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THE MARYLAND POISON CENTER'S MONTHLY UPDATE.  
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## Maryland Poison Center 2012 Annual Report

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is pleased to announce the release of our 2012 Annual Report. Last year marked the 40<sup>th</sup> year that the MPC has been a service program of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. More than one million callers have been helped by the experts at the MPC since 1972! Our mission has always been to decrease the cost and complexity of care while maintaining and/or improving patient outcomes. Here are some highlights of the calls we received in 2012:

- The MPC received 62,229 calls; 34,673 were human exposures while the remaining 27,556 calls were requests for information or animal poisonings.
- 44.2% of cases involved children less than six years of age.
- 74.5% were unintentional exposures.
- Intentional exposures (suicide, abuse, or misuse) have increased from 14% of all poisonings in 2002 to 20% in 2012.
- 21.8% of calls to the MPC were from a health care facility (hospital, physician's office, clinic, and others).
- More than 2,040 EMS providers and dispatchers called the MPC for assistance with poisonings and overdoses.
- 62.5% of callers were in the Baltimore metropolitan area (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Harford County and Howard County)
- The top three substances involved in pediatric poisonings (<6 years old) were cosmetics/personal care products, household cleaners and analgesics.
- The top three substances involved in adult poisonings ( $\geq$  20 years old) were analgesics, sedatives/hypnotics/antipsychotics, and antidepressants.

Download the complete Maryland Poison Center 2012 Annual Report at [www.mdpoison.com/factsandreports](http://www.mdpoison.com/factsandreports), where you will also find reports for every Maryland county and Baltimore City.



### Did you know?

**Sixty six percent of the poisoning cases in 2012 were safely managed at home or the site of exposure.**

The Maryland Poison Center specialists (pharmacists and nurses) provided home observation and treatment advice to two out of every three poisoning cases of all ages, and nearly 90% of cases involving small children. Follow-up calls are often done by our staff until symptoms have resolved. Keeping patients at home saves unnecessary health care costs as well as health care resources. A 2012 report by the Lewin Group estimated that poison centers save \$13.39 for every dollar spent on poison center funding!

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