

Providing service for

**50**  
**years**

1972 to 2022

**Minnesota  
Poison Control System**

2021 Annual Report

[mnpoison.org](http://mnpoison.org)



## 2021 MEET OUR TEAM

### DIRECTOR

Samantha Lee, PharmD, DABAT

### CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

Stacey Bangh, PharmD, DABAT

### EDUCATORS

Mandy S., RN, MPH

Kirk H., RN, EMT, CSPI

Lauren P., MPH

### CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS IN POISON INFORMATION

Rachel B., PharmD

Bradley C., PharmD

Alisha F., PharmD

Ted G., RPh

Kirk H., RN, EMT

Ashley J., PharmD

Alyssa K., PharmD

Rebecca L., PharmD

Rebecca M., PharmD

Carrie O., PharmD

Ting R., PharmD

Kelsey S., PharmD

Jill T., PharmD

Alexandru U., PharmD

Gregory W., PharmD, DABAT

### POISON INFORMATION PROVIDERS

Shawn A.

Thomas C.

Deaira G.

David K.

Jenna K.

Jocie L.

Daniel M.

Sarah O.

Renee P.

Luc R.

Hien V.

### MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Jon Cole, MD, FACEP, FACMT, FAACT

### ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTORS

Benjamin Orozco MD, ABMS

Travis Olives, MD, MPH, ABMS

Ann Arens, MD, ABMS

### SENIOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Louis Ling, MD, ABMT

### CONSULTANTS

Elisabeth Bilden, MD, FACMT

Sean Boley, MD, ABMS

Jennifer Englund, MD, ABMS

Rebecca Meyer, MD, ABMS

Katherine Katzung, MD, ABMS

Michael Kinnan, MD, ABMS

JoAn Laes, MD, ABMS

Abby Montague, MD, ABMS

Cole Pueringer, MD, ABMS

Daniel Sessions, MD, ABMS

Samuel Stellpflug, MD, FACMT, FAACT

Matthew Sztajnkrzyer, MD, FACMT, FAACT

Andrew Topliff, MD, ABMS

Benjamin Willenbring, MD, ABMS

Jenna Wilkinson, MD, ABMS

### MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY FELLOWS

Erin Batdorff, MD

Ryan Fuchs, MD

Nathan Kunzler, MD

Cole Pueringer, MD

Chris Sweat, MD

## ABOUT THE POISON CENTER

- 1-800-222-1222, available 24/7, including all holidays
- Calls are free of charge
- Minnesota Relay and interpretive services available
- Staffed by specially trained pharmacists nationally certified as Specialists in Poison Information
- For more information, visit our website: [www.mnpoison.org](http://www.mnpoison.org)
- Take our free online poison prevention training program at [training.mnpoison.org](http://training.mnpoison.org), or follow us on Facebook or Twitter [@MNpoisoncenter](https://twitter.com/MNpoisoncenter)

## 2021 KEY FACTS AND STATS



Provided **IMMEDIATE** help to **44,319** callers

Poison specialists assisted an average of **121** people each day



**28%** of patient cases involved health care providers seeking treatment recommendations



**91%** of exposures occurring in a residential setting were safely managed at home with Poison Center assistance



**36%** of cases involved a child under the age of 6 years



**87%** of cases transferred from nurse lines were managed at home

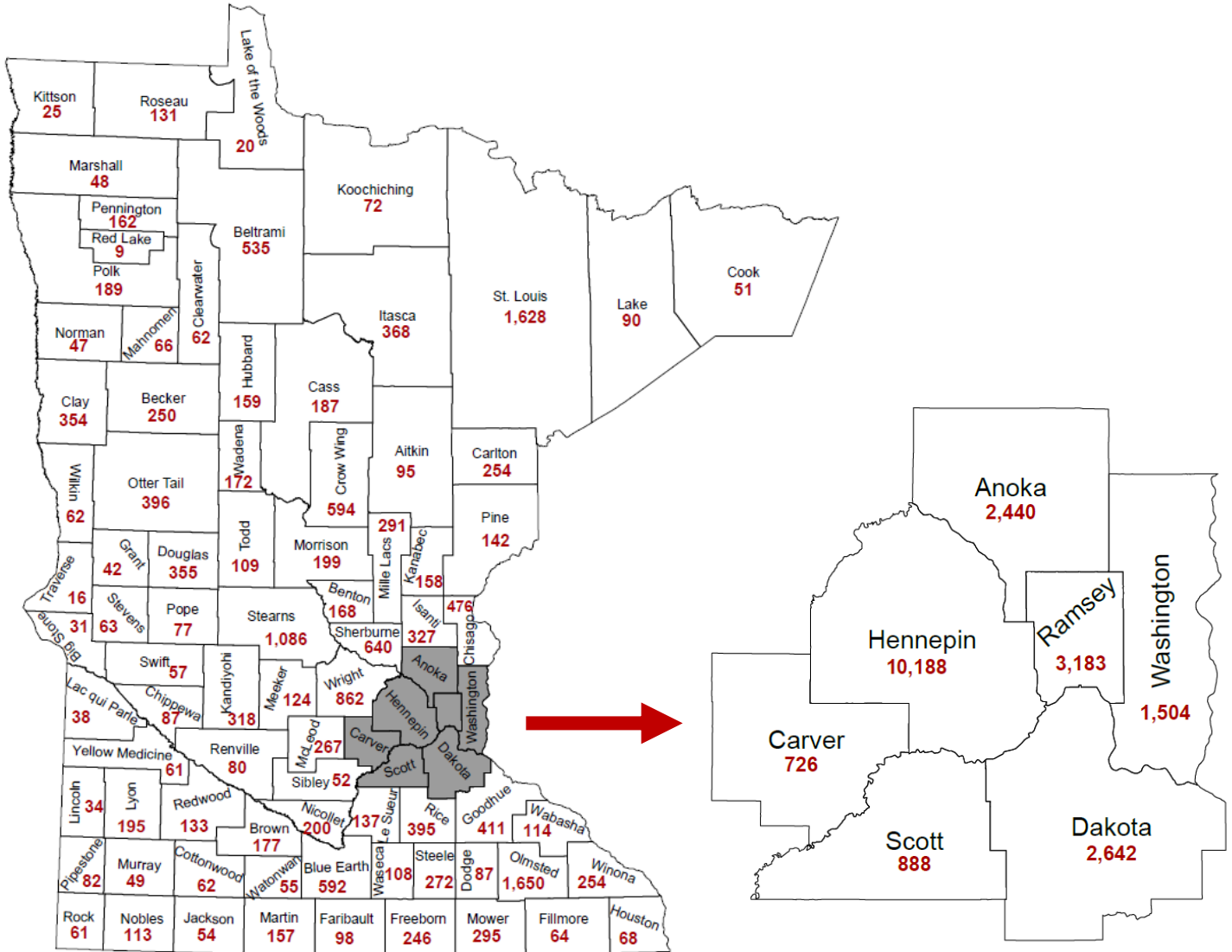


**81%** of caller would have sought emergency medical attention if the Poison Center was not available



**64%** of exposures involved prescription and/or over-the-counter medications

# POISONING CASES PER COUNTY, 2021



## NUMBER AND TYPE OF CASES

The Poison Center managed a total of 44,319 cases in 2021. While 41,834 of those cases involved an exposure, the remaining 2,379 were requests for poison information.

**41,834**  
exposure cases

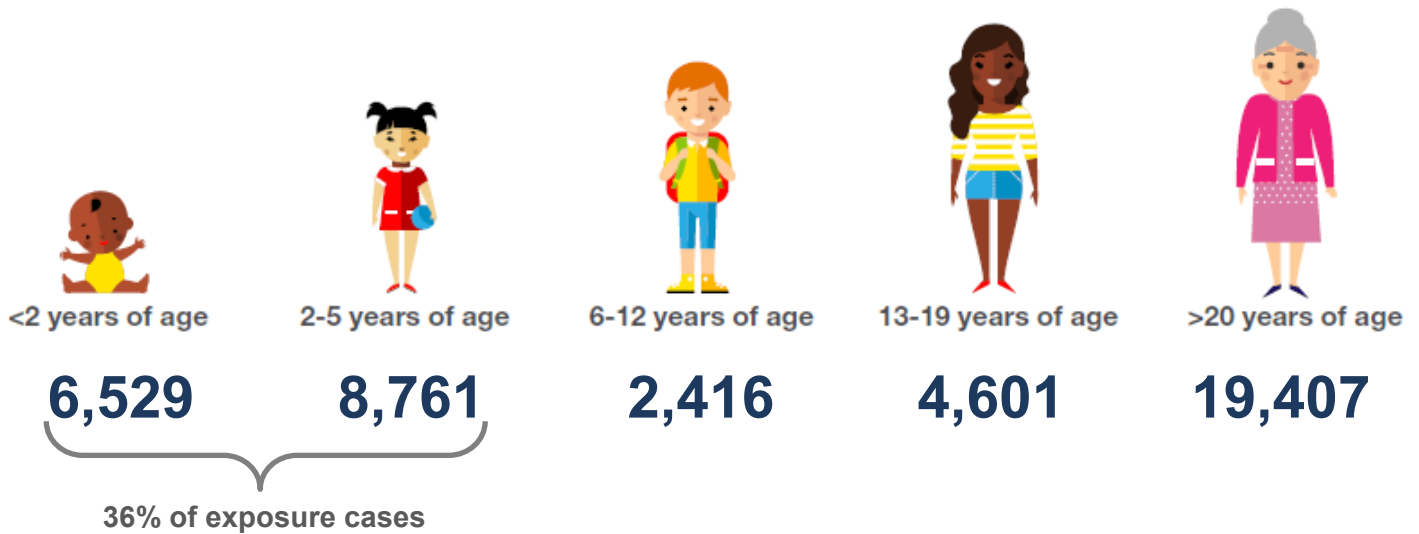
**2,379**  
information cases



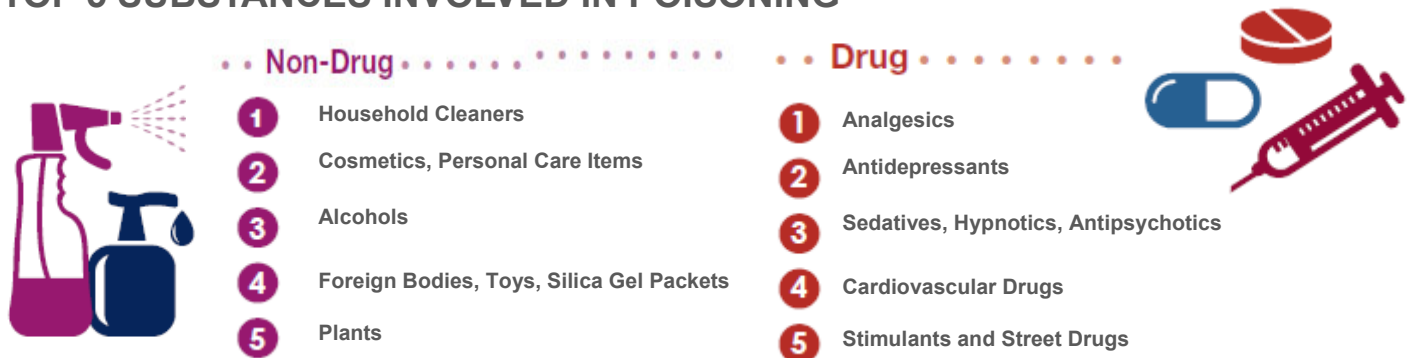
**44,990**  
Total cases

## AGE OF PATIENTS

Poisonings affect individuals of all ages, from babies to seniors. Approximately 38% of exposure cases involved children under the age of 6 years. More serious outcomes were typically seen in teenagers and adults due to a larger number of intentional exposures occurring in these groups.

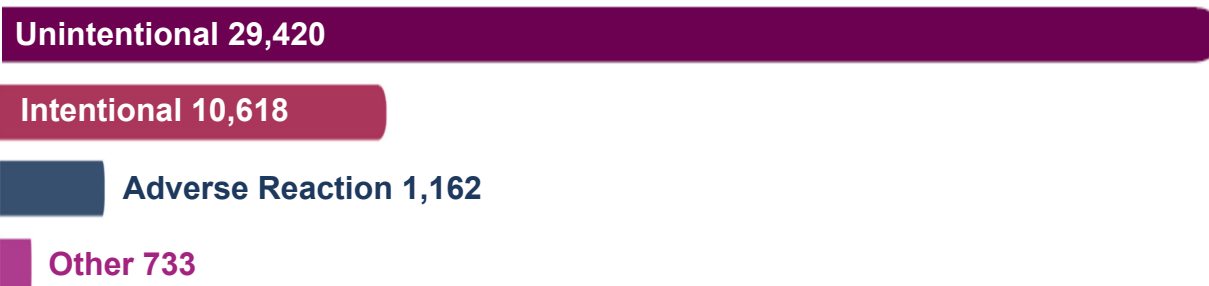


## TOP 5 SUBSTANCES INVOLVED IN POISONING



## REASON FOR EXPOSURE

Individuals who contact the Poison Center have many different reasons for calling. Unintentional exposures can include accidents, mistakes when using products, food poisoning, or errors with medicine. Intentional exposures can be due to abuse, misuse, or suicide attempts. Adverse reactions can happen with drugs or other substances. Other reasons are rarer, but can include tampering or contamination.



## CALLER SITE

More than half of the exposure calls to the Minnesota Poison Control System came from residential settings and over a quarter came from health care facilities (e.g., hospitals, clinics, or emergency medical services providers). Other common call sites included workplaces and schools.



**25,111**

Residence



**11,590**

Health Care Facility



**4,024**

Other



**822**

Workplace

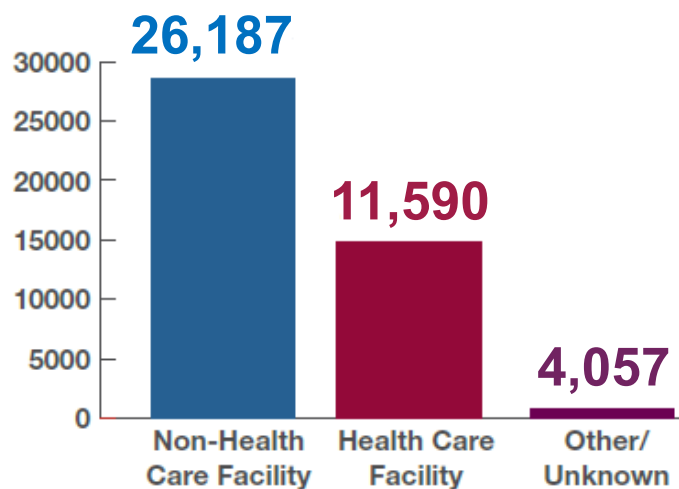


**132**

School

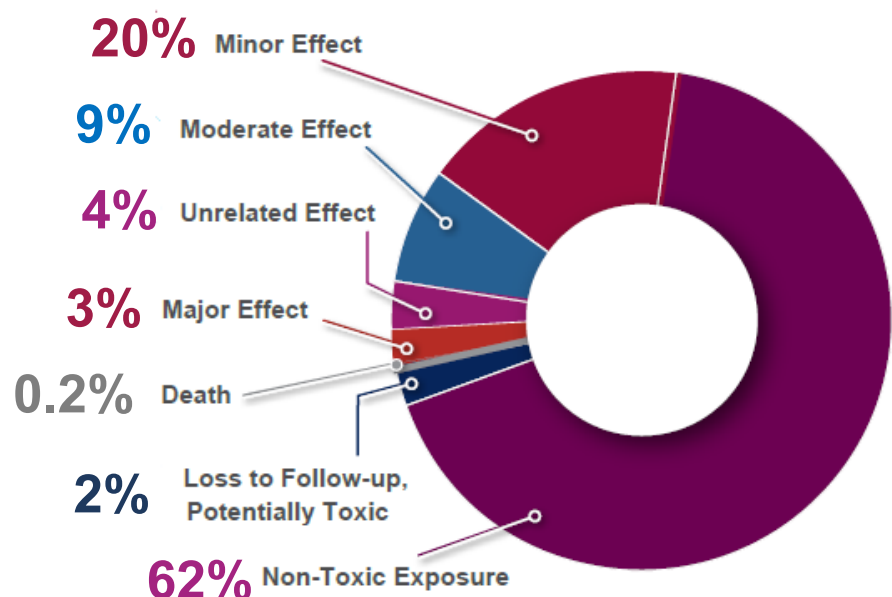
## MANAGEMENT SITE

In 2021, 91% of residential cases were able to be safely managed at home. For cases originating from healthcare facilities, the Poison Center was able to assist providers seeking patient treatment recommendations. By keeping patients at home and reducing average hospital stays with treatment advice, the Poison Center is able to help save both time and money.



## MEDICAL OUTCOMES\*

Overall, 83% of Poison Center cases had outcomes with little or no effect being seen in the patient. Prompt attention to poison exposures helps to reduce the likelihood of severe toxicity, preventing poor outcomes



\*Percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding

## POISON EDUCATION

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

Community education efforts focus on poison prevention and increasing awareness of the Poison Center's services among people of all ages.

In 2021, nearly 7,000 Minnesotans were educated by 38 outreach events. Due to the cancellation of many events in 2021, the Minnesota Poison Control System used social media to share safety information.



An example of a social media post to provide educational messaging to an audience.

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Poison Center provides vital education for medical professionals and those in training.

In 2021, there were 43 education events where 2410 healthcare professionals attended. 218 onsite education sessions occurred. Additionally, 48 medical residents, fellows, students, and pharmacists were trained by Poison Center staff.

The Minnesota Poison Control System partners with Regions Hospital to facilitate a Toxicology Fellowship program.

### LEARN MORE

Complete our free online poison prevention training program. It is available at [training.mnpoison.org](https://training.mnpoison.org) and helps teach about poison safety and using the Poison Center as a free resource.

Visit our website at [mnpoison.org](https://mnpoison.org) for more poison prevention information and to order materials free of charge.

## TWO WAY TO GET HELP

1-800-222-1222 or webPOISONCONTROL®



Anyone who has a poison-related question or suspects a poisoning can always get immediate help from a poison expert by calling **1-800-222-1222**. Free help is also available 24/7 online by going to [www.webpoisoncontrol.org](https://www.webpoisoncontrol.org). Based on the information provided about a poison exposure, users are given a case-specific recommendation that helps them decide what to do when substances are swallowed, splashed in the eye or on the skin, inhaled, or injected.

A total of **2,955** Minnesotans received help online by using the webPOISONCONTROL® tool or app in 2021. This unduplicated number was in addition to the 44,319 phone cases that were managed!

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@MNpoisoncenter



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