

Calls to the Maryland Poison Center in 2015

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) as a regional poison center and 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, 7 days a week, every day of the year. In 2015, our specialists in poison information handled 44,155 calls: 31,340 human poisonings, 1,161 animal poisonings and 11,654 poison and drug information calls.

- Most of the calls (62%) came from the patient's residence or another residence. Some 26% of calls were from health care facilities (hospitals, clinics, physician offices, clinics) and 1,829 calls were from EMS providers and 911.
- 41% of poisonings involved children 5 years old and younger.
- People over the age of 60 accounted for 9% of poisonings but 23% of fatalities in 2015.
- 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, 43% of exposures involved medication errors.
- 86% of all cases handled by the MPC resulted in (or were expected to result in) no effect or minor effects.
- In 2015, 78% of all poisonings involved drugs, most commonly prescription and over-the-counter analgesics followed by sedatives/hypnotics/antipsychotics. The table below shows the 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 (15%)	Analgesics (17%)	Analgesics (22%)	Cardiovascular medicines (23%)
Household cleaners (11%)	Stimulants & street drugs (9%)	Sedatives/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics (21%)	Analgesics (14%)
Analgesics (10%)	Antidepressants (9%)	Antidepressants (12%)	Sedatives/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics (9%)

To view our **Data Snapshot - 2015**, go to www.mdpoison.com/factsandreports



Did you know?

For every dollar invested in the U.S. poison center system, \$13.39 is saved in health care costs and lost productivity, a savings of \$1.8 billion each year.

The majority (90%) of MPC calls from the public were managed safely at home, work or school in 2015, saving millions of dollars in unnecessary medical expenses. Poison specialists provide immediate treatment advice and frequently make follow-up calls to give further recommendations and document outcomes. Managing patients onsite also allows more efficient and effective use of limited health care resources. Of the 1,829 calls to the MPC from EMS and 911, 20% were managed at the site without transporting for further medical care based on advice from MPC specialists in poison information.



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