

# MINNESOTA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**1-800-222-1222**  
Minnesota Poison Control System

Serving Minnesota since 1972



## 2019 MEET OUR TEAM

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## 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

## 2019 KEY FACTS AND STATS



! Provided **IMMEDIATE** help to **46,283** callers  
Poison specialists assisted an average of **126** people each day



**28%** 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



**39%** of cases involved a child under the age of 6 years



**88%** of cases transferred from nurse lines were managed at home

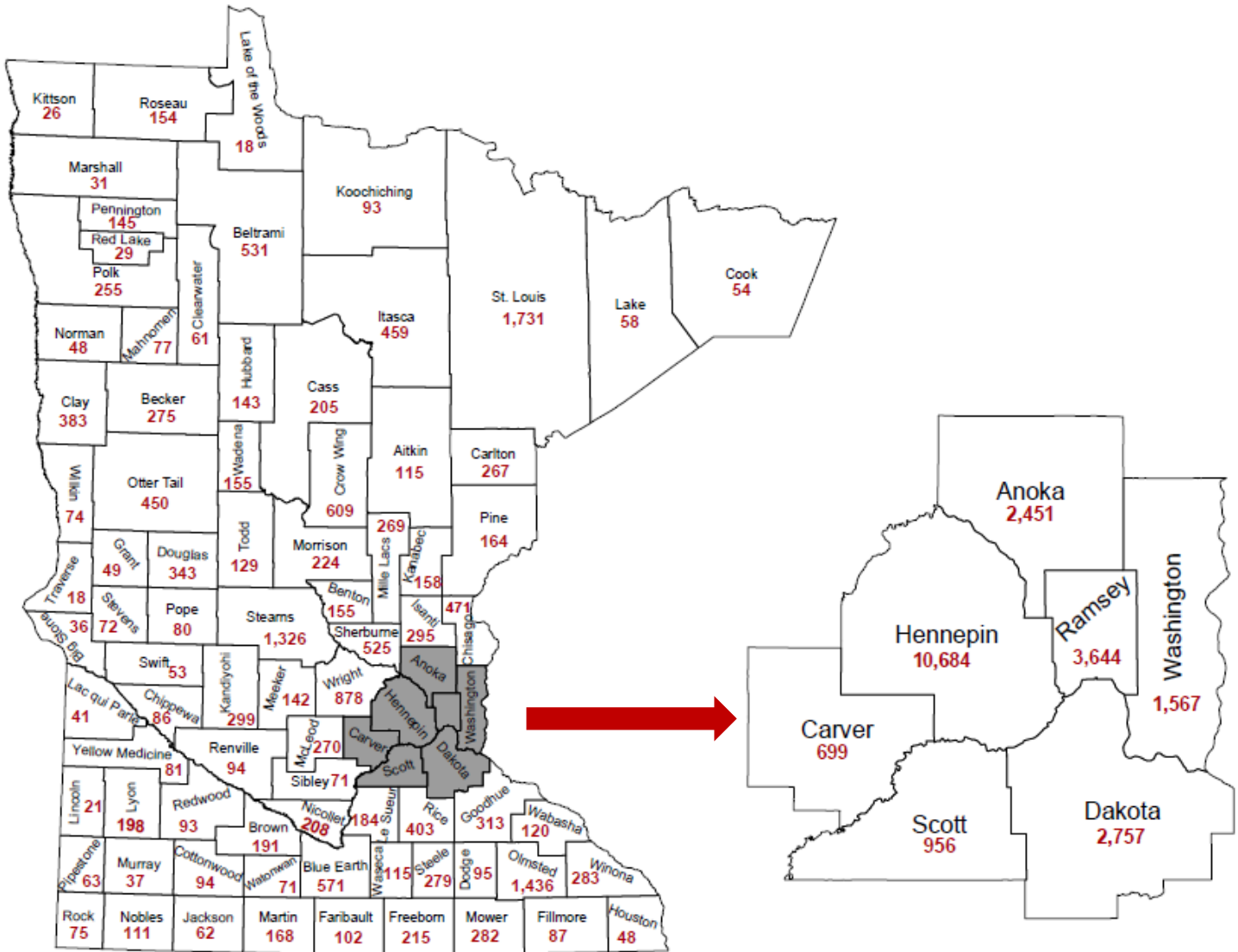


**82%** of callers would have sought emergency medical attention if the Poison Center was not available



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

POISONING CASES PER COUNTY, 2019



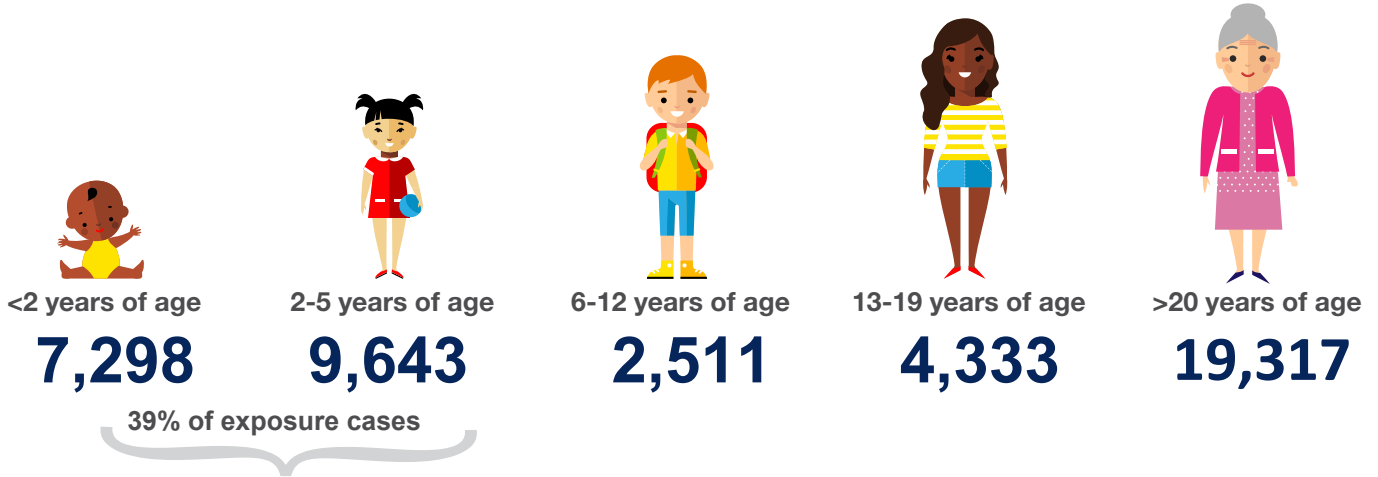
NUMBER AND TYPE OF CASES

The Poison Center managed a total of 46,283 cases in 2019. While 43,331 of those cases involved an exposure, the remaining 2,952 were requests for poison information.

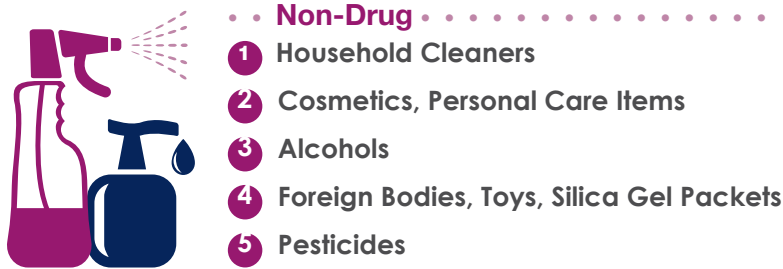


## AGE OF PATIENTS

Poisonings affect individuals of all ages, from babies to seniors. Approximately 39% 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.



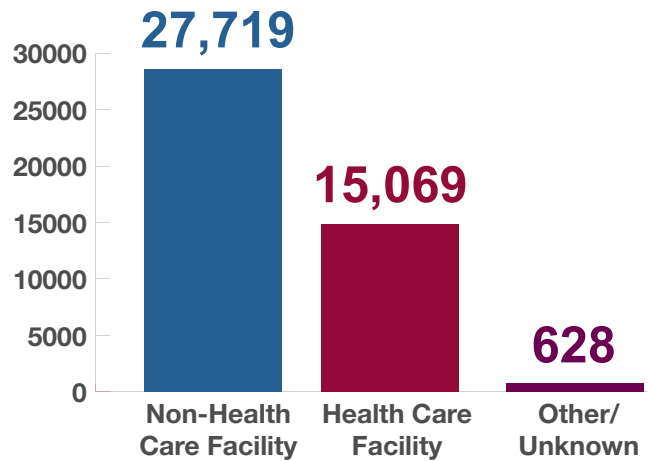
### CALLER SITE

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.



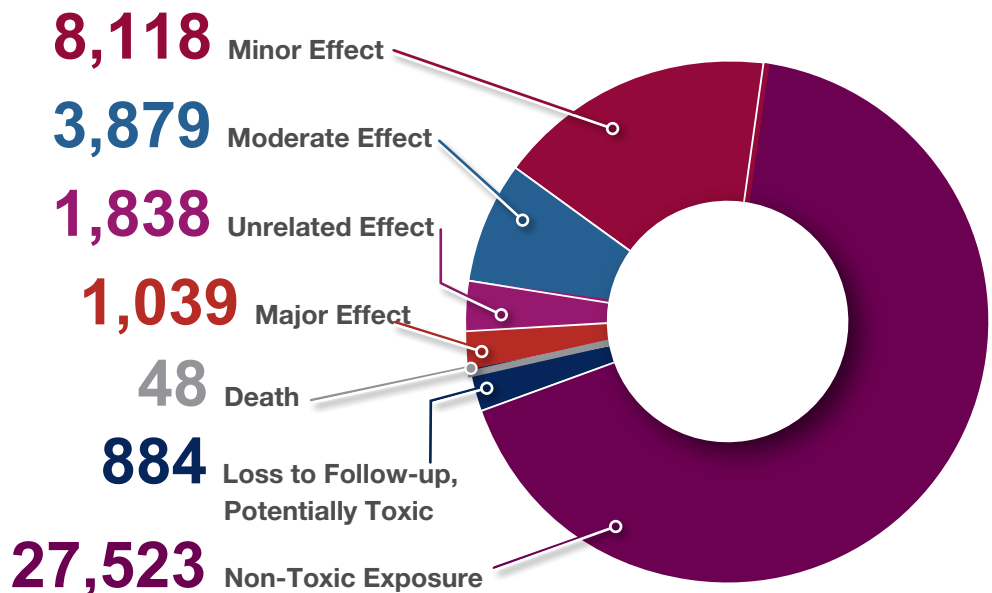
### MANAGEMENT SITE

In 2019, 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, 86% 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.

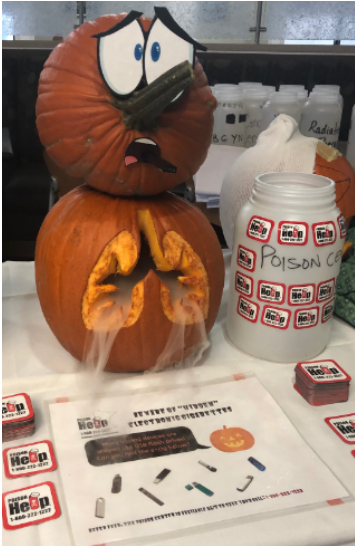


# POISON EDUCATION

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

In 2019, the Minnesota Poison Control System participated in almost 130 public education events that reached more than 25,000 Minnesotans and distributed over 76,000 pieces of educational materials across the state. Furthermore, over 260 individuals completed our online training program during the year!



A vaping-themed pumpkin and poison prevention tips were displayed as part of the Hennepin Healthcare Foundation's annual pumpkin carving contest in October 2019.

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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

In 2019, more than 3,500 health care professionals were reached through education events. Additionally, 61 medical residents, fellows, students, and pharmacists were trained by Poison Center staff.



A new Poison Center display was featured at the 2019 Arrowhead EMS Conference.

## LEARN MORE

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

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

# TWO WAYS TO GET HELP

1-800-222-1222 or [webPOISONCONTROL](http://webPOISONCONTROL.com)®



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](http://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 **2,907** Minnesotans received help online by using the [webPOISONCONTROL](http://webPOISONCONTROL.com)® tool or app in 2019. This number was in addition to the 46,283 phone cases that were managed!