

# Taking A Closer Look

*Georgia Poison Center*





# Who Are We?

Since 1970, the Georgia Poison Center (GPC) has operated a free 24-hour poison emergency treatment information service to parents, child care providers, pharmacists, nurses, and doctors by providing them with assistance and expertise in the medical diagnosis and management of human and animal poisonings.

## Mission –

The GPC is committed to providing high quality poison center services to healthcare professionals and residents of Georgia

## Goals –

GOC goals are designed to sustain its commitment to offer high quality services to Georgians, while meeting AAPCC standards:

- Provision of 24-hour-a-day prompt and accurate poison information to those accessing our services.
  - Education of Georgia residents in the areas of poison prevention and first aid.
  - Education of healthcare professionals in the areas of clinical toxicology, poisoning epidemiology, poison prevention, toxicological diagnosis and care.

# Who Do We Serve?

The Georgia Poison receives calls from every county throughout the state, making it "your" poison center.

Our services help eliminate unnecessary emergency room visits and medical expenses. Our main goal is to use triage as a preventive strategy to keep patients from unnecessary trips to clinics or doctors' offices and to save lives.



In 2011, the Georgia Poison Center handled nearly 100,000 incoming calls involving poison emergencies and information.

Of these calls:

- 77,322 calls were due to human poison exposures
- 19,605 calls were for information inquiry
- 2,752 calls were due to an animal poison exposure



## Top Ten Substance Calls Involved In Human Poisonings

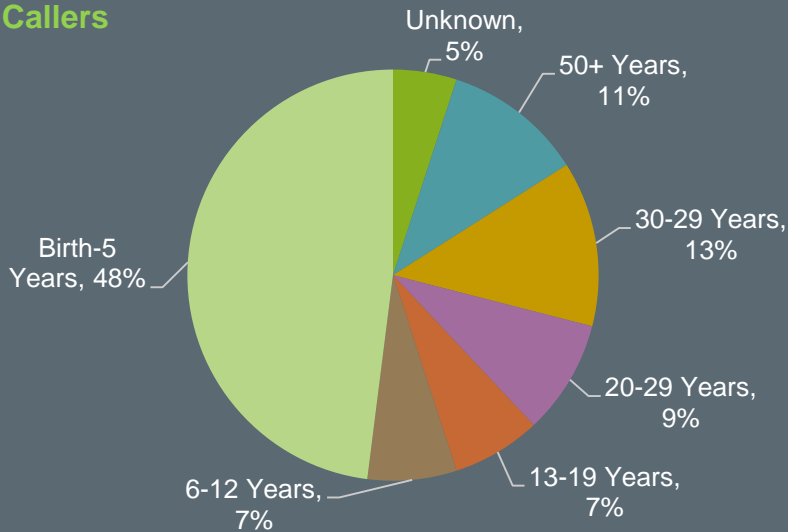
- Analgesics – 10,294
- Sedatives/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics – 5,272
- Antihistamines – 3,595
- Cardiovascular – 3,524
- Antidepressants – 3,289
- Cough & Cold – 2,607
- Antimicrobials – 2,281
- Vitamins – 2,190
- Hormones & Hormone Antagonists – 1,954
- Gastrointestinal Preparations – 1,558

As one of the 57 poison centers nationwide and the only one in Georgia, the GPC has become one of the busiest and most up-to-date front-line response toxicology information centers receiving calls daily from physicians and emergency medical personnel to concerned parents and friends.

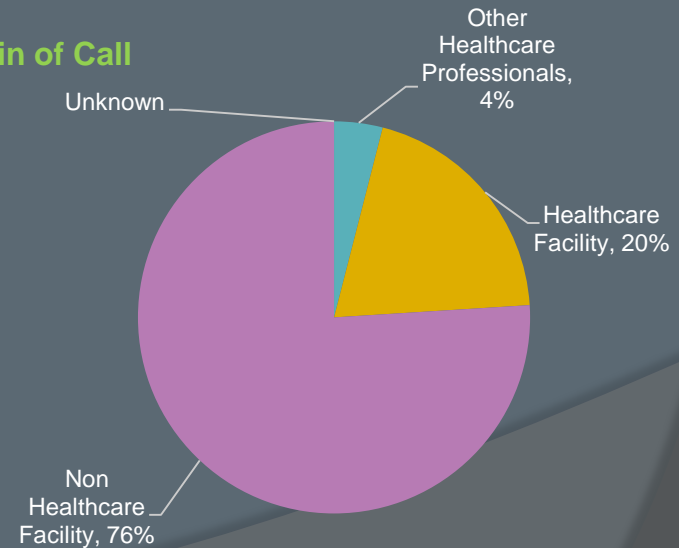
We are staffed by highly skilled physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other poison experts 24 hours a day, 365 days a year who offer confidential advice on poison diagnosis, treatment, and information.

The Georgia Poison Center operates as a part of the Grady Health System. The center receives its medical supervision from the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Emergency Medicine of Emory University School of Medicine. The Georgia Poison Center's calls are handled by a dedicated group of staff including nurses, pharmacists, and physicians, all of whom have advanced training in handling poison concerns. The Georgia Poison Center's board certified toxicologists, medical toxicology fellows and medical residents also offer specialized in-patient consultation services. All staff, including our health educators, computer specialists, and administrative support teams, work together tirelessly to provide these invaluable health care services to all Georgians.

### Age Distribution of Callers



### Origin of Call



The Georgia Poison Center is a training site for health care professionals. Emergency Medicine and Pediatric Residents from Emory University School of Medicine train at the GPC on an ongoing basis. During their training, these residents have the opportunity to see how a poison center operates, become familiar with the resources that are available in the center, and also assist in consulting on poisoned patients admitted to local health care facilities. Fourth year Pharmacy students from Mercer University, University of Georgia, and the University of the South are also trained at the Georgia Poison Center. Students are introduced to the topic of clinical toxicology through one-on-one tutorials and hands-on activities with the guidance of toxicologists and certified Specialists in Poison Information.



The Georgia Poison Center also provides Emergency Preparedness Training for physicians, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, and other health care professionals who are first responders to hazardous incidents. Classes offered include Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS), Explosion and Blast Injuries, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear & Explosive Fundamentals (CBRNE), Nuclear Plant Emergency (NPER) and Radiological Preparedness & Emergency Response (RPER).

The Georgia Poison Center's Education Department coordinates statewide activities to increase awareness of the dangers of poisons. They provide materials and technical assistance to organizations who wish to conduct poison prevention activities in their communities.

The education department provides The Poison Prevention Instructor Training Program (ITP), which equips safety advocates with the knowledge, skills, and resources to teach poison prevention activities in their respective communities. This effort increases the number of Georgians reached with poison prevention education. We believe that our collaborative efforts will encourage Georgians to adopt safe and healthy poison prevention habits.

During the third week in March, the Georgia Poison Center celebrates National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW). GPC coordinates poison prevention activities throughout the state of Georgia, in collaboration with pharmacies, hospitals, schools, child care providers and other agencies concerned with the health and safety of their communities.





# Georgia Poison Center Staff

## **Director**

Gaylord P. Lopez, PharmD, DABAT

## **Assistant Director**

Stephanie L. Hon, PharmD

## **Medical Director**

Robert J. Geller, MD, FAAP, FACMT

## **Associate Medical Director**

Brent W. Morgan, MD, ACMT

## **Associate Medical Director**

Ziad Kazzi, MD, ACMT

Medical Toxicologists

Toxicology Fellows

Specialist in Poison Information (SPIs)

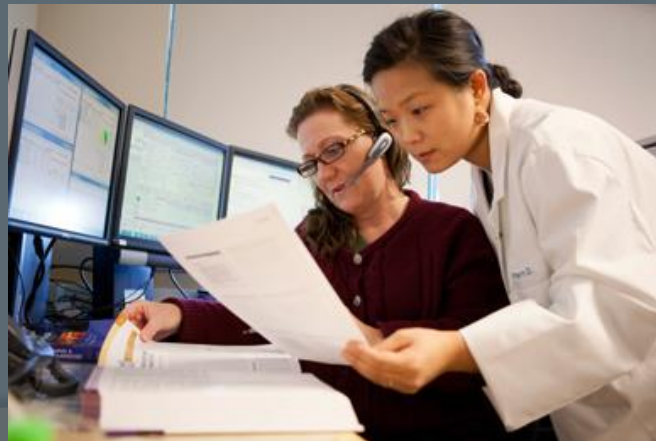
Information Technology Staff

Data Manager

Education Staff

Executive Assistants

Public Health Professionals



For any information regarding the Georgia Poison Center  
please contact us at:

Georgia Poison Center  
80 Jesse Hill Drive, SE  
P.O. Box 26066  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3050

1.800.222.1222 poison emergencies  
404.616.9000 general inquiries  
[www.georgiapoisoncenter.org](http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org)

