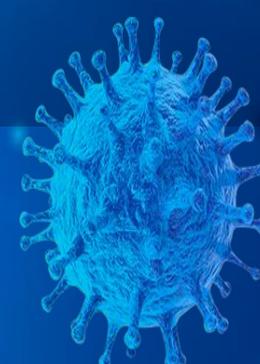
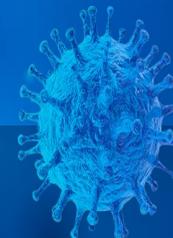
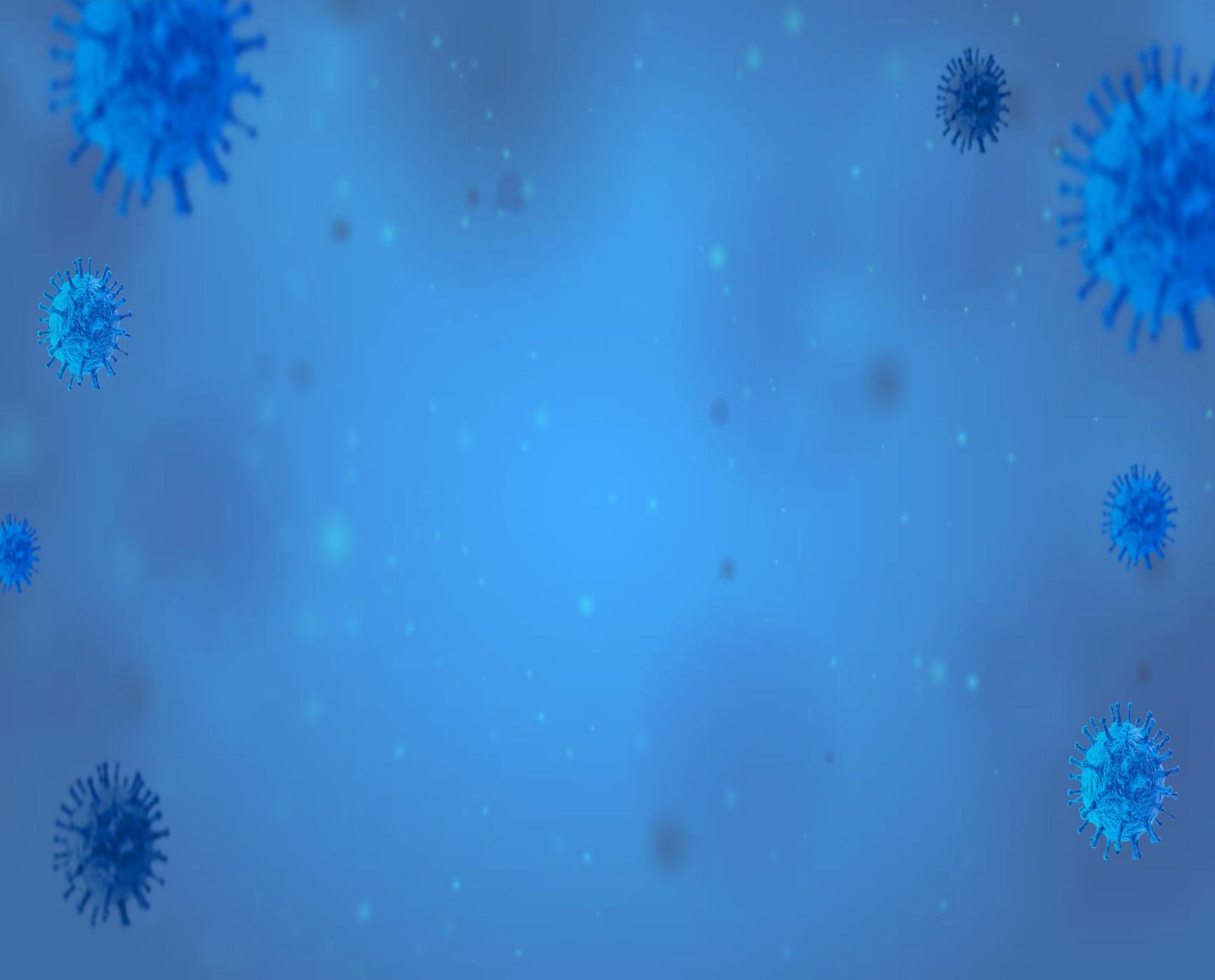
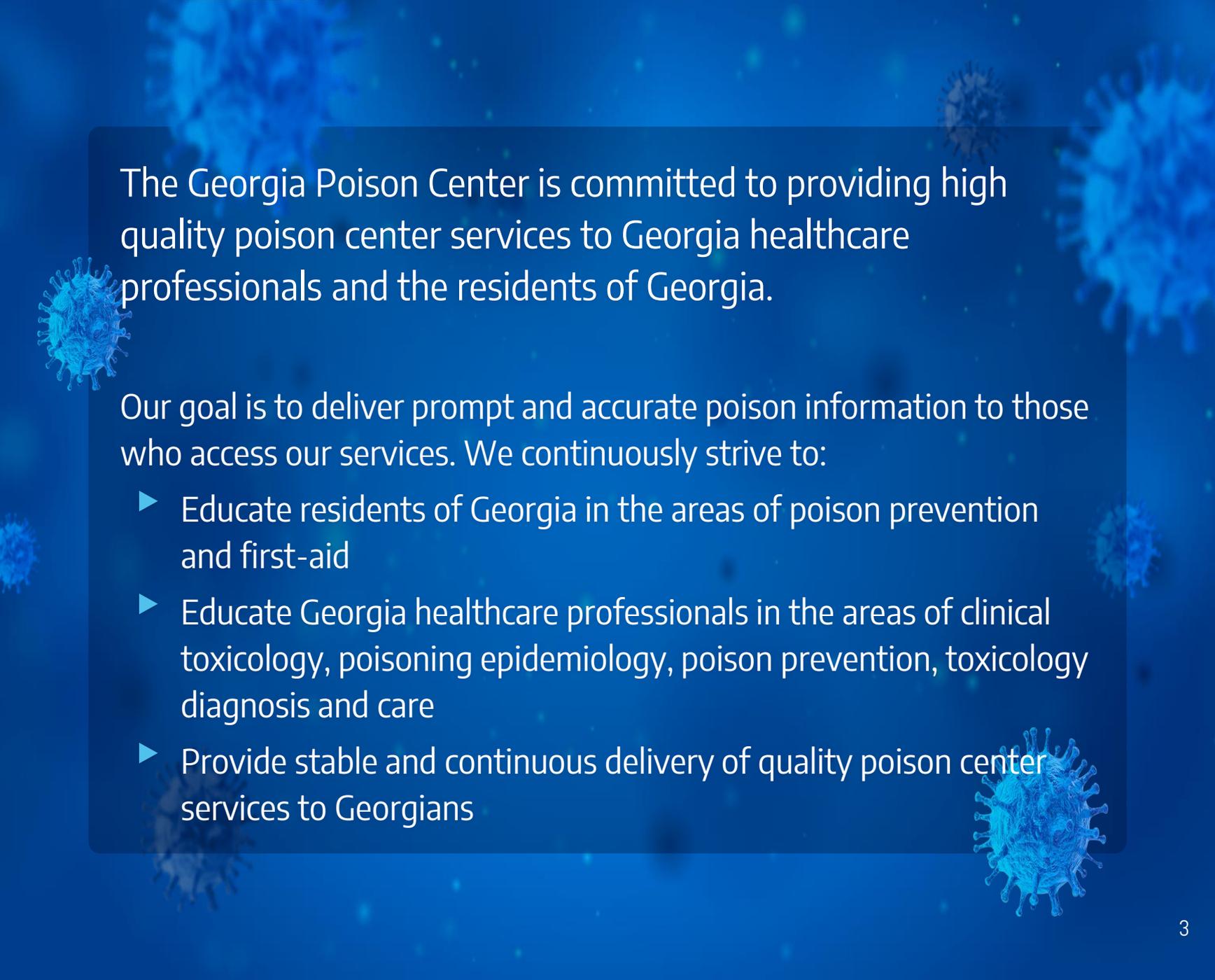


# Georgia Poison Center 2020 Annual Report

A Year of Change. A Challenge to Innovate. A Time to Reflect.







The Georgia Poison Center is committed to providing high quality poison center services to Georgia healthcare professionals and the residents of Georgia.

Our goal is to deliver 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 Georgia healthcare professionals in the areas of clinical toxicology, poisoning epidemiology, poison prevention, toxicology diagnosis and care
- ▶ Provide stable and continuous delivery of quality poison center services to Georgians

The Georgia Poison Center is one of the busiest poison centers in the country, and is the only center in Georgia. We are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by highly skilled pharmacists, nurses, physicians, and other poison experts, offering confidential advice on poison diagnosis, treatment, and information.

In 2020, the Georgia Poison Center managed **110,943** incoming calls involving poison emergencies and information.



Human Exposures

**70,500**



Animal Exposures

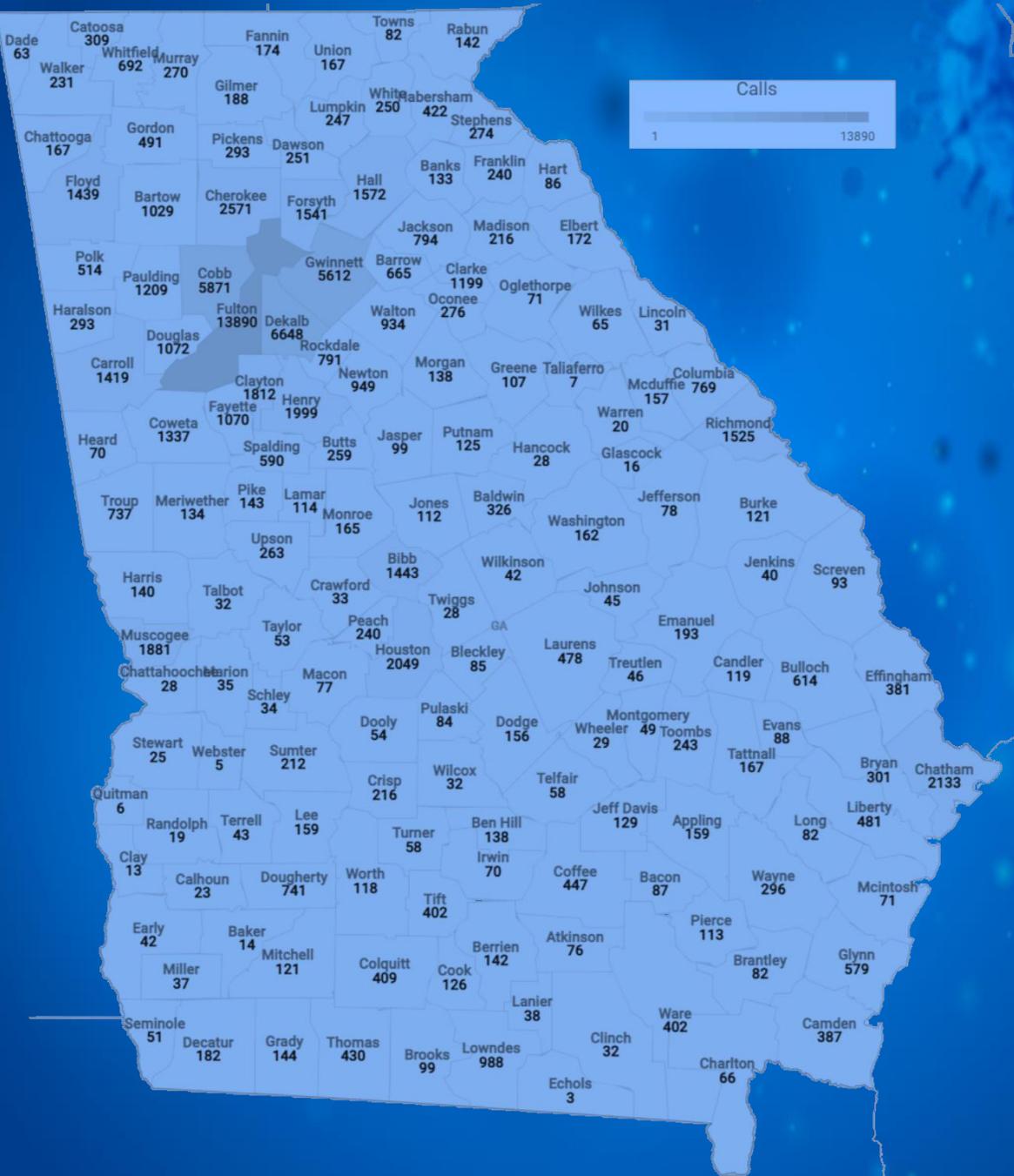
**3,417**



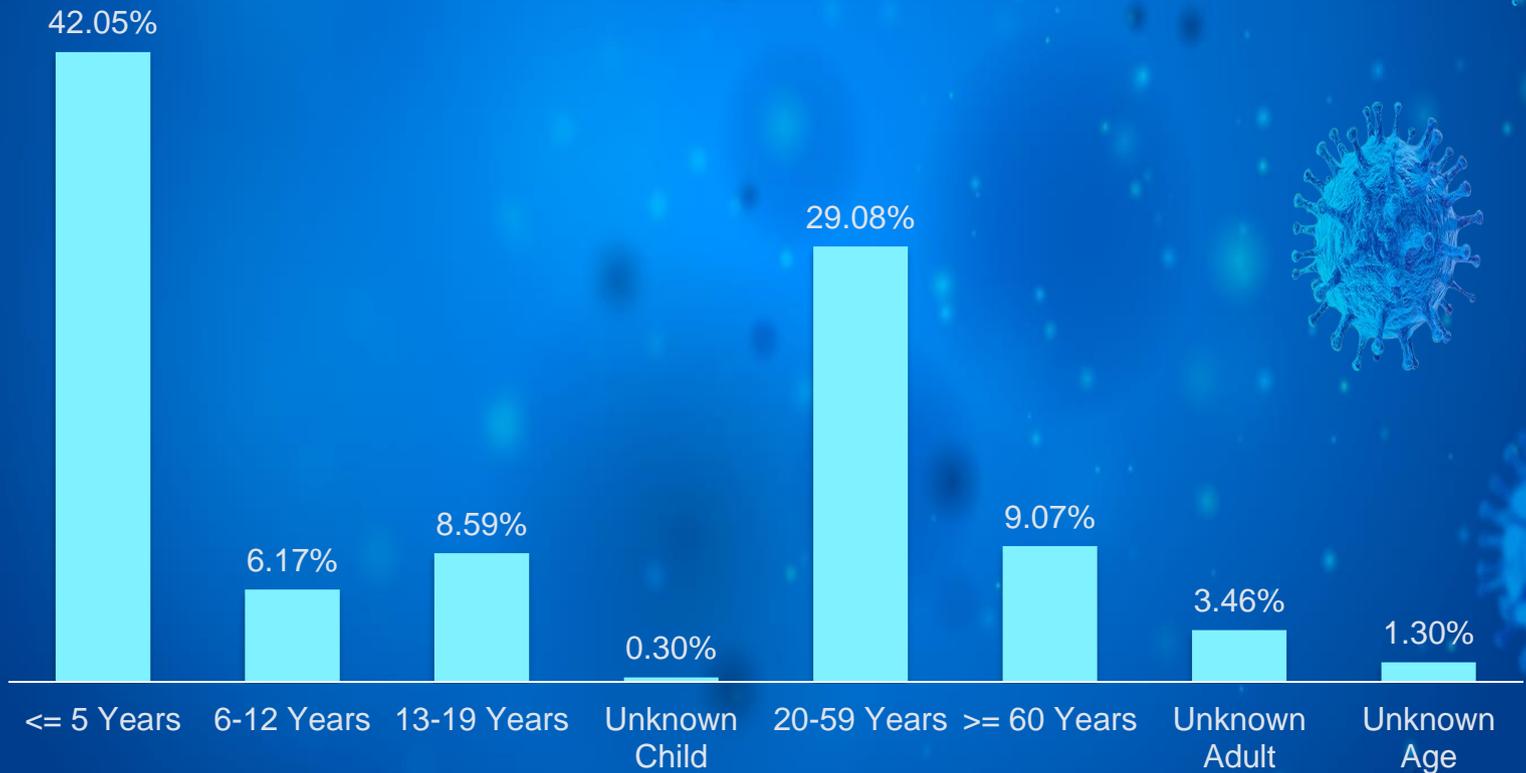
Information Calls

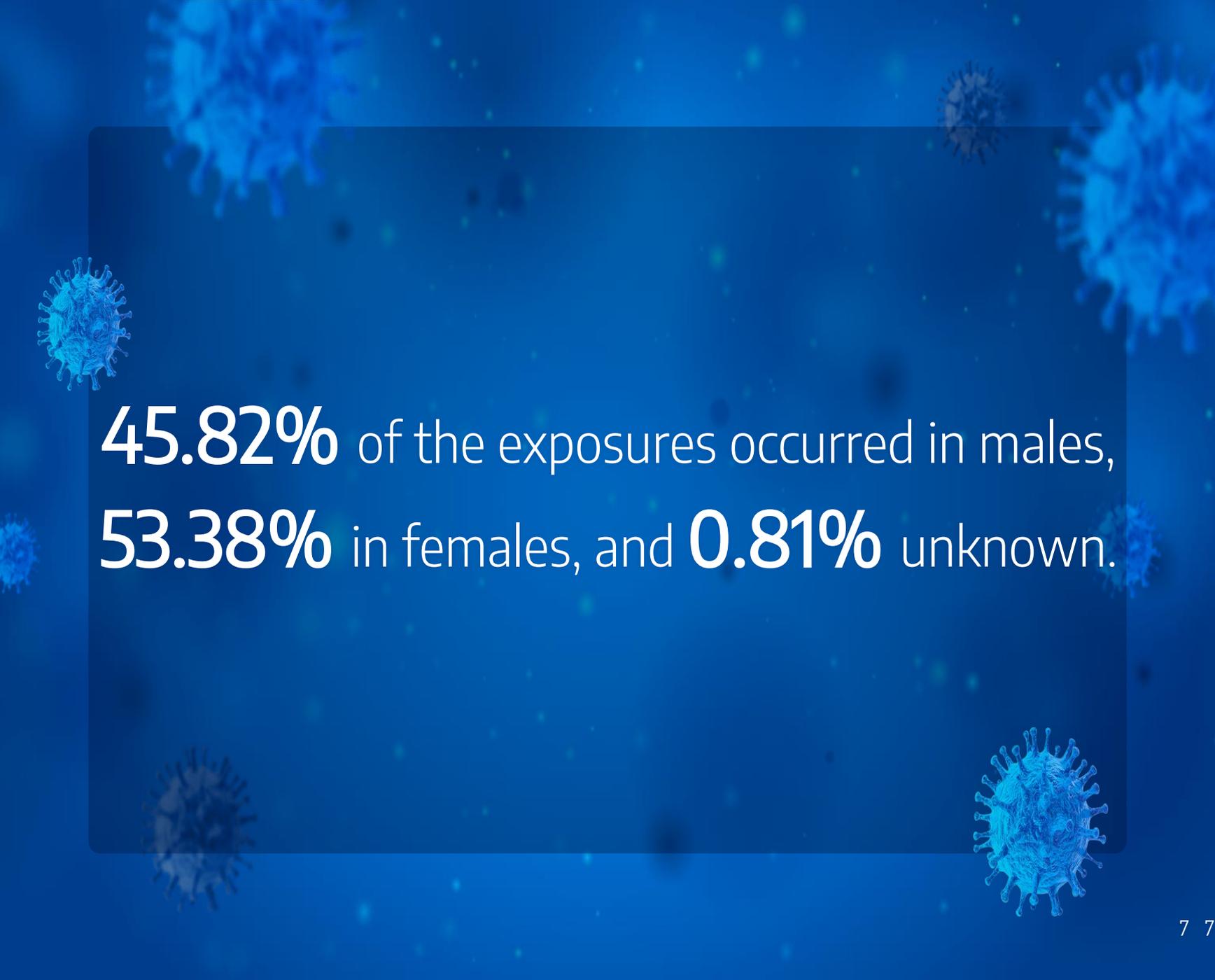
**37,026**

# All Calls for 2020

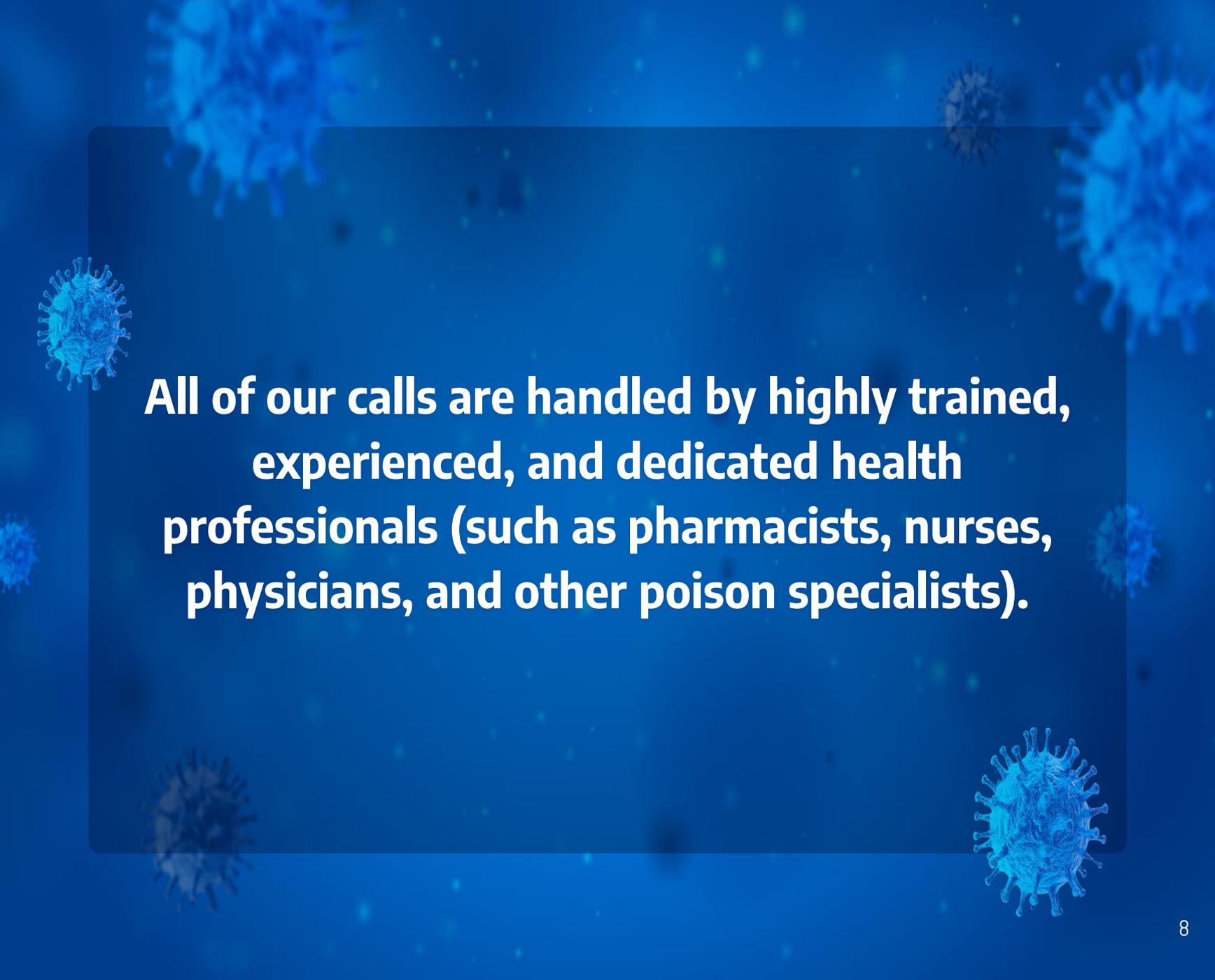


# Human Exposures by Age





**45.82%** of the exposures occurred in males,  
**53.38%** in females, and **0.81%** unknown.

The background is a dark blue gradient with several stylized, glowing blue virus particles scattered across it. The virus particles are spherical with numerous small, protruding spikes or receptors on their surface. A large, semi-transparent dark blue rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the main text.

**All of our calls are handled by highly trained, experienced, and dedicated health professionals (such as pharmacists, nurses, physicians, and other poison specialists).**

# Site of the Caller & Exposure



Residence



Health Care Facility



Workplace

Caller Site

70.14%

26.15%

0.82%

Exposure Site

92.72%

0.52%

1.43%



School



Restaurant/  
Food Service



Public Area



Other/Unknown

Caller Site

0.24%

0.02%

0.23%

2.39%

Exposure Site

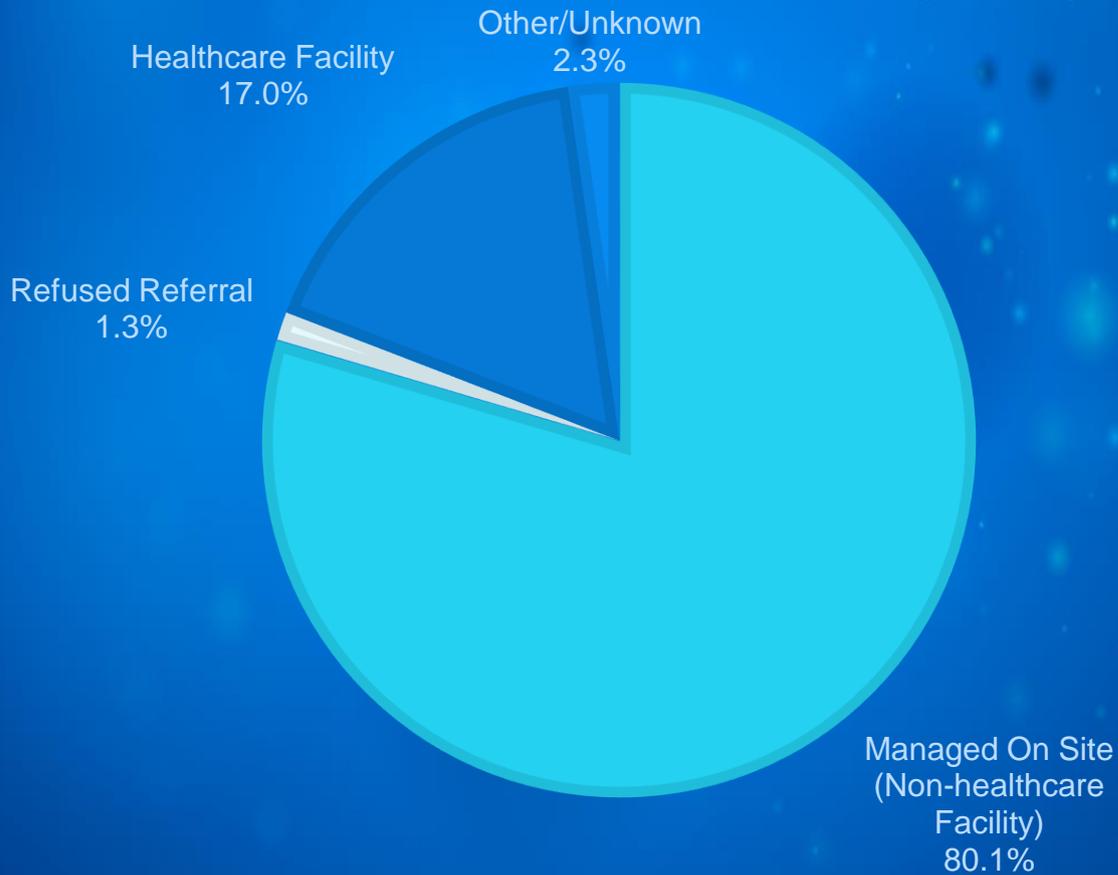
0.75%

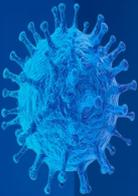
0.25%

1.04%

3.29%

# Management Site





# 80.1%

of cases were managed on site  
(non-healthcare facility)

Managing cases safely at home:

- Saves millions of dollars in unnecessary health care costs as compared to managing patients in a health care facility
- Allows more efficient and effective use of limited health care resources

Of the cases managed in a health care facility whose outcome is known to us, 51.8% were treated and released, 13.6% were admitted to a critical care unit, 13.6% were admitted to a noncritical care unit, and 21.0% were admitted to a psychiatric facility.



# Route of Exposure



Ingestion

**72.35%**



Dermal

**9.53%**



Inhalation

**4.96%**



Bite/Sting

**3.25%**



Ocular

**2.17%**



Other/Unknown

**1.24%**

# There are several different reasons for calling

## Unintentional Exposures:

- General
- Therapeutic error
- Misuse
- Bite/sting
- Environmental
- Food poisoning
- Occupational (workplace)

76.59%

## Intentional Exposures:

- Suspected suicide
- Misuse
- Abuse

18.53%

## Adverse Reaction to:

- Drug
- Other substances
- Food

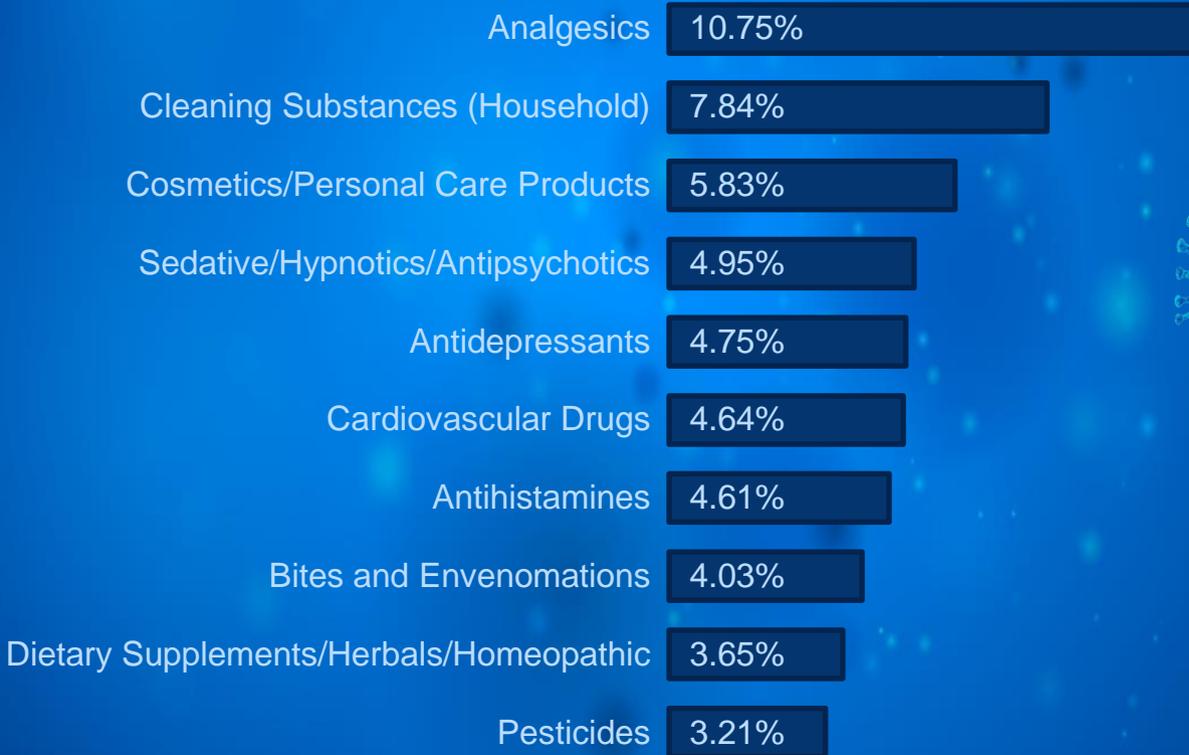
2.48%

## Other/Unknown reasons:

- Contaminant/tampering
- Malicious
- Withdrawal

2.39%

# Top 10 Substances: All Ages



# Top 5 Substances: By Age

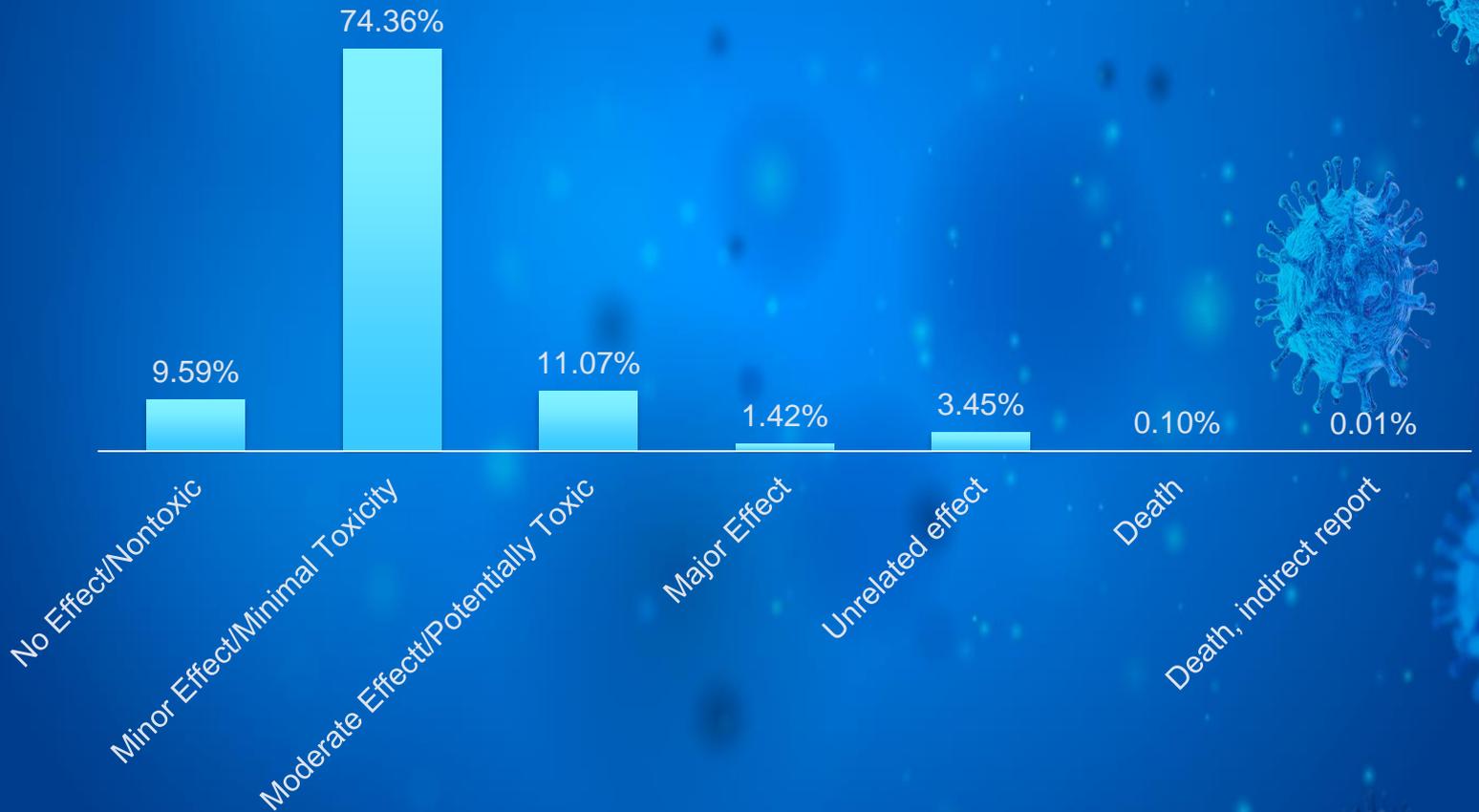
## Children $\leq 5$ Years Old



## Children $\geq 20$ Years Old



# Medical Outcome



# Satisfied Callers

Katherine wrote on Facebook in January 2020: "Thank you so much for putting my worst fears at ease tonight when one of my dogs got into an ant trap. You were calm and kind. Thank you for this amazing service. It's truly a life saver. No one ever wants to have to think they'll need to call this #, but am so grateful it exists."

Jen shared her story through our website form in September 2020: "I called one evening after my toddler had taken a bottle of children's Motrin off the counter (it was open because I was giving his little brother some) and drank from it. My husband and I panicked and called Poison Control. My call was quickly routed to a staffer named Philip, who I can only assume was actually an angel in disguise. He was patient, knowledgeable and efficient. But more than that, he was so kind and reassuring. At one point on our call he could hear both of my children crying and simply said "You're doing a great job. One problem at a time." I'd had such a horrible day and was so worried about my son and it was exactly what I needed to hear. I can't tell you how much that calmed me down. I've never experienced such wonderful customer service from a public entity or non-profit and I will be a lifelong advocate now of your work."

David shared her story through our website form in January 2020: "While getting ready my two younger children ready for daycare this morning, I put my prescriptions high up on the counter as I do every day. Somehow my 4 year old was able to reach my blood pressure medication and then put it on my 1 year old's high chair tray. Unfortunately, she ingested it, however, after a quick call to poison control, I was reassured by the nicest man in the world, Dale, that everything was fine (that she might be a little sleepy but that she didn't ingest enough of an amount to worry about taking her to a doctor or the hospital). She is already acting just like her normal wonderful self and crawling up a storm! Thank you Dale- you'll never know how much our quick phone call, your knowledge, and your hospitality meant to me and my family this morning. God Bless you!"

Janicia wrote on Facebook in December 2020: "Shannon was great and went out her way to call back and check on my son. You rock Shannon. It was a pleasure speaking with you."

# Public Education

The Georgia Poison Center education department conducts outreach and educational events to:

- ❖ Increase awareness of poisons found around us
- ❖ Help prevent poisonings from occurring
- ❖ Highlight the expertise of the Georgia Poison Center staff
- ❖ Promote the Poison Helpline that is fast, free, and confidential

The Georgia Poison Center and partner organizations provided speakers and/or materials for over **335** events, reaching more than **30,000** people during 2020. Some of our public education partners include health departments, Safe Kids coalitions, GA Dept. of Early Care and Learning, Fire/Police/EMS, schools and childcare providers, hospitals, and other health coalitions.

## **Public Education Spotlight: Online Poison Prevention Training Program**

The Georgia Poison Center serves the entire state of Georgia, totaling over 10 million people. We have utilized trained educators throughout the state since 1996 to help spread the awareness of the GPC and poison prevention education. In July of 2015 we launched the online version and to date we have **trained over 3,000 individuals**. This training is designed to equip individuals with the knowledge and resources needed to plan and implement poison prevention activities for people of all ages. In addition, the GPC online poison prevention training program has been adopted by 13 U.S. Poison Control Centers.

# Quarterly Newsletter

The Georgia Poison Center quarterly newsletter keeps community members and healthcare professionals up-to-date on poison-related topics.

The newsletter highlights various poison safety topics for all ages. Topics presented in 2020 included:

- COVID-19
- Mushroom Foraging
- AAPCC Pediatric Exposures 2018
- Carbon Monoxide
- Methanol in Hand Sanitizer

The quarterly newsletter is sent to email subscribers, community partners, and our online poison prevention training participants.

**Georgia***Poison***Center**

**2020 Newsletter**

# Social Media & Website Outreach

In an attempt to reach more Georgians with our education messaging, the GPC continues to expand its social media and traditional media presence. We post regularly on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@PoisonCenterGA). Our website and YouTube channel provides general poison information, videos, and recorded presentations.



141 posts on Facebook reaching more than 16,185 people with an increase of 99 followers.



100 tweets leading to more than 42,000 impressions and 69 new followers.



63 posts on Instagram leading to more than 155 impressions and 14 followers.



More than 29,910 people visited the GPC website, yielding approximately 51,309 page views.



492 views on YouTube leading to 918 impressions and a total watch time of 27.4 hours.



In 2020, the GPC and/or staff appeared in the media at least 26 times.

# Healthcare Professional Education

The Georgia Poison Center provides emergency preparedness classes to healthcare professionals throughout the state. Classes offered include: ACMT's Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism; Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS); AgriTox: Toxicology for Farming Communities; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE); Chemical Warfare Agents; Explosion and Blast Injuries; Nuclear Plant Emergency Response (NPER); A Practical Approach to Opioid Use Disorders (PrAOUD); and Radiological Preparedness and Emergency Response (RPER).

The Georgia Poison Center is also a training site for health care professionals. Emergency medicine and pediatric residents from Emory University School of Medicine train at the Georgia Poison Center 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 assist in consulting on poisoned patients admitted to local health care facilities. Fourth year pharmacy students from PCOM, Mercer University, and the University of the South are also trained here. 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.

# Research Publications & Presentations

## Journals

Atti SK, Miles W, Kazzi Z. Emergency Medical Services: An Under-Utilized Group for Improved Chemical Security Surveillance? *J. Chem. Educ.* 2020 Feb; , 97(7): 1764-1768. doi: 10.1021/acs.jchemed.9b00971.

Atti SK, Silver EM, Chokshi Y, Casteel S, Kiernan E, Dela Cruz R, Kazzi Z, Geller RJ. All that glitters is not gold: Mercury poisoning in a family mimicking an infectious illness. *Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care.* 2020 Feb;50(2):100758. doi: 10.1016/j.cppeds.2020.100758. Epub 2020 Mar 7. PMID: 32151591.

Carpenter J, Murray BP, Atti S, Moran TP, Yancey A, Morgan B. Naloxone Dosing After Opioid Overdose in the Era of Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl. *J Med Toxicol.* 2020 Jan;16(1):41-48. doi: 10.1007/s13181-019-00735-w. Epub 2019 Aug 30. PMID: 31471760; PMCID: PMC6942078.

Carpenter JE, Murray BP, Moran TP, Dunkley CA, Layer MR, Geller RJ. Poisonings due to storage in a secondary container reported to the National Poison Data System, 2007-2017. *Clin Toxicol (Phila).* 2020 Oct 20:1-7. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2020.1833026. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33078985.

Land ME, Wetzel M, Geller RJ, Steck AR, Grunwell JR. Adult opioid poisonings by drug, intent, and resource use from the United States National Poison Data System from 2005-2018. *Clin Toxicol (Phila).* 2021 Feb;59(2):142-151. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2020.1781150. Epub 2020 Jul 16. PMID: 32673123.

Murray B, Carpenter J, Dunkley C, Moran TP, Kiernan EA, Rianprakaisang T, Alsukaiti WS, Calello DP, Kazzi Z; Toxicology Investigators Consortium (ToxIC). Single-Agent Bupropion Exposures: Clinical Characteristics and an Atypical Cause of Serotonin Toxicity. *J Med Toxicol.* 2020 Jan;16(1):12-16. doi: 10.1007/s13181-019-00749-4. Epub 2019 Dec 10. PMID: 31823333; PMCID: PMC6942117.

Murray BP, Carpenter J, Moran TP, Calello DP, Kazzi Z. In Response to Borgsteede et al. About Bupropion and Serotonin Toxicity. *J Med Toxicol.* 2020 Jul;16(3):335-336. doi: 10.1007/s13181-020-00764-w. Epub 2020 Mar 3. PMID: 32125682; PMCID: PMC7320098.

# Research Publications & Presentations

## Posters

Jacob Budnitz, Jared Cavanaugh, Stephanie Hon. **Are Vape Juice Bottles Effective in Preventing Pediatric Deaths When “Sucked” On?** (abstract). North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

Britni Overall, Stephanie Hon, Alison Jones, Tim P. Moran, Kevin Hunt. **Intentional Suspected Suicide Exposures by Poisoning Among Adolescents from 2009 to 2018 Reported to a Regional Poison Center and Compared Nationally** (abstract). North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

Crystal Proshok, Stephanie Hon, Elizabeth Silver. **Atomoxetine Overdose with Neurologic and Cardiac Toxicity** (abstract). North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

Colin Therriault, Stephanie Hon, Tim P. Moran, Joseph Carpenter. **Calls to Toxicology Back-up at a Regional Poison Center, 2012-2019** (abstract). North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

Colin Therriault, Royal Law, Erik Svendsen and Art Chang. **Characteristics and Trends in Lacrimator Exposures Reported to the National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2000-December 31, 2019** (abstract). North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

# Research Publications & Presentations

## Conference Presentations

### **Dionna Douglas, CSPI**

SPI Clinical Roundtable: Don't let heavy metals rock your bones; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

### **Gaylord Lopez, PharmD**

From Scene to being seen – The Role of the poison specialist; MENATOX Conference. Istanbul, Turkey. February 2020.  
The Georgia Poison Center and the Georgia Department of Health; MENATOX Conference. Istanbul, Turkey. February 2020.  
Occupational chemical exposures: The role of the poison control center; MENATOX Conference. Istanbul, Turkey. February 2020.

### **George Bachman, CSPI**

AAPCC Yoga with George Bachman; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

### **Emily Kiernan, DO**

AACT Radiation Section – Radiation Articles you may have missed; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

### **Robert Geller, MD**

AACT Weapons of Mass Destruction Section Scientific Symposium: Disaster Planning: Role of the Poison Center and Toxicologist in Regional WMD; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

### **Stephanie Hon, PharmD**

AAPCC SPI Committee Best Practice Symposium: Approaches to Training and Precepting New SPIs; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.  
Presenter: COVID-19 Webinar Series: Update from the Front Lines: Georgia; ACMT Webinar Series. September 2020.

### **Sue Gorman, PharmD**

AACT Weapons of Mass Destruction Section Scientific Symposium: Disaster Planning: Role of the Poison Center and Toxicologist in Regional WMD; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.

### **Ziad Kazzi, MD**

AACT Radiation Section – Radiation Articles you may have missed; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. San Francisco, CA (Virtual). September 2020.



# Georgia Poison Center Staff

## **Executive Director**

Gaylord P. Lopez, PharmD, DABAT

## **Director**

Stephanie L. Hon, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT

## **Medical Director**

Robert J. Geller, MD, FAAP, FACMT

## **Associate Medical Director**

Brent W. Morgan, MD, FACMT, FACEP, FAAEM

## **Assistant Medical Directors**

Melissa Gittinger, DO, FACMT

Ziad N. Kazzi, MD, FAAEM, FACEP, FACMT, FAACT

## **Medical Toxicologists**

Alaina Steck, MD

Emily Kiernan, DO

Joseph Carpenter, MD

Jonathan De Olano, MD

## **Medical Toxicologists**

## **Toxicology & PharmD Fellows**

## **Specialists in Poison Information (SPIs)**

## **Information Technology Staff**

## **Data Manager**

## **Education Supervisor**

## **Public Health Professionals**

## **Administrative Assistants**



# Georgia *Poison* Center



[www.georgiapoisoncenter.org](http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org)

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