

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GEORGIA **POISON** CENTER

GPC OVERVIEW

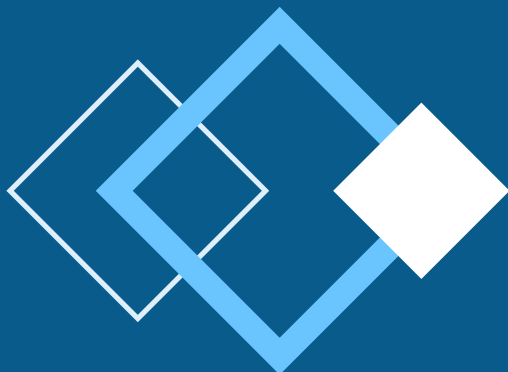
Mission

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.



COUNTY CALL VOLUME

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 2024, the GPC managed

80,647

incoming calls involving human and animal poison emergencies and information.

73,029

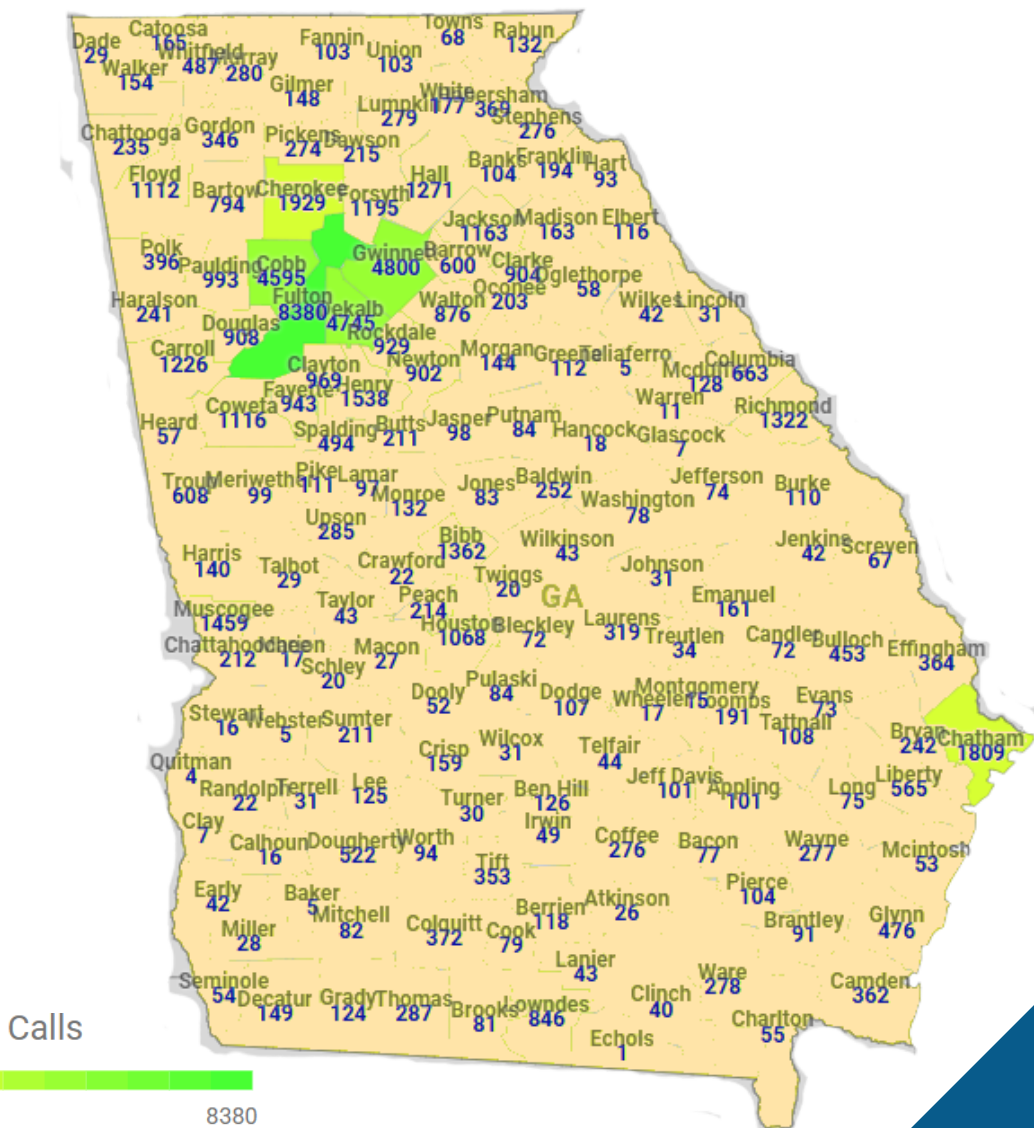
Human Exposures

7,566

Information Calls

52

Animal Exposures



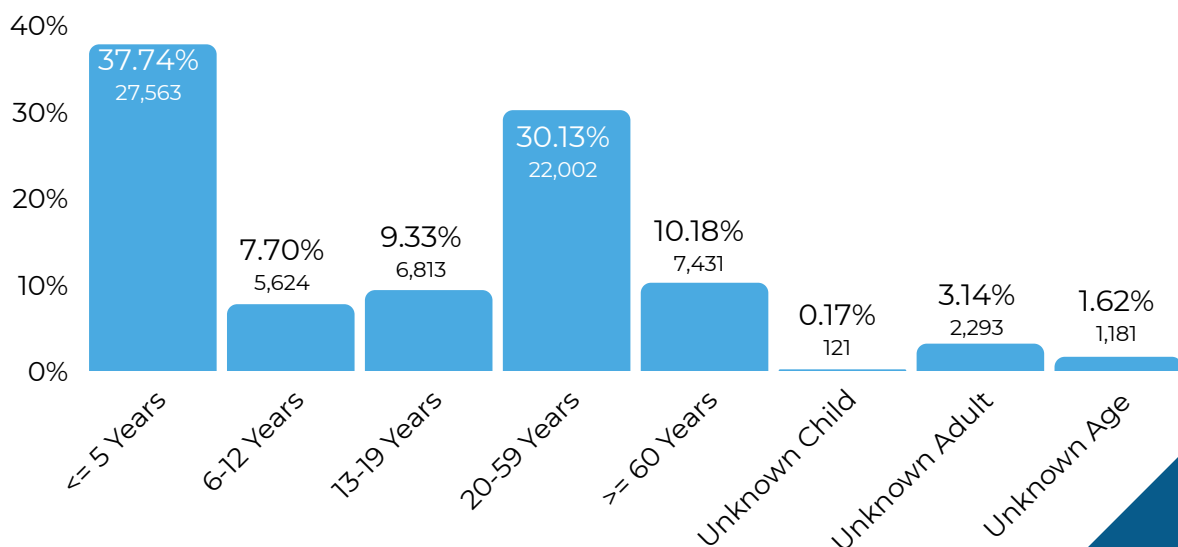
HUMAN EXPOSURES

Of all of the human exposure cases, 54.22% were female, 44.93% were male, and 0.48% were unknown.

38% of all human exposure cases were for children less than 6 years old.

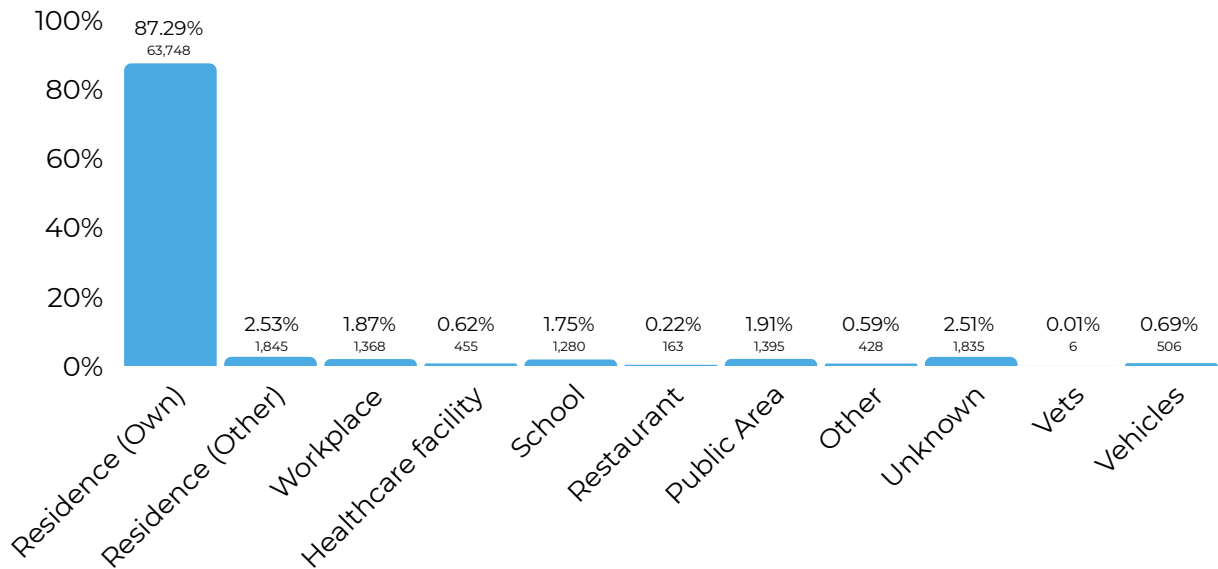


Distribution of Human Exposure Cases

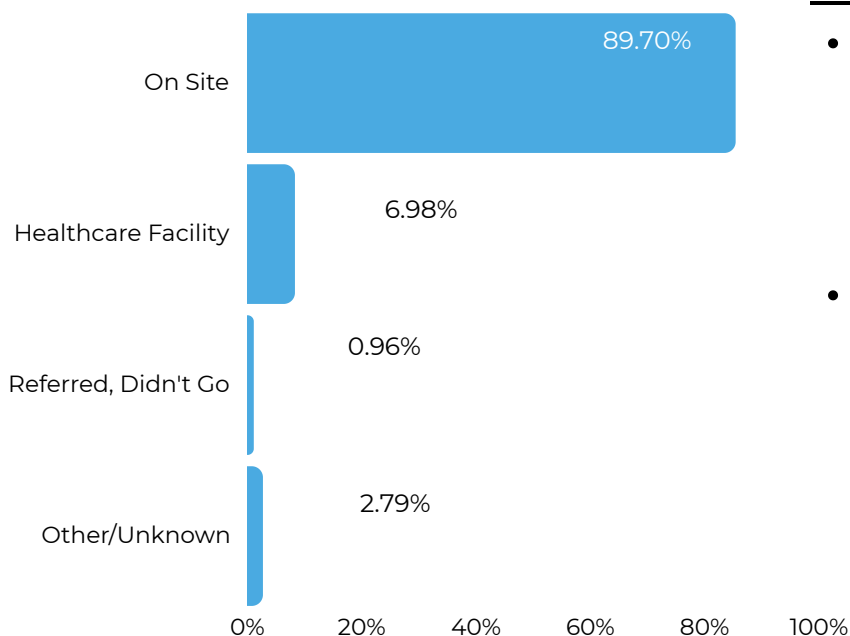


EXPOSURE & MANAGEMENT SITE

Site of Exposure



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.

ROUTE OF EXPOSURE

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



**Ingestion
(Swallowed)**

73.71%

53,832



**Inhalation
(Breathed)**

7.94%

5,801



**Dermal
(Skin)**

6.69%

4,889



**Bite /
Sting**

6.10%

4,455



**Ocular
(Eye)**

2.69%

1,964



**Other /
Unknown**

1.69%

1,231

REASON FOR EXPOSURE

	Number	%
Unintentional - General	28,337	38.80%
Unintentional - Therapeutic Error	12,581	17.23%
Unintentional - Misuse	6,284	8.60%
Unintentional - Bite / Sting	4,420	6.05%
Unintentional - Environmental	2,830	3.88%
Unintentional - Occupational	958	1.31%
Unintentional - Food Poisoning	510	0.70%
Unintentional - Unknown	138	0.19%
Total: Unintentional	54,229	76.76%

77%

of cases were unintentional

	Number	%
Intentional - Suspected suicide	9,363	12.82%
Intentional - Abuse	1,660	2.27%
Intentional - Misuse	1,651	2.26%
Intentional - Unknown	442	0.61%
Total: Intentional	13,116	17.96%

18%

of cases were intentional

	Number	%
Adverse reaction - Drug	1,135	1.55%
Adverse reaction - Food	190	0.26%
Adverse reaction - Other	191	0.26%
Total: Adverse reaction	1,516	2.08%

2%

of cases were adverse reaction

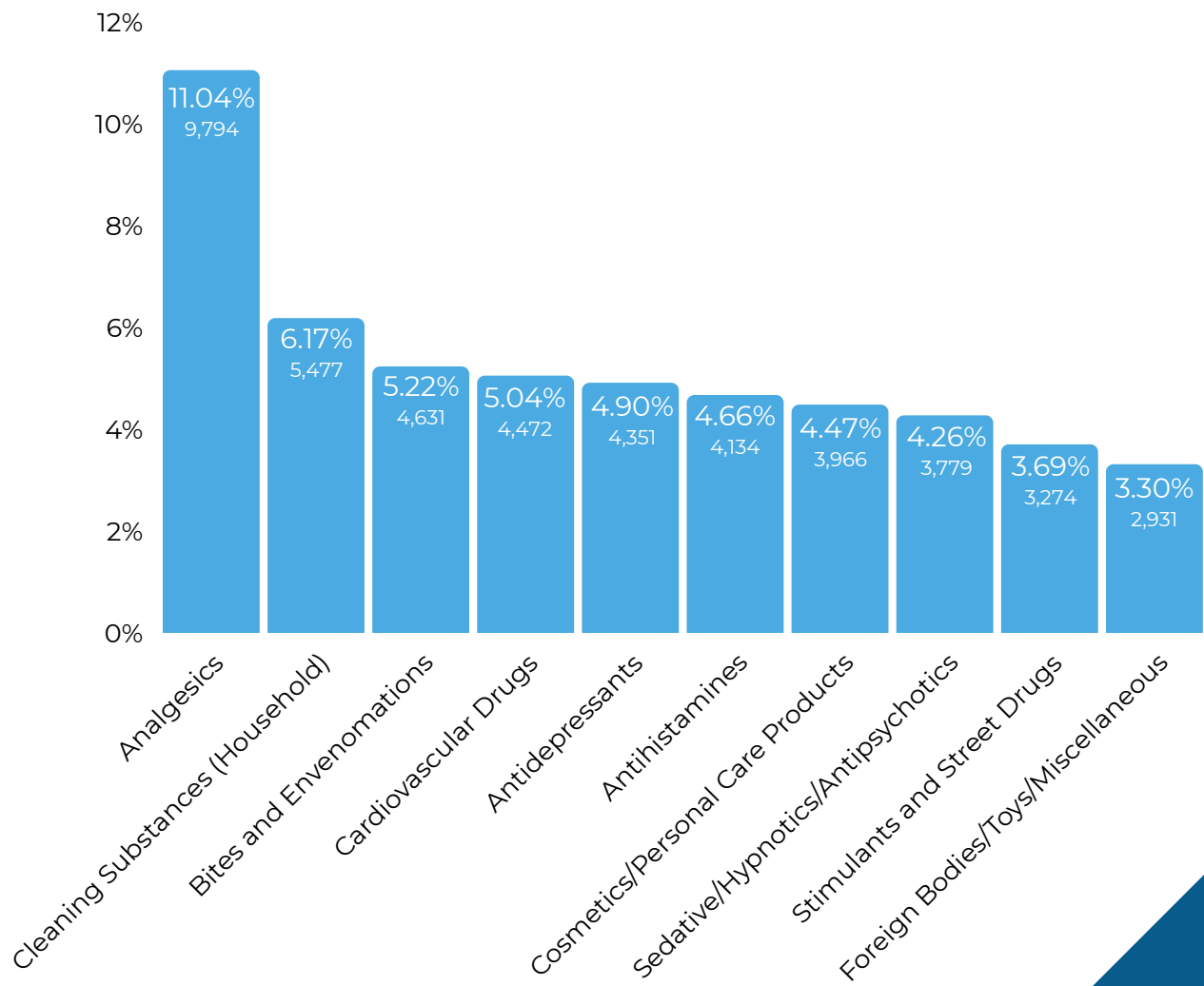
EXPOSURE SUBSTANCES

ALL AGES

The chart below shows the most common substances involved in poisonings and overdoses reported to the GPC in 2024.

60% of cases managed by the GPC involved a drug.

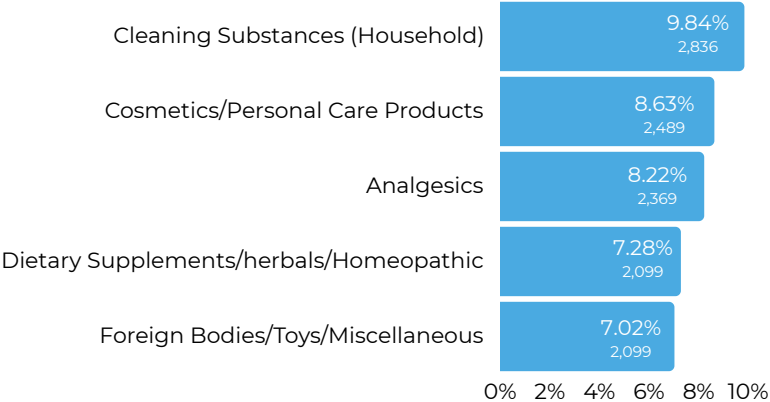
Exposure Substances For All Ages



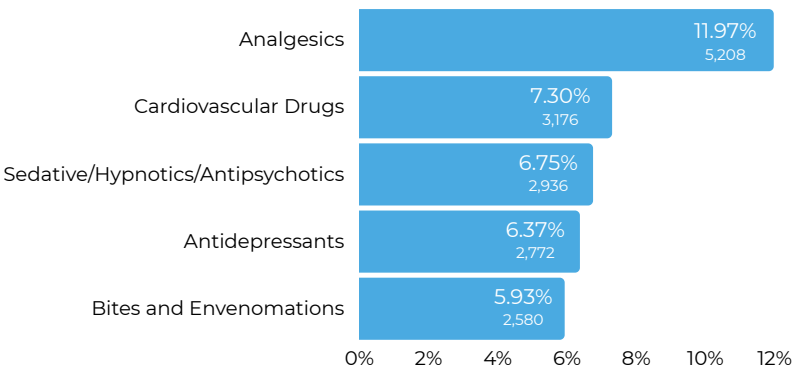
EXPOSURE SUBSTANCES ≤ 5 & ≥ 20 YEARS OLD



Exposure Substances For ≤ 5 Years Old



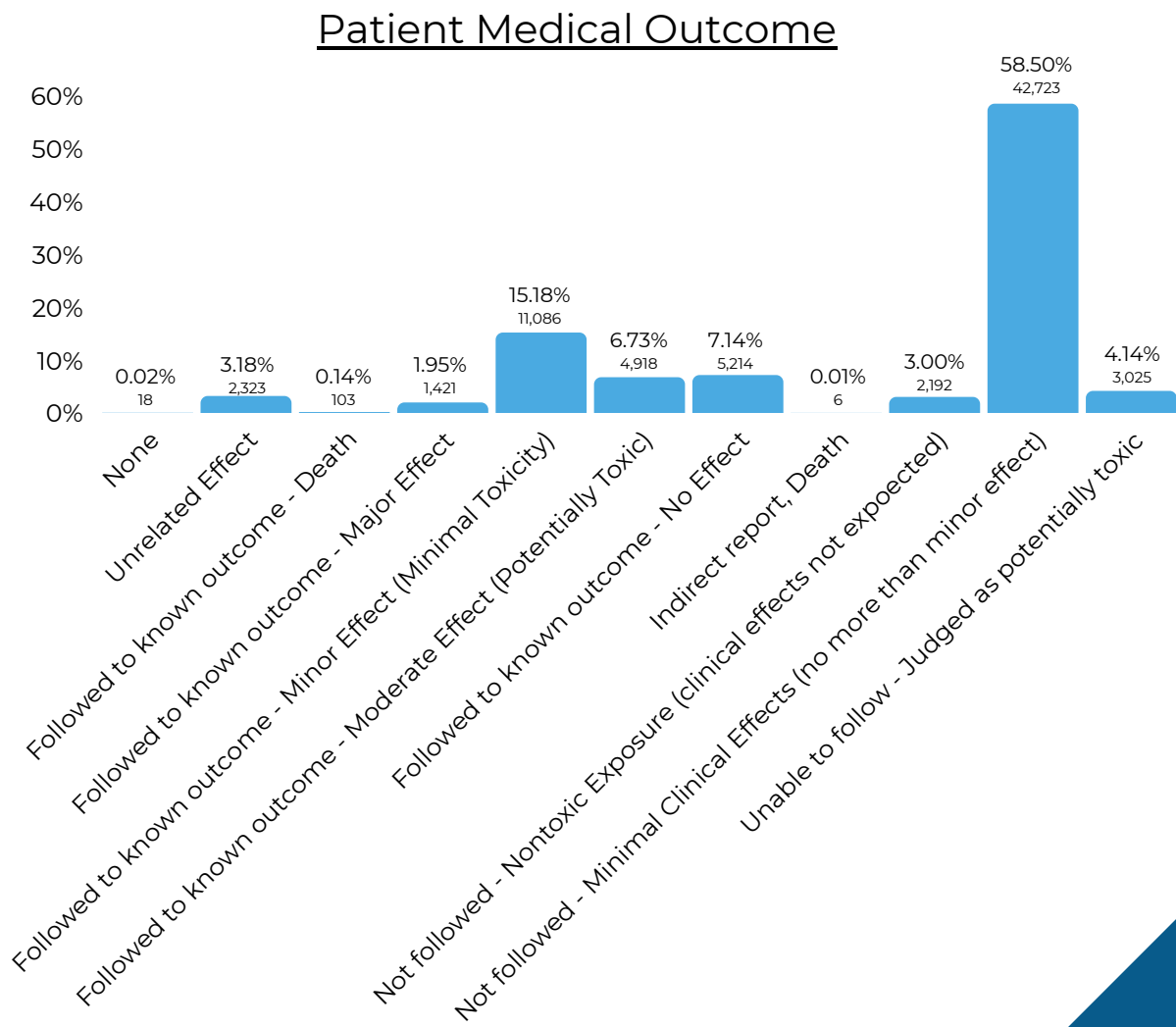
Exposure Substances For ≥ 20 Years Old



PATIENT OUTCOME

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.



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

In 2024, the GPC and partners participated in

232

events, programs, and/or presentations, reaching over

29,000

individuals.

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

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 nearly 4,000 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.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

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.



FACEBOOK

163 posts on Facebook, reaching more than 6,300 people.



TWITTER

124 tweets, leading to more than 6,300 impressions.



INSTAGRAM

151 posts on Instagram, reaching more than 1,200 people.



LINKEDIN

67 posts on LinkedIn, leading to more than 2,300 impressions.



YOUTUBE

1,375 views, 3,306 impressions, and a total watch time of 90.3 hours.



MEDIA

The GPC staff appeared in the media throughout the year.



WEBSITE

More than 20,000 users visited the GPC website, yielding approximately 31,834 page views.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

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)

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

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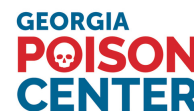
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GEORGIA POISON CENTER STAFF



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

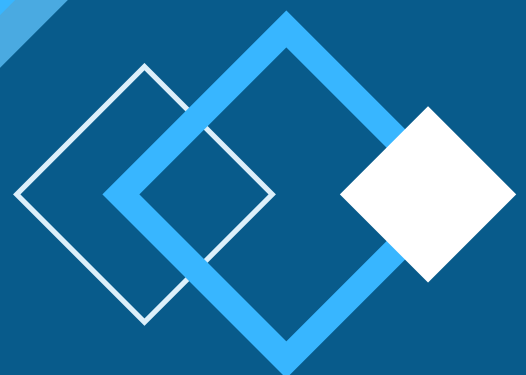
Emily Kiernan, DO
Christy Hallett, MD
Jonathan De Olano, MD
Joseph Carpenter, MD

Toxicology Residents

Information Technology Support

Administration Support





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