

2023

ANNUAL  
REPORT



GEORGIA **POISON** CENTER

# THE GEORGIA POISON CENTER OVERVIEW

## Mission

The Georgia Poison Center (GPC) 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.

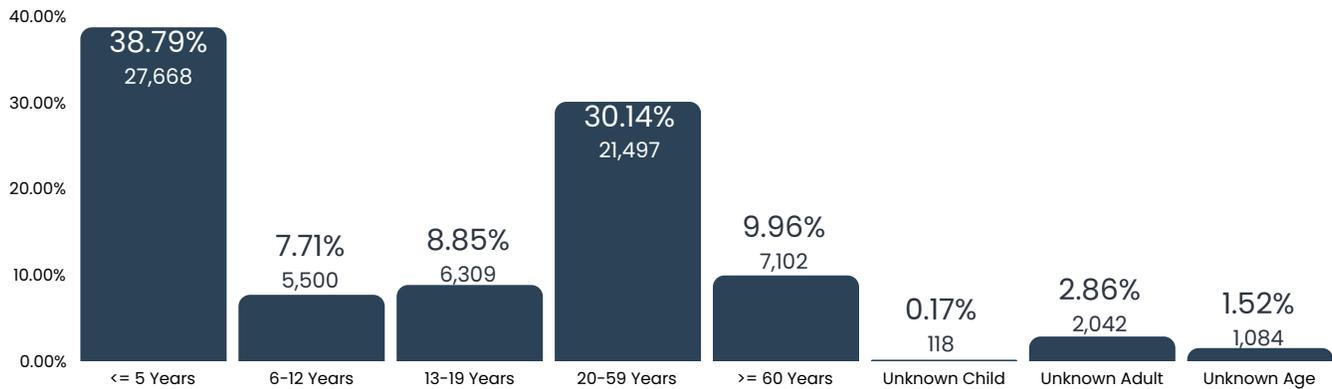
## Objectives

- 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, poisoning prevention, and toxicology/diagnosis and care
- Provide stable and continuous delivery of quality poison center services to Georgians.





## DISTRIBUTION OF HUMAN EXPOSURE CASES



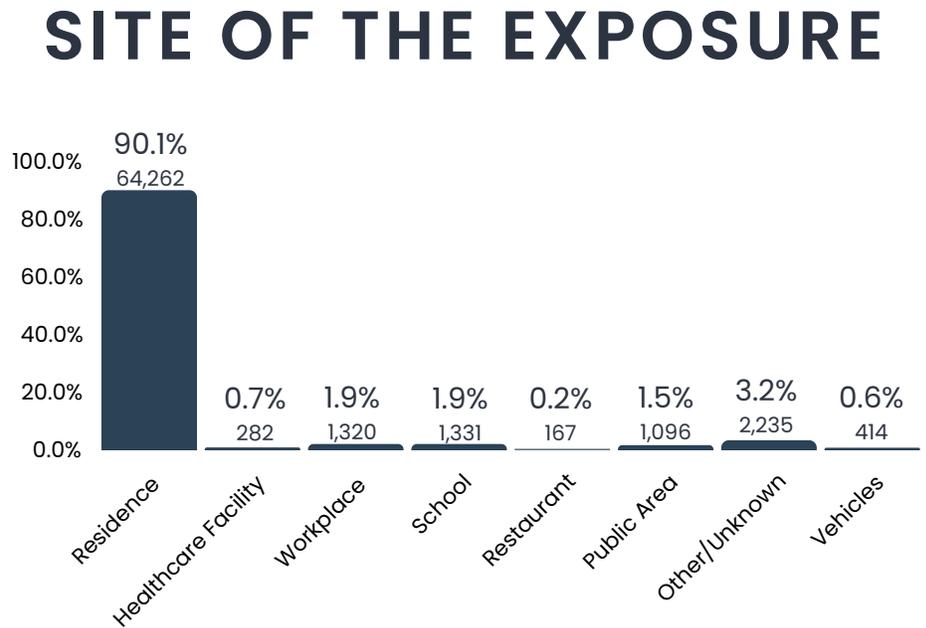
Of all of the human exposure cases, 53.84% were female, 45.40% were male, and 0.83% were unknown.

# 39%

of all human exposure cases were for children less than 6 years old.

# 90%

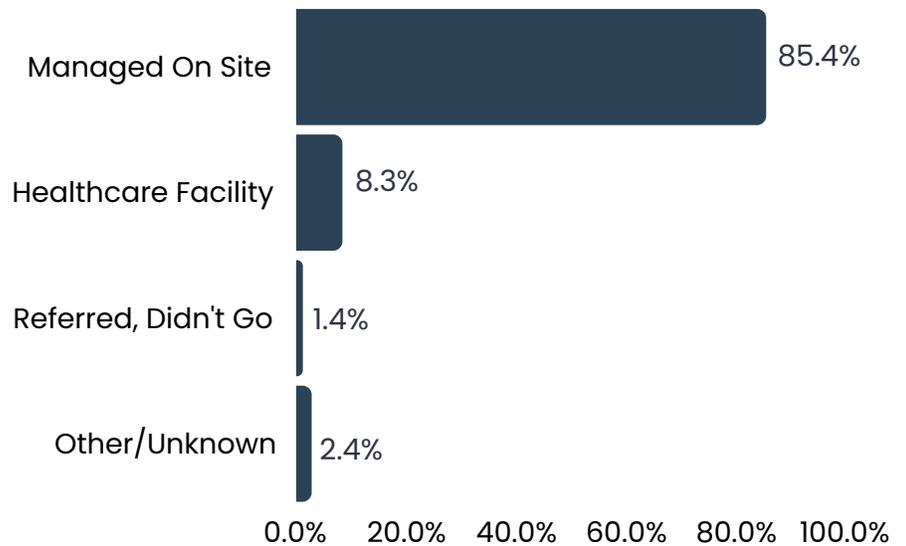
of cases occurred in a residence



# 85%

of cases were managed at home/non-healthcare facility

## MANAGEMENT SITE



### Managing cases safely at home:

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

The most common route of exposure for calls to the GPC is through ingestion or by swallowing a substance.

## ROUTE OF THE EXPOSURE



Ingestion  
(Swallowed)

**72.91%**

52,000



Inhalation  
(Breathed)

**7.89%**

5,627



Dermal  
(Skin)

**6.80%**

4,850



Bite /  
Sting

**5.47%**

3,903



Ocular  
(Eye)

**3.65%**

2,600



Other /  
Unknown

**2.06%**

1,465

# REASON TO CALL

	Number	%
Unintentional - General	27,994	39.25%
Unintentional - Therapeutic	12,367	17.34%
Unintentional - Misuse	6,444	9.04%
Unintentional - Bite / sting	3,985	5.59%
Unintentional - Environmental	1,858	2.61%
Unintentional - Occupational	906	1.27%
Unintentional - Food poisoning	545	0.76%
Unintentional - Unknown	130	0.18%
<b>Total: Unintentional</b>	<b>54,229</b>	<b>76%</b>

# 76%

of cases were  
unintentional

# 19%

of cases were  
intentional

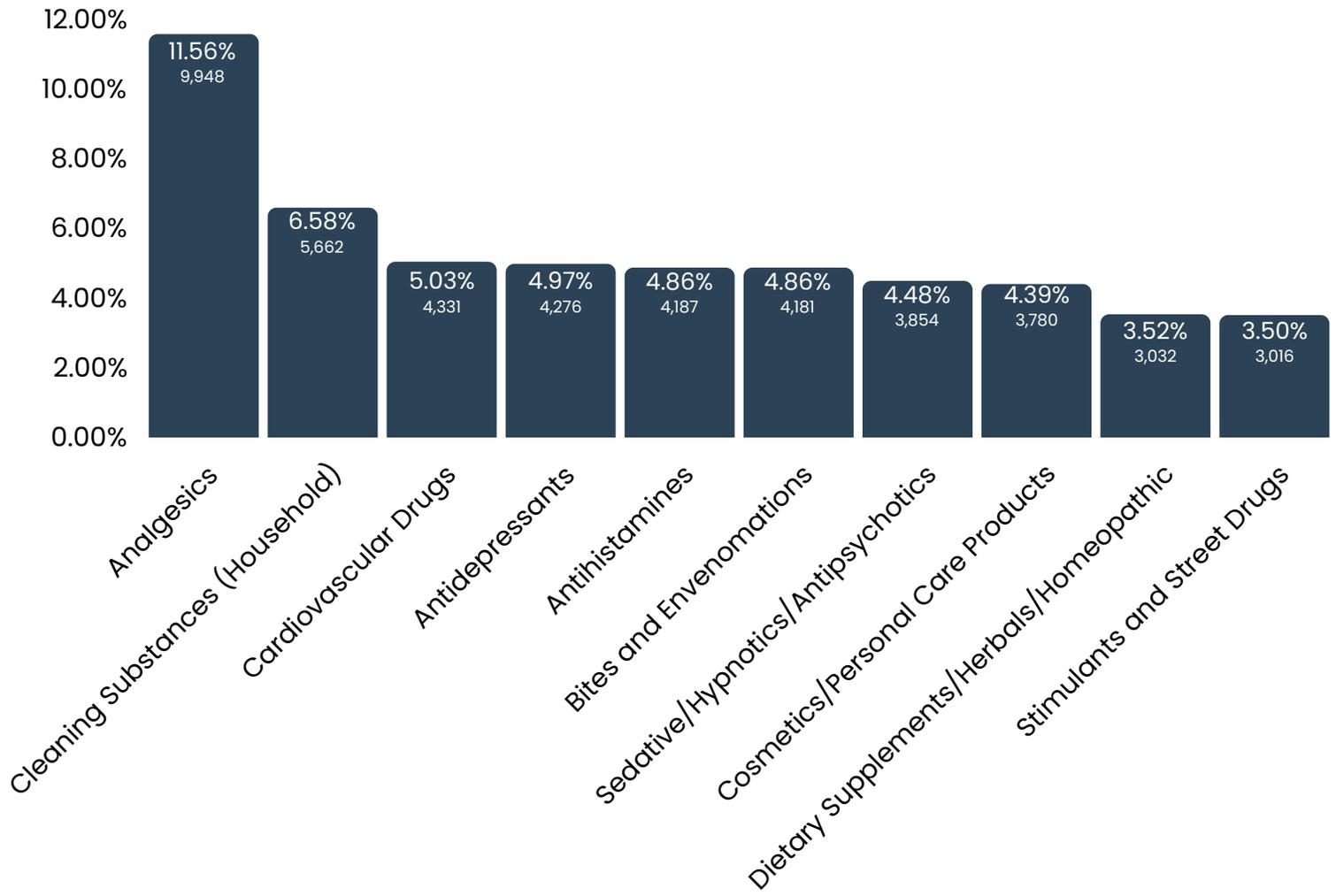
# 2%

of cases were  
adverse reaction

	Number	%
Intentional - Suspected suicide	9,452	13.25%
Intentional - Misuse	1,814	2.54%
Intentional - Abuse	1,464	2.05%
Intentional - Unknown	599	0.84%
<b>Total: Intentional</b>	<b>13,329</b>	<b>18.70%</b>

	Number	%
Adverse reaction - Drug	1,205	1.69%
Adverse reaction - Food	177	0.25%
Adverse reaction - Other	200	0.28%
<b>Total: Adverse reaction</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>2.22%</b>

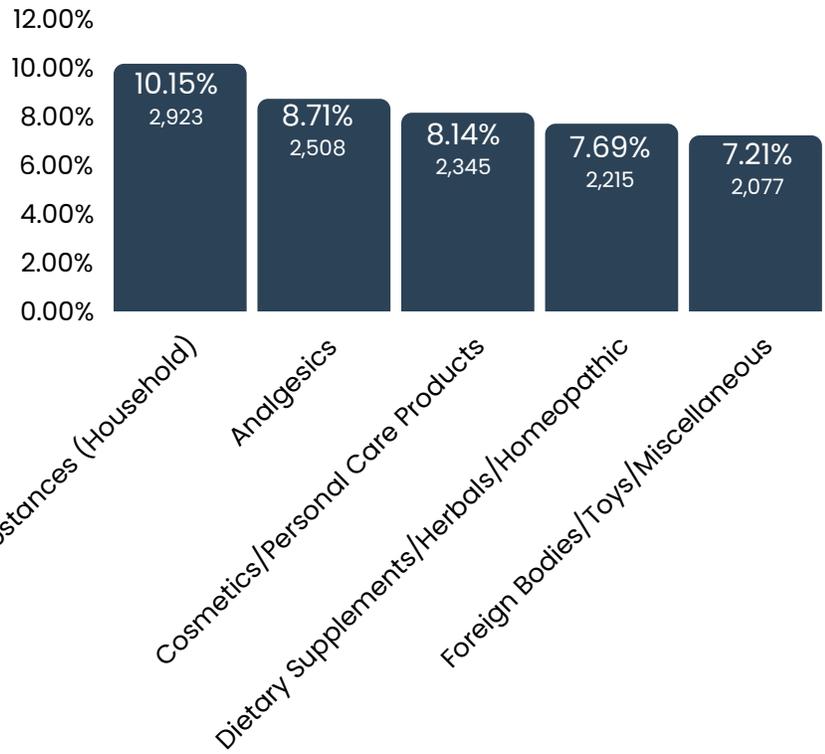
# TOP 10 SUBSTANCES: ALL AGES



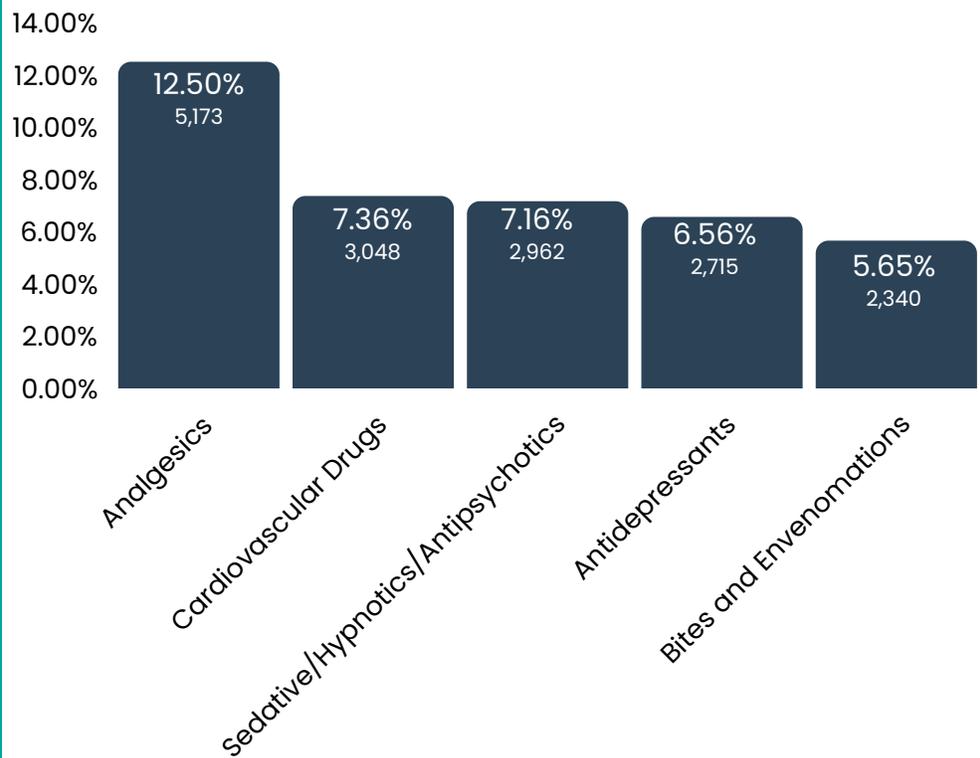
The chart above shows the most common substances involved in poisonings and overdoses reported to the GPC in 2023.

**67.2%** cases managed by the GPC involved a drug.

## TOP 5 SUBSTANCES: ≤ 5 YEARS OLD



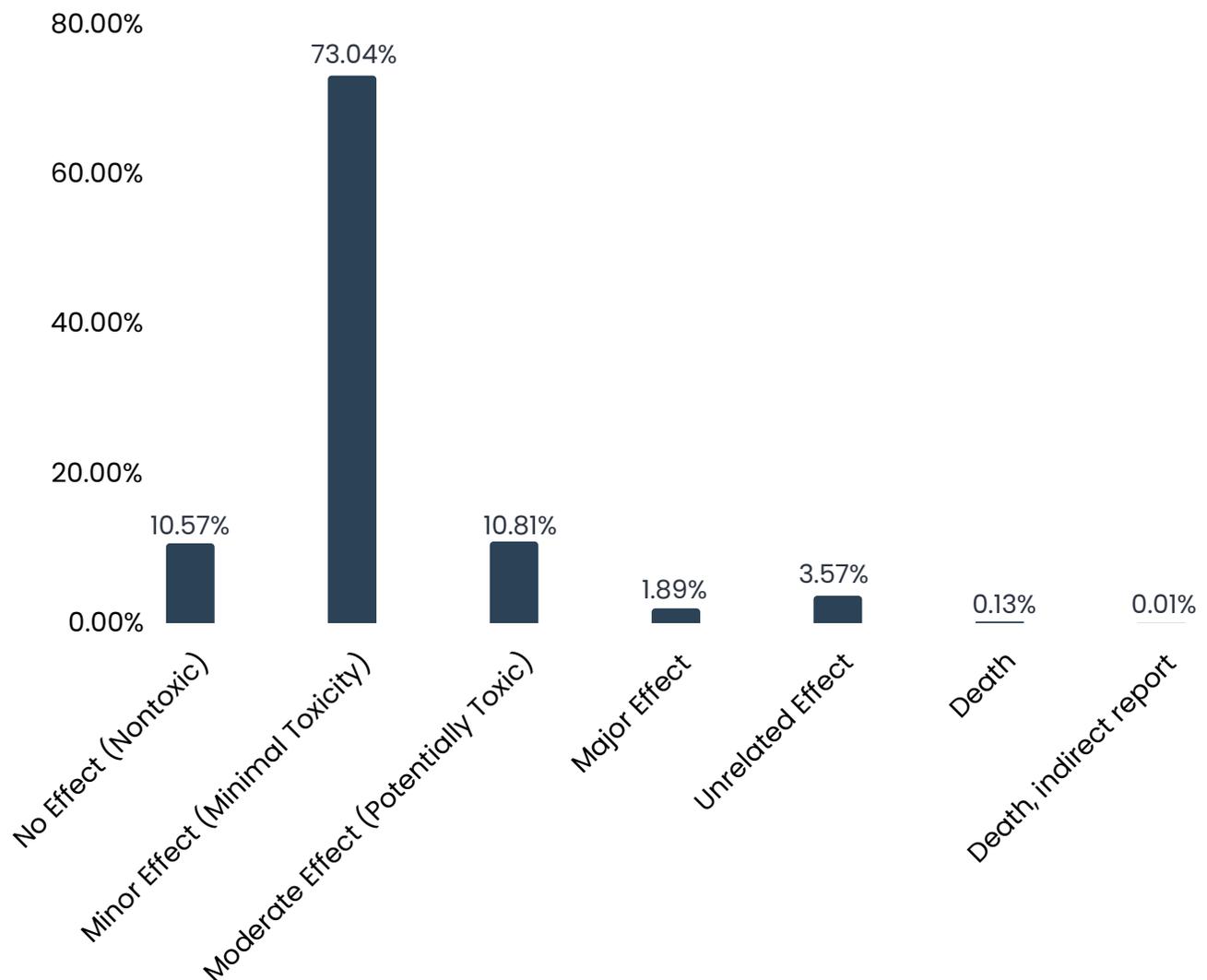
## TOP 5 SUBSTANCES: ≥ 20 YEARS OLD



Calling the Georgia Poison Center as soon as a poisoning or overdose is suspected is the best way to reduce the likelihood of developing severe toxicity.

The true measure of the effectiveness of the GPC is in patient outcomes. Majority of the cases had good outcomes.

## MEDICAL OUTCOME



# PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH

## GOALS:

- Increase awareness of poisons found around us
- Help prevent poisonings from occurring
- Highlight the expertise of the GPC staff
- Promote the Poison Help line

## Spotlight:

### Online Poison Prevention Training Program

- This program is designed to equip individuals with the knowledge and resources needed to plan and implement poison prevention activities for people of all ages.
- We have trained over 3,700 individuals since July 2015.
- Additionally, this program has been adopted by 13 other U.S. Poison Centers.

### Quarterly Newsletters

- Help keep the community and healthcare professionals up to date on poison-related topics.
- Topics included spring safety, one pill can kill, summer safety, and holiday safety.

In 2022, the GPC participated in

# 140

events, programs, and/or presentations, reaching nearly

# 18,000

individuals during 2023.

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



## FACEBOOK

148 posts on Facebook, reaching more than 7,300 people.



## TWITTER

91 tweets, leading to more than 9,300 impressions.



## INSTAGRAM

125 posts on Instagram, reaching more than 2,500 people.



## LINKEDIN

76 posts on LinkedIn, leading to more than 1,100 impressions.



## YOUTUBE

5 new YouTube videos, 1,466 views, 9,900 impressions, and a total watch time of 92.1 hours.



## MEDIA

The GPC staff appeared in the media at least 10 times.



## WEBSITE

More than 17,000 users visited the GPC website, yielding approximately 26,500 page views.

**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, INSTAGRAM AND LINKEDIN (@POISONCENTERGA). OUR WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROVIDES GENERAL POISON INFORMATION, VIDEOS, AND RECORDED PRESENTATIONS.**

The GPC 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)
- Radiological Preparedness and Emergency Response (RPER)

# HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Georgia Poison Center is a training site for healthcare 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.

Additionally, the GPC offers post graduate fellowships in Medical and Clinical Toxicology. For domestic and internationally trained physicians and pharmacists, opportunities to specialize in toxicology are available at the beginning of an academic year.

Fourth year pharmacy students, primarily from Mercer University and South University, 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

## ABSTRACTS

(2023) North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) Abstracts 2023, *Clinical Toxicology*, 61:sup2, 1-186, DOI: 10.1080/15563650.2023.2233835.

- Crystal Proshek, Patrick Filkins and Robert Geller. A 21-year review of pediatric cetirizine exposures as reported to a single regional poison center.
- Crystal Proshek, Patrick Filkins and Robert Geller. A 21-year review of supratherapeutic bupropion ingestions as reported to a single regional poison center.
- Christina Hash, Nicole McElroy, Stephanie Hon and Joseph Carpenter. Presumed thiocyanate toxicity secondary to prolonged nitroprusside infusion managed with extracorporeal treatment: a case report.
- David Kuai, Ethan Leng and Emily Kiernan. Marchiafava-Bignami disease as a rare cause of toxic leukoencephalopathy in a 27-year-old patient.
- David Kauai, Stephanie Kieszak, Daniel Noguee, Amy Schnall and Michael Yeh. Midodrine exposure: findings from a 21-year NPDS review.
- Jay Adams, Stephanie Hon, Robert Geller, Patrick Filkins and Tim Moran. Assessing time to symptom onset and optimal observation period for unintentional amlodipine ingestions in pediatric patients: a 22-year retrospective review.
- Jordan Couceyro, Jason Tully, Stephanie Hon and Melissa Gittinger. Souring the growth experience: evaluating water bead expansion in different media.

# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Kayla Bourgeois, William Eggleston, Nicholas Schier and James Adams. Characterizing colchicine toxicity due to medication errors reported to two regional poison centers over the past decade.
- Liz Rivera Blanco and Emily Kiernan. Veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO) and plasmapheresis (PLEX) therapies in cardioactive medications ingestions in pediatrics: case series.
- Liz Ribera Blanco and Jonathan de Olano. Uncommon clinical manifestation after massive bupropion overdose: ileus.
- Liz Rivera Blanco, David Kauai, Emily Kiernan, Joseph Carpenter and Alaina Steck. "Strips": a surge in cases of a novel drug misused by prisoners.
- Liz Rivera Blanco, Nicole McElroy and Joseph Carpenter. Acute onset diabetes insipidus and pancreatitis in the setting of valproic acid overdose: a case report.
- Nicole McElroy, Patrick Filkins, Stephanie Hon and Joseph Carpenter. Increased acetylcysteine dosing in early, acute massive acetaminophen ingestion has minimal impact on patient outcomes.
- Salmon Ashsan, Afra Alsuwaidi, Kwaku Asamoah and Ziad Kazzi. A case report of intentional ingestion of an insecticide "Sniper DDVP" containing dichlorvos by a pregnant patient resulting in emergency cesarean section.

# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

## JOURNALS

- Al-Sulaimani SK, Al-Balushi H, Al-Balushi A, Panchatcharam SM, Al-Shamsi M, Kazzi Z, Al-Hatali B. Knowledge, Attitude and Awareness of Oman Emergency Physicians and Residents Regarding Radiation Emergencies. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep.* 2024 Jan 19;18:e7. doi: 10.1017/dmp.2023.191. PMID: 38239015.
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- Amaducci AM, Campleman SL, Li S, Karshenas DL, Spyres MB, Farrugia LA, Kang AM, Culbreth RE, Wax PM, Brent J, Aldy K; Toxicology Investigators Consortium Study Group. The Toxicology Investigators Consortium 2022 Annual Report. *J Med Toxicol.* 2023 Oct;19(4):313-340. doi: 10.1007/s13181-023-00962-2. Epub 2023 Aug 29. PMID: 37644342; PMCID: PMC10522558.
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# GEORGIA POISON CENTER STAFF

## Executive Director

Gaylord P. Lopez, PharmD, DABAT

## Director

Stephanie L. Hon, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT

## Operations Manager

Patrick Filkins, PharmD, DABAT

## Education Manager

Britni Overall, MS, CHES

## DATA Manager

Alison Jones, MSHA, MBA

## Clinical Toxicologists

Sara Miller, PharmD, DABAT

## PharmD Fellows

## Specialists in Poison Information (SPIs)

## Public health professionals

## Medical Director

Robert J. Geller, MD, FAAP, FAACT, FACMT

## Associate Medical Director

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

## Assistant Medical Directors

Alaina Steck, MD

Melissa Gittinger, DO, FACMT

Ziad N. Kazzi, MD, FAAEM, FACEP,

FACMT,FAACT

## Medical Toxicologists

Emily Kiernan, DO

Christy Hallett, MD

Jonathan De Olano, MD

Joseph Carpenter, MD

Josh Schier, MD

## TOXICOLOGY RESIDENTS

## Information Technology Support

## Administration support

# GEORGIA POISON CENTER

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