



Minnesota Regional Poison Center

www.mnpoison.org

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For Immediate Release

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New RAND Study Shows U.S. Poison Centers Save the Nation Billions Each Year

Minnesota Regional Poison Center Highlights Local Impact and Encourages Community to Utilize Free, Life-Saving Services

Minneapolis, MN (January 21, 2026)—U.S. Poison Centers save \$3.1 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity, according to a new independent study released by America's Poison Centers®. Conducted by RAND, the report confirms that Poison Centers provide substantial economic and societal benefits for communities across the country. In Minnesota, the Minnesota Regional Poison Center responds to more than 43,000 cases annually and provides critical services to prevent poisoning and 24/7 expert support for our community.

The RAND report, *Poison Prevention, Treatment, and Detection as Public Health Investments*, found that for every \$1 invested in poison center services, communities receive \$16.77 in benefits. These cost-saving benefits reflect reduced emergency department use, shortened hospital stays, decreased mortality risk, enhanced public health surveillance, and improved patient outcomes.

However, despite their growing value, overall funding for U.S. Poison Centers has decreased by 8 percent from 2011 to 2024 in real dollars, in addition to a decrease in subsidized support. Amid rising healthcare costs, these budget cuts are an increasing threat to the ability of Poison Centers to provide life-saving services and essential 24/7 coverage.

The report found that Poison Centers and their national infrastructure have significantly modernized over the last decade, expanding beyond traditional telephone calls to offer text and live chat services that better meet the changing needs of the public and the healthcare system.

"This study confirms what we experience on every call and from examining our own data here in Minnesota — fast access to our specialists can safely keep people at home, prevent costly emergency department visits, and guide doctors, nurses, and other health care providers in treating more complex cases," said Dr. Jon Cole, medical director of the Minnesota Regional Poison Center. "We are here 24/7 for Minnesota families, caregivers, and clinicians."

In addition to 24/7 guidance to the public and healthcare professionals, the Minnesota Regional Poison Center provides medication and household product safety education, substance use and overdose prevention, and product surveillance.

For additional information, or to read the full report, visit poisoncenters.org/national-impact-study. For fast, free, and confidential help for a potential poisoning or question, contact the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 or by visiting <https://mnpoison.org/>

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The Minnesota Regional Poison Center is designated by the Minnesota Department of Health to provide poison information and consultative services to the entire State of Minnesota. For more information, visit www.mnpoison.org.