

New RAND Study Shows U.S. Poison Centers Save the Nation Billions Each Year

Georgia Poison Center Highlights Local Impact and Encourages Community to Utilize Free, Life-Saving Services

Atlanta, GA (January 21, 2026)—U.S. Poison Centers save \$3.1 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity, according to a new independent study released by America's Poison Centers®. Conducted by RAND the report confirms that Poison Centers provide substantial economic and societal benefits for communities across the country. The Georgia Poison Center (GPC) is the only poison center serving the state and responds to more than 80,000 poison-related calls each year, including human and animal exposures and information requests. Staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by specially trained pharmacists, nurses, physicians, and toxicology experts, the GPC provides fast, free, and confidential guidance that helps families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals respond to poison emergencies and prevent unnecessary emergency department visits

The RAND report, [*Poison Prevention, Treatment, and Detection as Public Health Investments*](#), found that for every \$1 invested in poison center services, communities receive \$16.77 in benefits. These cost-saving benefits reflect reduced emergency department use, shortened hospital stays, decreased mortality risk, enhanced public health surveillance, and improved patient outcome.

However, despite their growing value, overall funding for Poison Centers has decreased by 8 percent from 2011 to 2024 in real dollars, in addition to a decrease in subsidized support. Amid rising healthcare costs, these budget cuts are an increasing threat to the ability of Poison Centers to provide life-saving services and essential 24/7 coverage.

The report found that Poison Centers and their national infrastructure have significantly modernized over the last decade, expanding beyond traditional telephone calls to offer text and live chat services that better meet the changing needs of the public and the healthcare system.

*“This study confirms what we see every day — timely access to poison experts keeps people safe at home, prevents costly emergency room visits, and supports healthcare providers managing complex cases,” said **Gaylord P. Lopez, PharmD, DABAT, Executive Director**, Georgia Poison Center. “We are proud to provide 24/7 support to Georgia’s families, caregivers, and health care professionals at no cost.”*

In addition to providing 24/7 poison exposure assessment and treatment guidance, the Georgia Poison Center serves as a statewide public health resource, delivering poison prevention education, medication safety and overdose consultation, and real-time toxicology surveillance to support outbreak detection and emergency response. The Center also supports statewide public health efforts by operating specialized hotlines for rabies exposure, COVID-19 response, and disaster-related emergencies, while providing clinical consultation for healthcare providers, follow-up care, and prevention education to reduce poison-related injuries and strengthen public health preparedness across Georgia.

For additional information, or to read the full report, visit poisoncenters.org/national-impact-study. For fast, free, confidential help for a potential poisoning or question, contact the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222, PoisonHelp.org, or reach your local poison center by visiting GeorgiaPoisonCenter.org.

About The Georgia Poison Center

The Georgia Poison Center is the state's designated poison center, providing free, confidential, expert medical guidance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Serving residents, health care providers, and public health partners statewide, the Center offers real-time consultation for medication errors, toxic exposures, bites and stings, and public health emergencies. The Georgia Poison Center also supports statewide preparedness through specialized services including rabies exposure consultation, infectious disease response, disaster support, public health surveillance, and poison prevention education.

About America's Poison Centers

America's Poison Centers® represents the 53 accredited Poison Centers across the country. We are united in our cause to prevent poison-related health emergencies in America. Through the national Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222) and PoisonHelp.org our member centers provide all Americans expert advice. We also maintain the National Poison Data System® (NPDS), our nation's only near real-time poisoning data surveillance system, integrating the latest information from across Poison Centers.