



# **DEFENDING YOU AGAINST POISON**

**Georgia Poison Center  
Annual Report  
2012**

# DEFENDING YOU AGAINST POISON

Our mission is to always remain committed to providing high quality poison center services to healthcare professionals and residents of Georgia. It is our goal to ensure the provision of prompt and accurate poison information to those who access our services.

We continuously strive to:

- Educate residents of Georgia in the areas of poison prevention and first-aid.
- Educate health-care professionals in the areas of clinical toxicology, poisoning epidemiology, poison prevention, toxicological diagnosis and care.
- Provide stable and continuous delivery of quality poison center services to Georgians.

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.

**In 2012, the Georgia Poison Center handled 93,515 incoming calls involving poison emergencies and information.**

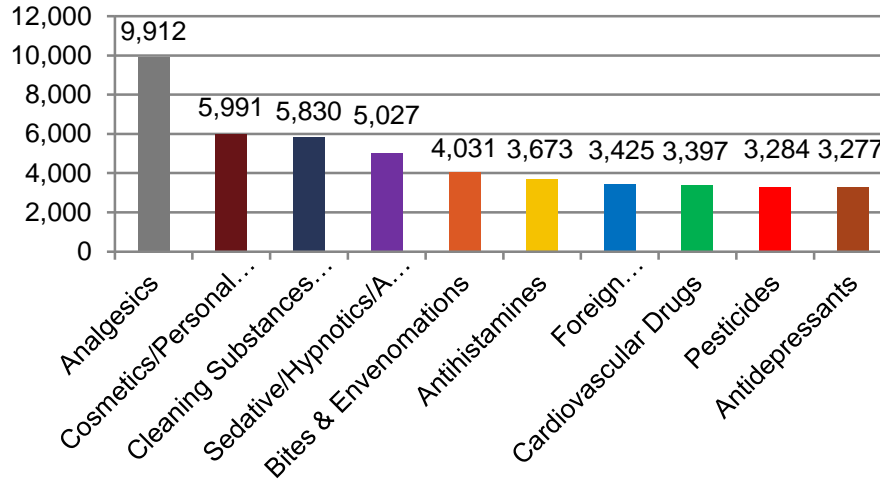
**Of these calls:**

- 76,301 calls were due to human poison exposures
- 21,319 calls were received from healthcare professionals
- 14 calls were due to an animal poison exposure
- 17,200 calls were for general poison information
- 64.9% of poison exposures were successfully treated at home without the patient being referred to a healthcare facility
- Over 46% of calls involved children under the age of 5
- 48,208 follow-up calls were made to concerned parents, grandparents and health care providers

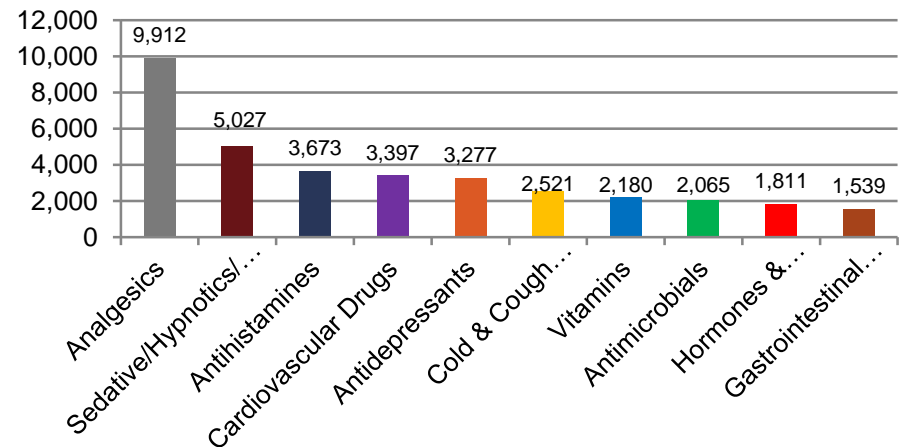


# Defending You Against Poison

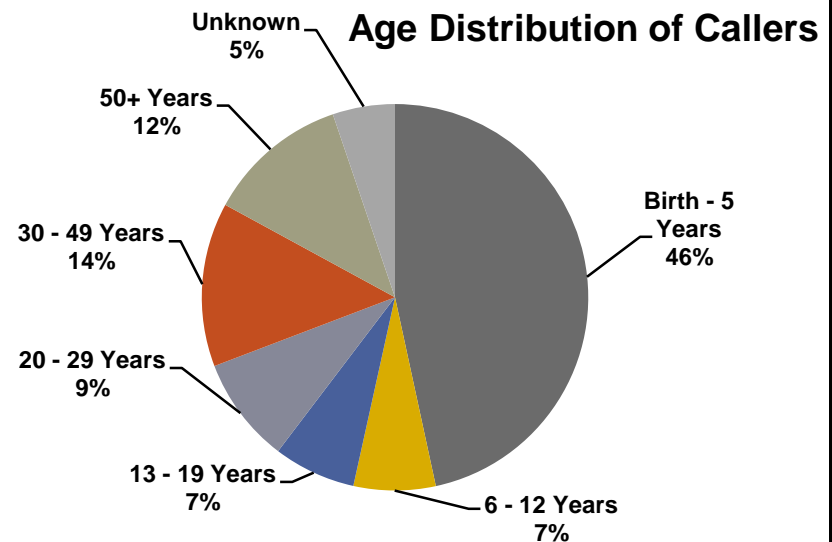
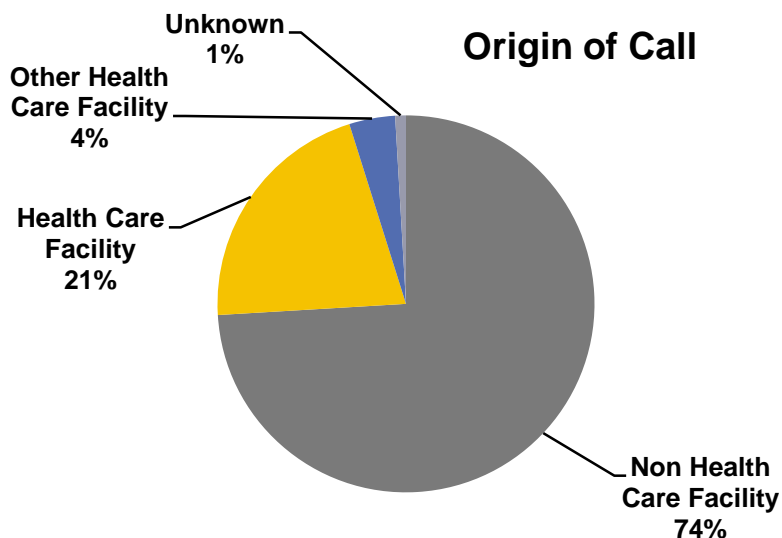
## Top Ten Substances Involved in Exposures



## Most Common Medicines Involved in Exposures

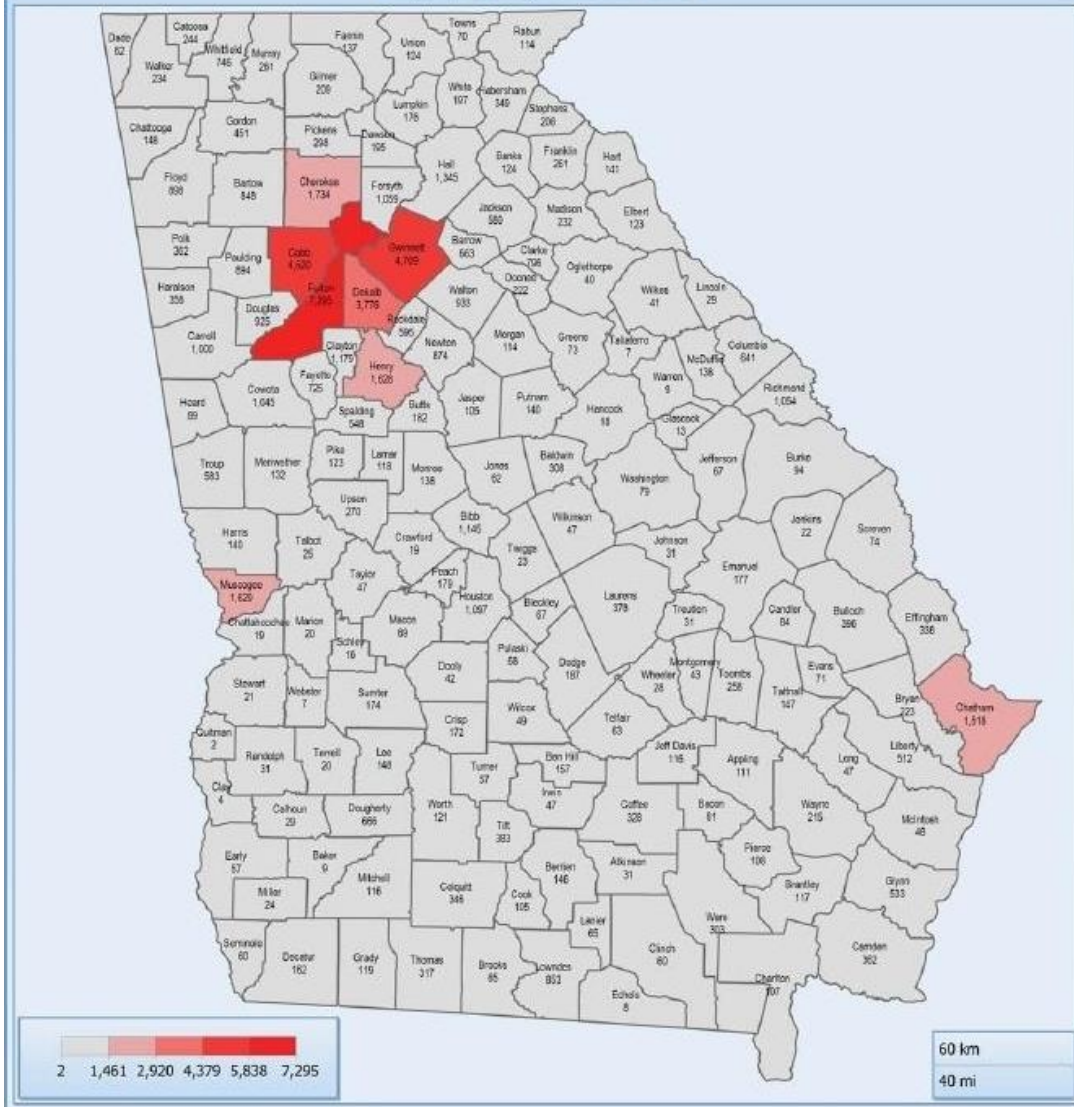


The Georgia Poison Center operates as a part of the Grady Health System. The center receives its medical supervision from the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Emergency Medicine of Emory University School of Medicine. The Georgia Poison Center's calls are handled by a dedicated 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.



# Defending You Against Poison

Human Exposures 2012



The Georgia Poison Center is “your” poison center, providing free, life-saving diagnosis and treatment advice. From Fannin to Lowndes, the GPC receives calls from every county in Georgia.

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. As a non-profit organization, the Georgia Poison Center is supported by Federal and State grants and private donations. This funding directly impacts the lives of Georgians and aids in the continuing education efforts for poison prevention and professional training.

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).



# Defending You Against Poison

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**



# Defending You Against Poison

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)

