

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**1-800-222-1222**



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## Minnesota Poison Control System



Hennepin  
Healthcare



## 2018 MEET OUR TEAM

### **DIRECTOR**

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### **SENIOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

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### **CLINICAL SUPERVISOR**

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Andrew Topliff, MD, ABMS

## 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

## 2018 KEY FACTS AND STATS



Provided **IMMEDIATE** help to **44,901** callers  
Poison specialists provided help to an average of **123** people each day



**30%** of patient cases involved health care providers seeking treatment recommendations



**92%** of exposures occurring in a residential setting were safely managed at home with Poison Center assistance



**40%** of cases involved a child under the age of 6 years



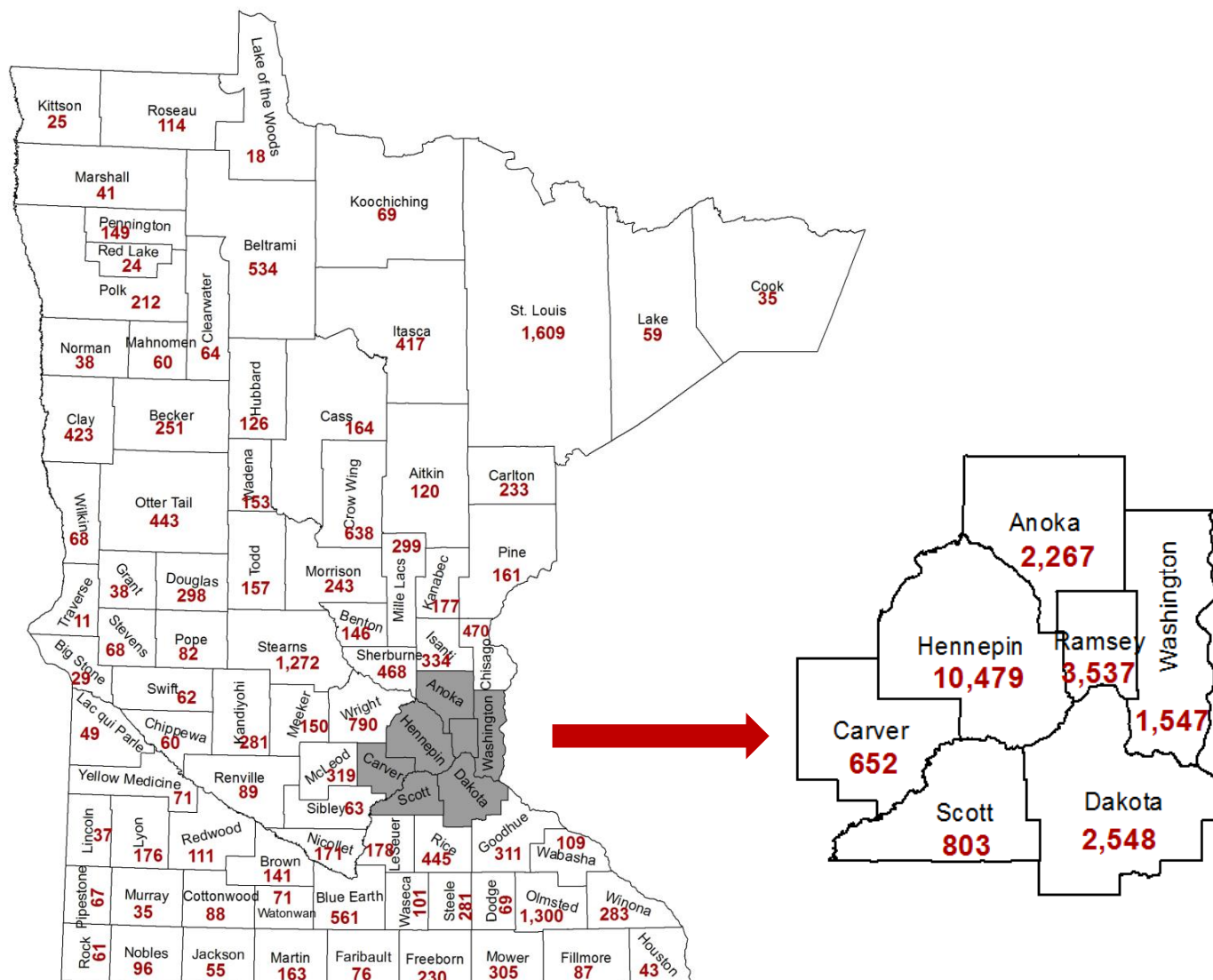
**89%** of cases transferred from nurse lines were managed at home



**85%** of callers would have sought emergency medical attention if the Poison Center was not available



**63%** of exposures involved prescription and/or over-the-counter medications



The Poison Center managed a total of 44,901 cases in 2018. While 41,340 of those cases involved an exposure, the remaining 3,561 were requests for poison information.

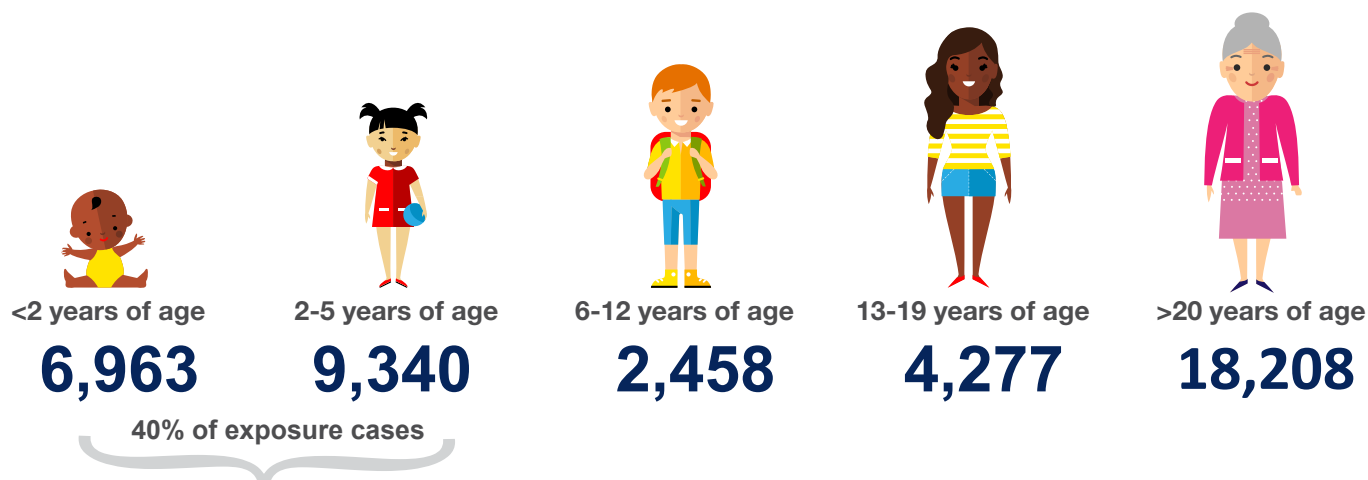
**41,340**  
exposure  
cases

**3,561**  
information  
cases

**44,901**  
total cases

## AGE OF PATIENTS

Poisonings affect individuals of all ages, from babies to seniors. About 40% 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



- Non-Drug
- 1 Household Cleaners
  - 2 Cosmetics, Personal Care Items
  - 3 Alcohols
  - 4 Foreign Bodies, Toys, Silica Gel Packets
  - 5 Pesticides



- Drug
- 1 Analgesics
  - 2 Antidepressants
  - 3 Sedatives, Hypnotics, Antipsychotics
  - 4 Cardiovascular Drugs
  - 5 Stimulants and Street Drugs

## 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.

Unintentional 29,427

Intentional 10,438

Adverse Reaction 962

Other 612

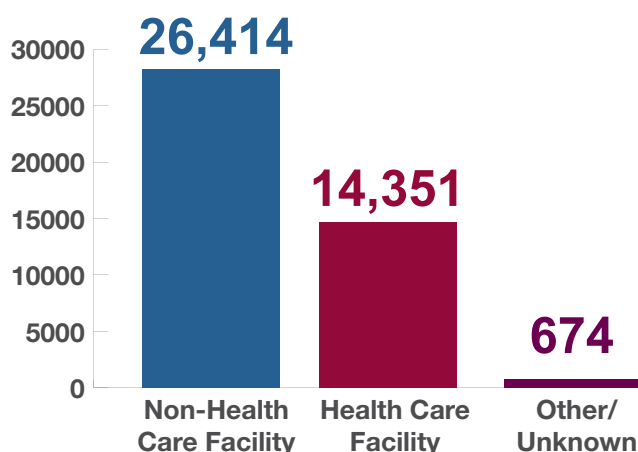
## CALLER SITE

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 call sites included workplaces and schools.



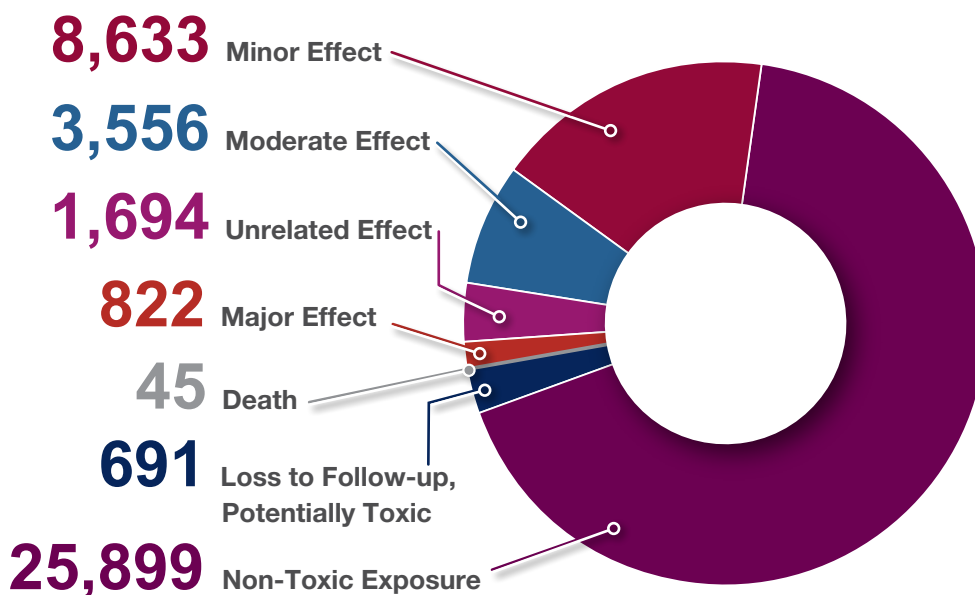
## MANAGEMENT SITE

In 2018, 92% of residential cases were able to be safely managed at home. For cases originating from health care 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, 88% 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.





# 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, from preschoolers to older adults.

In 2018, the Minnesota Poison Control System participated in almost 150 public education events that reached more than 21,000 Minnesotans and distributed over 95,000 pieces of educational materials across the state. Furthermore, over 920 Minnesotans completed our online training program during the year!



Children, parents, and caregivers learned about medicine safety and the Poison Center at Hennepin Healthcare's Teddy Bear Clinic.



"Candy versus medicine" gingerbread houses were put on display during the Hennepin Health Foundation's annual Light Up the Night gala in December 2018.

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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

In 2018, more than 4,500 health care professionals were reached through education events. Additionally, over 80 medical residents, fellows, students, and pharmacists were trained by Poison Center staff.



Education Director, Kirk Hughes, with a Poison Center display. Thousands of health care professionals were reached through education and outreach programs in 2018.

## TAKE ACTION!

Program our number, **1-800-222-1222**, into your phone and share it with your family and friends so it's there when you need it.

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

Visit our website, **[www.mnpoison.org](http://www.mnpoison.org)**, to learn about poison prevention and order materials free of charge.