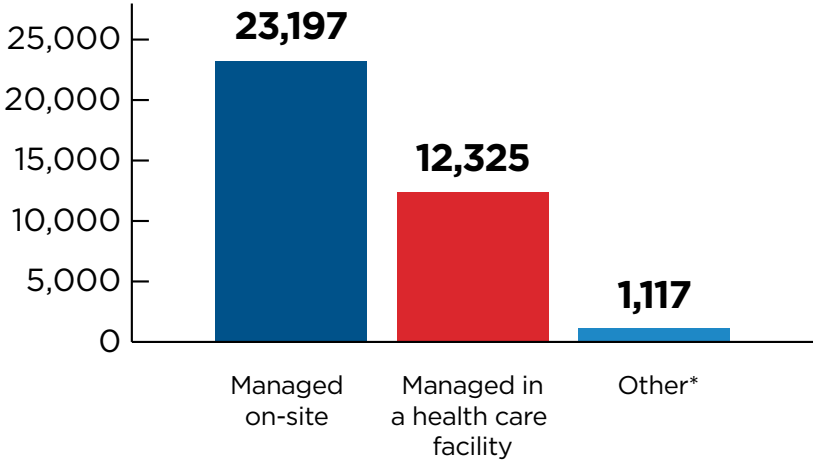
Patients calling from home are also called back, depending on potential symptoms and the product to which they were exposed.

Statistics from 2023 demonstrate the Poison Center's mission to consistently deliver comprehensive information to callers about any potential poison or drug.

2023 CALL/CASE VOLUMES



2023 NUMBER OF CASES/TREATMENT SITE



** Other (referred to family physician) unknown, patient refused referral*

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Wisconsin Poison Center
Serving people of all ages.

TOP 10 SUBSTANCES INVOLVED IN POISONINGS IN 2023

Age 5 and younger

1. Personal care products
2. Pain medications
3. Foreign bodies/toys
4. Household cleaning products
5. Dietary supplements
6. Vitamins
7. Plants
8. Topical preparations (creams and lotions)
9. Antihistamines
10. Pesticides

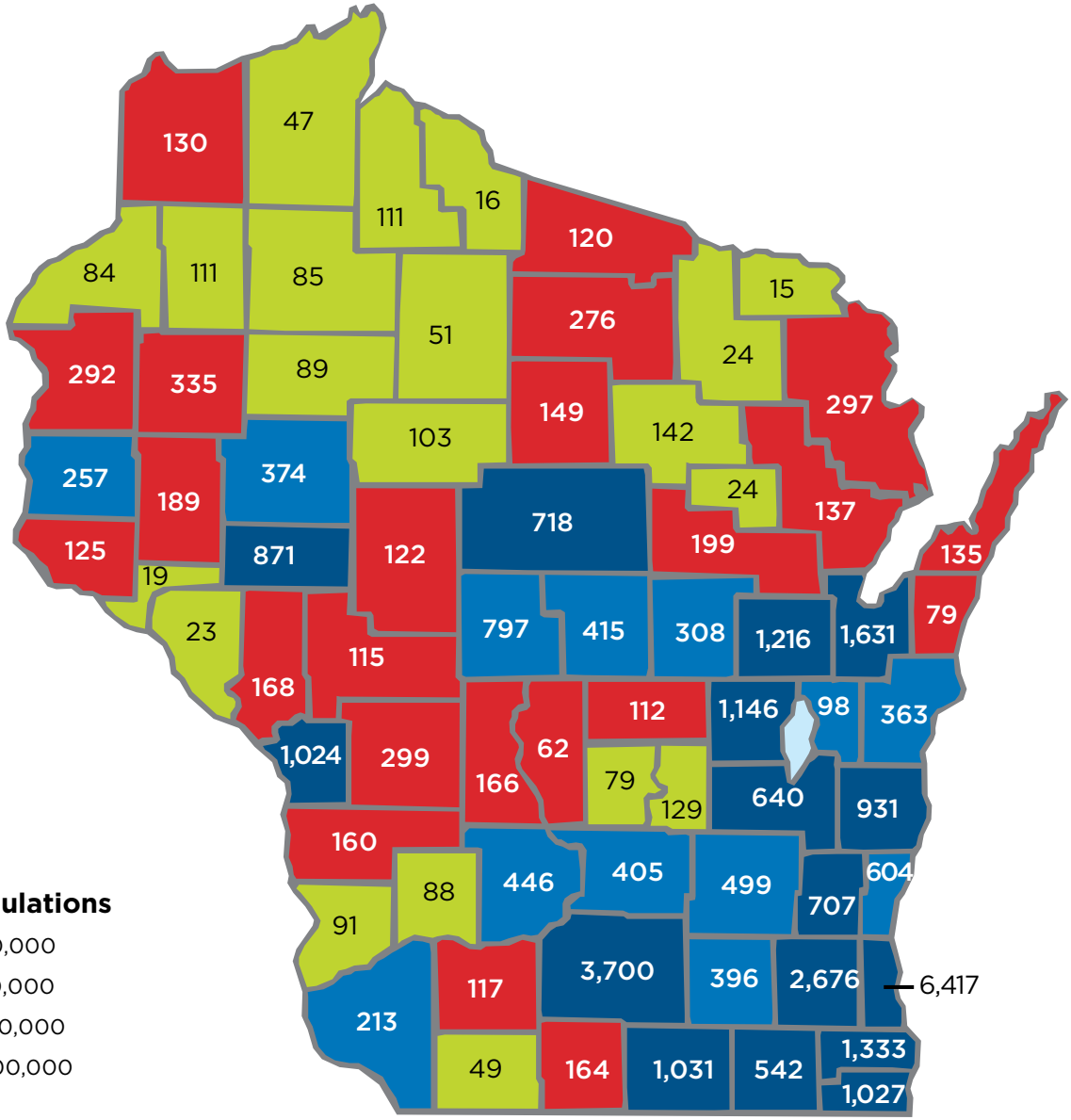
Age 6 to 19

1. Pain medications
2. Antidepressants
3. Antihistamines
4. Street drugs/stimulants
5. Sedatives/antipsychotics
6. Cardiovascular medications
7. Personal care products
8. Foreign bodies
9. Household cleaning products
10. Dietary supplements

Age 20 and older

1. Pain medications
2. Antidepressants
3. Cardiovascular medications
4. Sedative hypnotics/ antipsychotics
5. Alcohols
6. Household cleaning products
7. Anticonvulsants
8. Antihistamines
9. Hormones (includes insulin) and hormone-blocking agents
10. Gases and fumes

2023 NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED BY COUNTY



County populations

- Less than 20,000
- 20,001 to 50,000
- 50,001 to 100,000
- More than 100,000

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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, UNITED STATES - 2020

	AGE GROUPS										
RANK	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages
1	Unintentional Suffocation 1,024	Unintentional Drowning 425	Unintentional MV Traffic 319	Unintentional MV Traffic 476	Unintentional MV Traffic 6,741	Unintentional Poisoning 20,938	Unintentional Poisoning 21,943	Unintentional Poisoning 18,078	Unintentional Poisoning 15,030	Unintentional Fall 36,508	Unintentional Poisoning 87,404
2	Homicide Unspecified 104	Unintentional MV Traffic 284	Unintentional Drowning 117	Suicide Suffocation 312	Unintentional Poisoning 6,664	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,929	Unintentional MV Traffic 6,031	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,421	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,942	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,480	Unintentional Fall 42,114
3	Unintentional MV Traffic 72	Unintentional Suffocation 118	Homicide Firearm 91	Suicide Firearm 224	Homicide Firearm 5,966	Homicide Firearm 6,158	Homicide Firearm 3,540	Suicide Firearm 3,418	Suicide Firearm 3,889	Suicide Firearm 6,472	Unintentional MV Traffic 40,698
4	Homicide, Other Spec., classifiable 68	Homicide Unspecified 108	Unintentional Fire/flame 60	Homicide Firearm 218	Suicide Firearm 3,173	Suicide Firearm 3,901	Suicide Firearm 3,215	Suicide Suffocation 2,086	Unintentional Fall 3,140	Unintentional Unspecified 4,839	Suicide Firearm 24,292
5	Undetermined Suffocation 38	Unintentional Hot Object or Substance 75	Unintentional Suffocation 38	Unintentional Drowning 91	Suicide Suffocation 1,914	Suicide Suffocation 3,063	Suicide Suffocation 2,597	Homicide Firearm 1,783	Suicide Suffocation 1,493	Unintentional Poisoning 4,618	Homicide Firearm 19,384
6	Unintentional Drowning 34	Homicide Firearm 75	Unintentional Other Land Transport 33	Unintentional Other Land Transport 52	Unintentional Drowning 593	Undetermined Poisoning 869	Undetermined Poisoning 903	Unintentional Fall 1,282	Suicide Poisoning 1,165	Unintentional Suffocation 3,723	Suicide Suffocation 12,495
7	Undetermined Poisoning 33	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 54	Homicide Unspecified 27	Unintentional Poisoning 52	Suicide Poisoning 476	Suicide Poisoning 789	Suicide Poisoning 844	Suicide Poisoning 1,140	Homicide Firearm 992	Adverse Effects 3,560	Unintentional Suffocation 6,768
8	Homicide Suffocation 25	Homicide Other Spec., classifiable 45	Unintentional Firearm 22	Unintentional Hot Object or Substance 45	Homicide Cut/pierce 283	Unintentional Drowning 611	Unintentional Fall 625	Undetermined Poisoning 822	Adverse Effects 938	Unintentional Hot Object or Substance 1,385	Unintentional Unspecified 6,265
9	Undetermined Unspecified 22	Unintentional Natural/ environment 43	Suicide Suffocation 18	Suicide Poisoning 33	Undetermined Poisoning 241	Homicide Cut/pierce 521	Unintentional Drowning 568	Unintentional Drowning 569	Unintentional Suffocation 827	Suicide Poisoning 1,080	Suicide Poisoning 5,528
10	Unintentional Poisoning & Homicide Poisoning 17**	Unintentional Firearm 40	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 18**	Unintentional Suffocation 33	Unintentional Other Land Transport 184	Unintentional Fall 359	Homicide Cut/pierce 450	Adverse Effects 451	Undetermined Poisoning 738	Suicide Suffocation 1,012	Adverse Effects 5,361

Poisoning deaths

* indicates unstable values

Data source: National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.
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Wisconsin
Poison Center

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