

Calls to the Maryland Poison Center in 2016

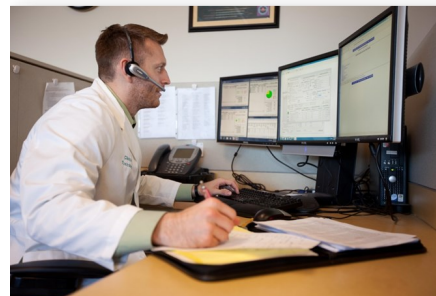
The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is part of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers as a regional poison center. The MPC has provided poisoning treatment advice, education, and prevention services to Marylanders since 1972. Maryland Poison Center pharmacists and nurses with toxicology training answer calls 24 hours a day, every day of the year. In 2016, our Specialists in Poison Information handled 44,426 calls: 32,394 human poisonings, 1,184 animal poisonings, and 10,848 poison or drug information calls.

- 42% of poisonings involved children 5 years old and younger.
- People over the age of 60 accounted for 9% of poisonings but 19% of fatalities.
- A medication error (e.g. wrong dose, wrong medicine, drug interaction) was the cause of 15% of poisonings overall. However, in patients ≥ 60 years old, 42% of exposures involved medication errors.
- 7,731 calls originated from health care facilities (e.g. hospitals, clinics, physician offices).
- EMS providers, firefighters and 911 dispatchers contacted the MPC for advice on managing 1,920 patients. Based on recommendations from MPC Specialists in Poison Information, 17% of those patients were treated at the site without transporting for further medical care.
- Most of the calls (63%) were managed at the patient's residence or another non-health care facility site.
- 85% of all cases handled by the MPC resulted in (or were expected to result in) no effect or minor effects.

Top 3 substance categories by age groups:

Children ≤ 5 yrs	Older children & teens 6-19 yrs	Adults 20-59 yrs	Seniors ≥ 60 yrs
Cosmetics/Personal care products	Analgesics	Analgesics	Cardiovascular medicines
Household cleaners	Antidepressants	Sedatives/ Hypnotics/ Antipsychotics	Analgesics
Analgesics	Stimulants & street drugs	Antidepressants	Sedatives/ Hypnotics/ Antipsychotics

To view our **Data Snapshot - 2016**, go to www.mdpoison.com/factsandreports



Did you know?

The types of calls to the MPC have changed over the past ten years.

In 2006, over 50% of calls to the MPC involved children less than six years of age while 28% were adults. In 2016, the proportion of calls involving young children dropped to 42% and calls involving adults increased to 42%. Also in 2006, more than 80% of calls were unintentional poisonings. That number dropped to 72% in 2016. Another change can be seen in the management site for poisonings reported to the MPC. In 2006, one-fourth of patients were treated in a health care facility. Ten years later, approximately one-third were managed at a health care facility.

Coming soon to www.mdpoison.com : our complete 2016 Annual Report and data reports for every Maryland County and Baltimore City.



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