

Overview of the Poison Help Hotline & Recent Poison Center Data for Professionals



Outline

- History of Poison Center: 70th Anniversary!
- Fellow/Faculty Staff
- Poison Help Hotline & PC Data Trends
- Poisoning Trends & Prevention:
 - *Pediatric Patients: Exploratory Edibles*
 - *Adolescents: Cough & Cold Medications*
 - *Older Patients: Cardiac Medications & Household Hazards*



Massachusetts & Rhode Island Poison Center (MARI PC)

- Formed in 1955 at Boston Children's Hospital
- Third national poison center
 - Currently one of the 55 poison centers in the country represented by America's Poison Centers (APC)
- Started serving Rhode Island in 2000



Poison Help Hotline

- Operates 24/7
- All calls are handled by specialists in poison information (CSPI and SPI)
- Takes calls for exposures OR information
- Interpreter services in many different languages
- Confidential – **HIPAA compliant**



How does the Poison Center do it?



- Provides info on > 483,000 potentially toxic products
- Provides information on drug interactions/reactions
- Analyzes statistics, noting poison trends locally and nationally (sharing with DPH and APC)

2023 Annual Report of the National Poison Data System from America's Poison Centers: 41st Annual Report

Advantages of Calling the Poison Hotline

- About 66% of exposures reported to the Hotline can be treated at the exposure site.
- The Poison Help Hotline can save substantial costs due to reducing unnecessary ER visits.



2023 Annual Report of the National Poison Data System from American Association of Poison Control Centers: 41st Annual Report

What Types of Calls Do We Receive?

- Caller (Parent): *“My 2-year-old ate a marijuana cookie that was left out. Should I go to the ER?”*
- Caller (Adult): *“I couldn’t remember if I took my blood pressure medicine so I took it anyhow and I’ve been feeling dizzy ever since.”*
- Caller (ED Doctor): *“A patient was brought into the ED just now, he’s not breathing, his skin is blue, but the opioid screen is negative. Could he still be on opioids?”*

What Types of Calls Do We Receive?

- We get calls from the following sites:
 - Residences
 - Schools
 - Hospitals
 - Health Care Clinics
 - Pediatricians
 - EMS, Fire, Police
 - Workplaces
 - Nursing Home/Chronic Care
 - NP, PA, RN, LPN, School Nurses
 - *+ more*



What Types of Calls Do We Receive?

- We get calls for the following reasons:
 - Therapeutic errors
 - Food poisoning
 - General unintentional exposures
 - Misuse
 - Adverse reactions
 - Abuse
 - Environmental exposures
 - Occupational exposures
 - *+ more*



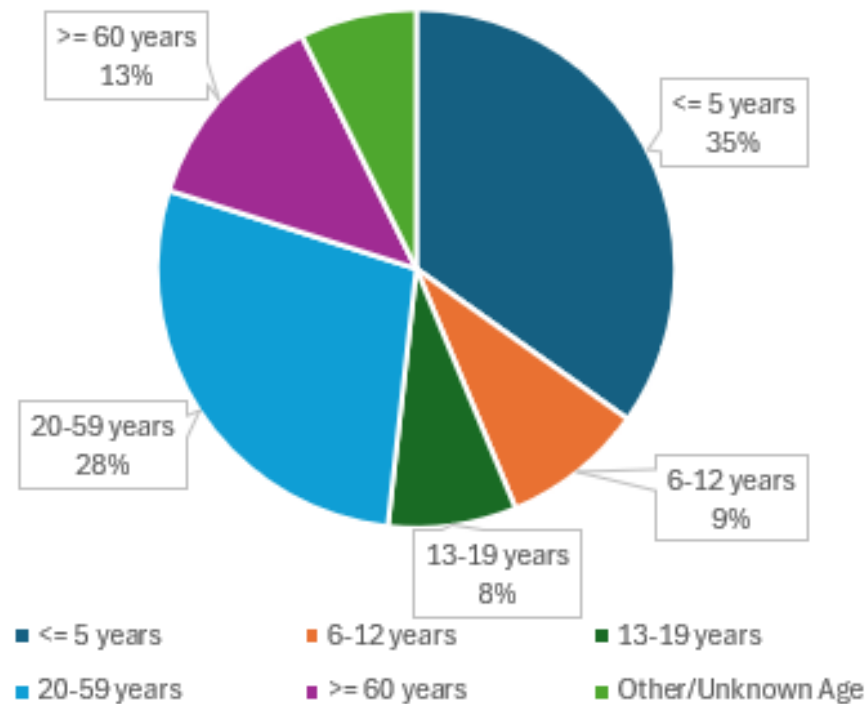
MA & RI Poison Center Data, 2024

- 44,854 total calls
 - 40,362 exposure calls (90%)
 - 4,492 information calls (10%)
- Call Site
 - 70% of our calls come from Home residence
 - 22% of our calls come from Health Care Facilities

MA & RI Poison Center Data through Toxicall, 2024

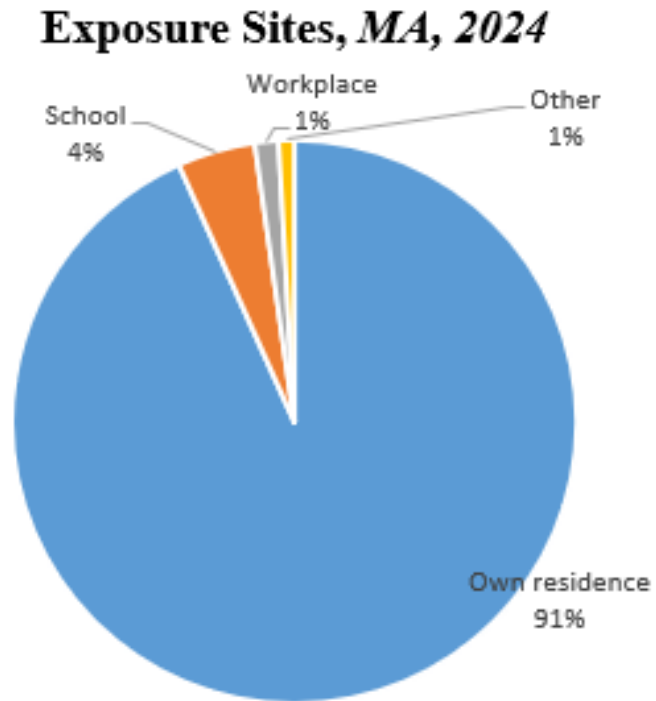
MA & RI Poison Center Data, 2024

Poison Exposure Calls by Age, MA, 2024



MA & RI Poison Center Data through Toxicall, Massachusetts, 2024

MA & RI Poison Center Data, 2024



MA & RI Poison Center Data through Toxicall, Massachusetts, 2024

Poisoning is Preventable!

- Educational materials
- Public Events
 - Health Fairs
 - Presentations
- Digital Media
 - Our website
 - Facebook and X



SCAN FOR EDUCATIONAL
MATERIAL ORDER FORM



Scan for
FB



Scan for
X



SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE

Action Items

- **Save** the Poison Help Hotline in your phone
- **Post** the Poison Help Hotline somewhere visible in your organization



SCAN HERE TO SAVE
THE POISON HOTLINE
IN YOUR PHONE

