

Georgia  
Poison  
Center

---

20  
25

# ANNUAL REPORT

**GEORGIA POISON CENTER**

# COUNTY CALL VOLUME

In 2025, the GPC managed

**83,051** calls involving human & animal poison emergencies & information.

**75,410**

Human Exposures

**7,588**

Information Calls

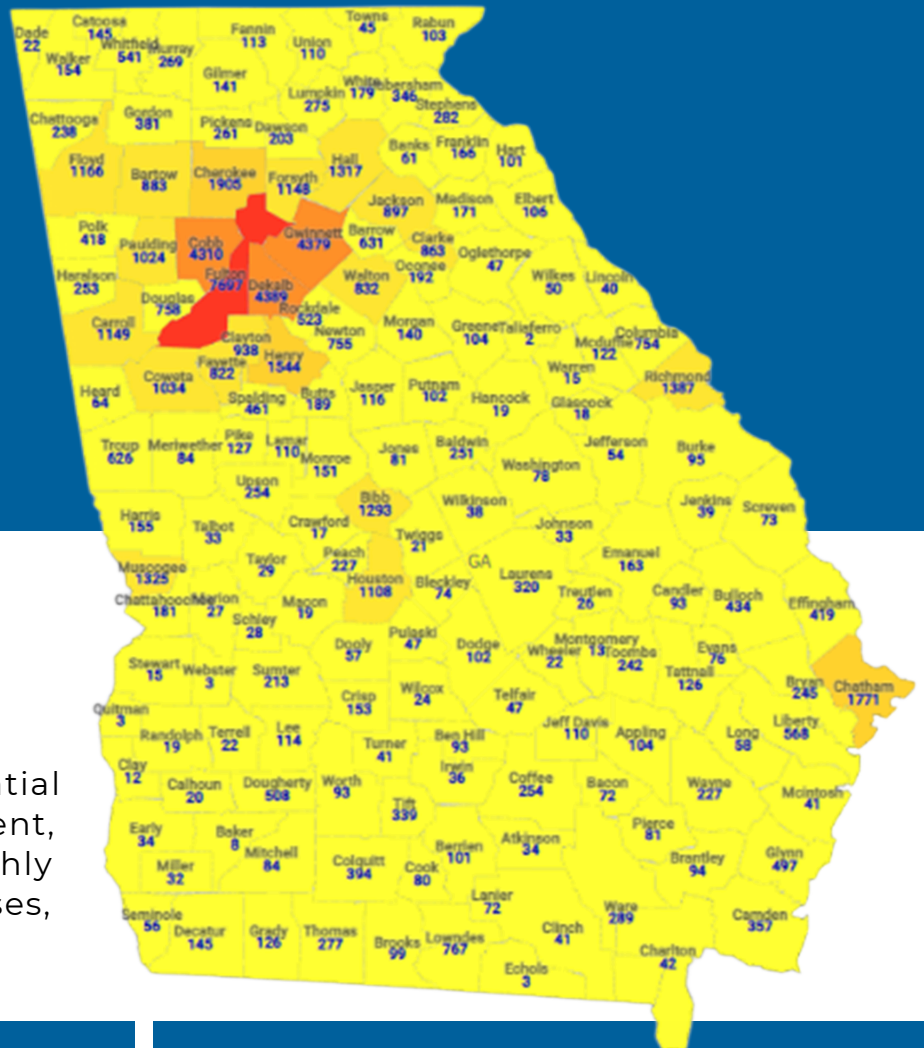
**53**

Animal Exposures

## The Georgia Poison Center

is Georgia's only poison center and one of the busiest in the nation.

We provide 24/7 confidential poison diagnosis, treatment, and information from highly trained pharmacists, nurses, physicians, and poison experts.



**32,235**

Total number of calls from healthcare professionals.

**88,967**

Total number of call backs from our specialists to check on patients.

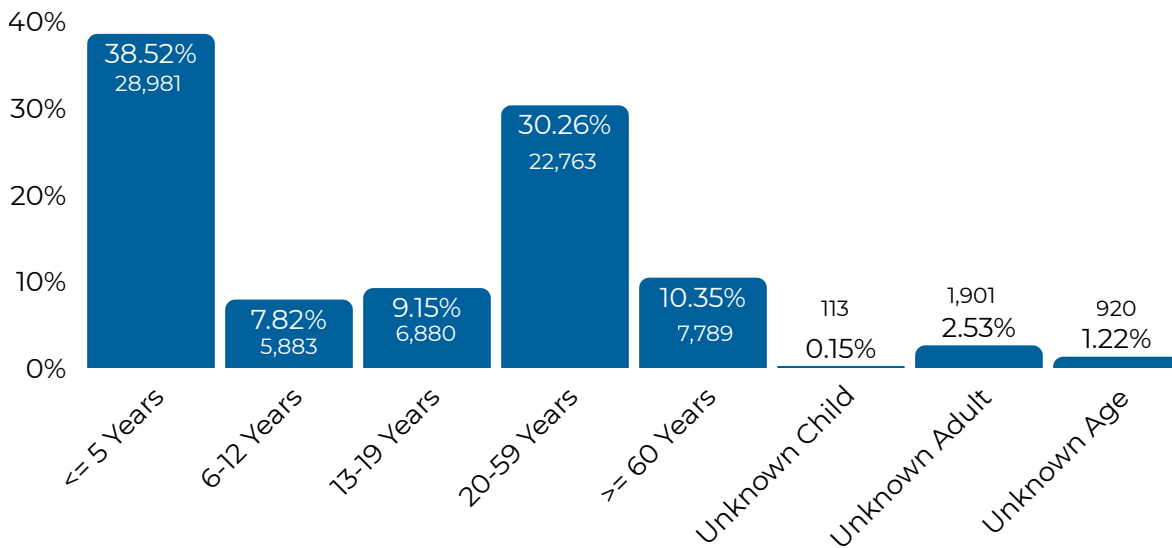
# HUMAN EXPOSURES

Of all of the human exposure cases, **53.91%** were female, **45.27%** were male, and **0.42%** were unknown.

**39%** of all human exposure cases were for children less than 6 years old.



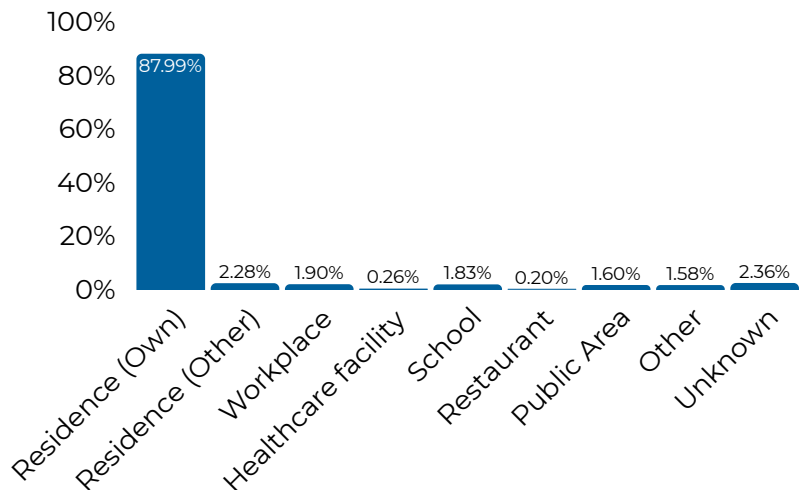
Distribution of Human Exposure Cases



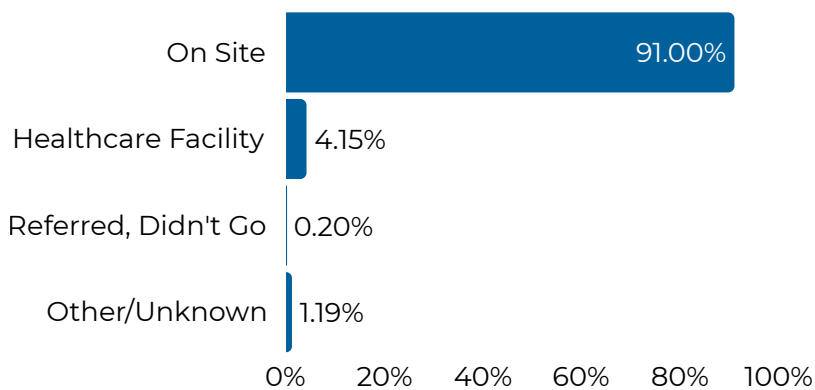
# EXPOSURE & MANAGEMENT SITE



Site of Exposure



Management Site

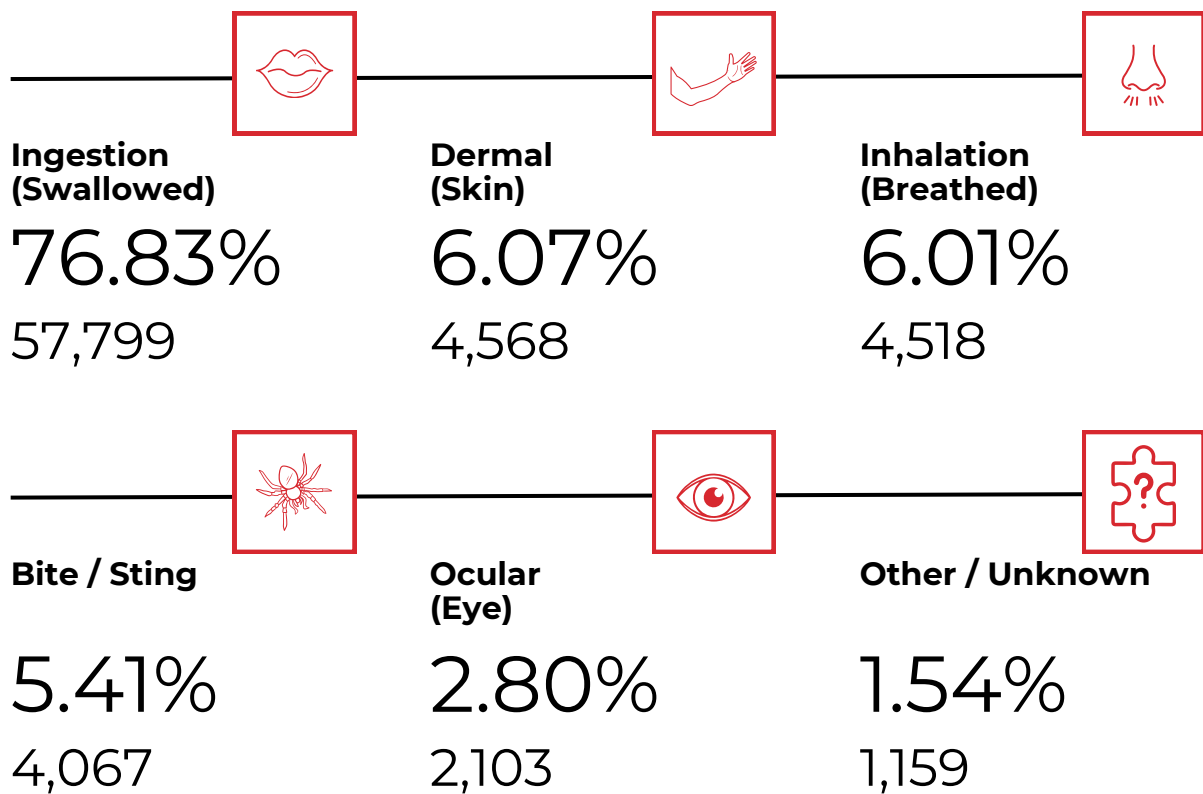


**Managing cases safely at home:**

- 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.



# REASON FOR EXPOSURE

UNINTENTIONAL	Number	%
Unintentional - General	29,320	38.97%
Unintentional - Therapeutic Error	15,131	20.11%
Unintentional - Misuse	6,243	20.11%
Unintentional - Bite / Sting	4,039	5.37%
Unintentional - Environmental	1,748	2.32%
Unintentional - Occupational	1,111	1.48%
Unintentional - Food Poisoning	517	0.69%
Unintentional - Unknown	131	0.17%
Total: Unintentional	58,240	77.42%
INTENTIONAL	Number	%
Intentional - Suspected Suicide	9,391	12.48%
Intentional - Abuse	1,553	2.06%
Intentional - Misuse	1,871	2.06%
Intentional - Unknown	509	0.68%
Total: Intentional	13,324	17.71%
ADVERSE REACTION	Number	%
Adverse Reaction - Drug	1,117	1.48%
Adverse Reaction - Food	150	0.20%
Adverse Reaction - Other	150	0.20%
Total: Adverse Reaction	1,417	1.88%

**77%**

of cases were unintentional

**18%**

of cases were intentional

**2%**

of cases were adverse reaction

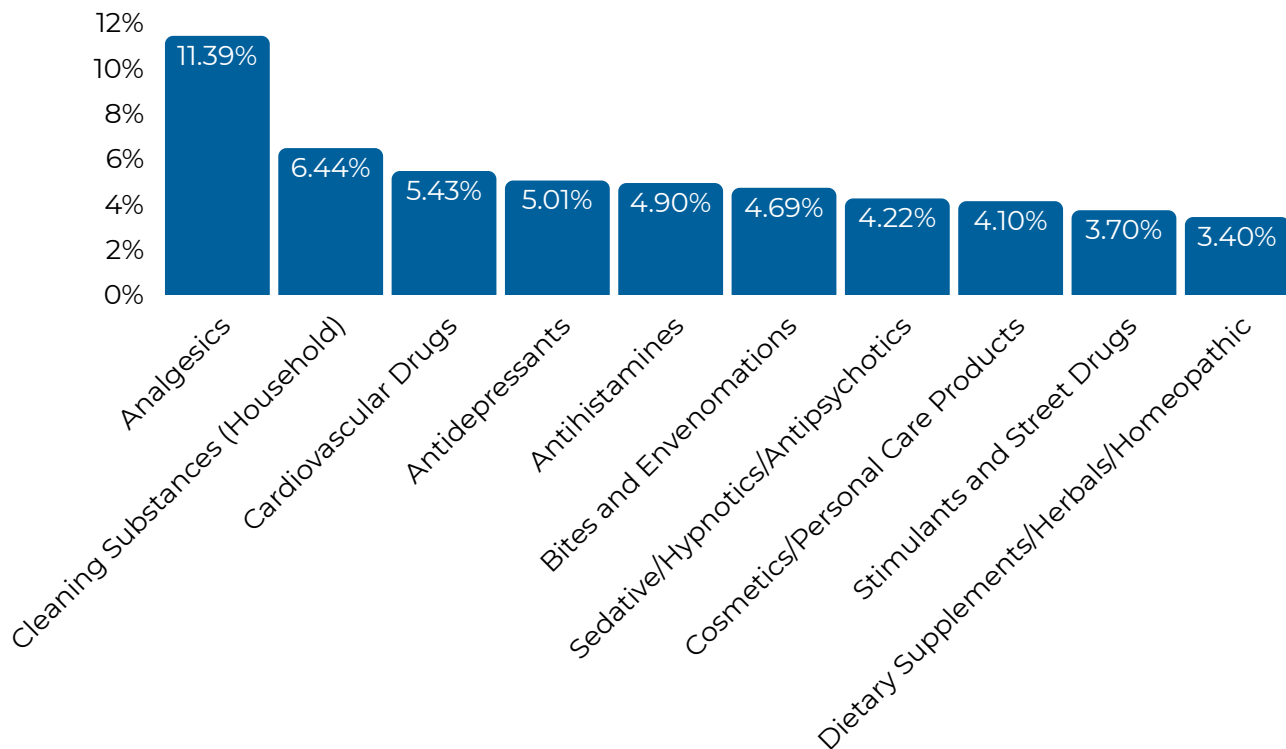
# EXPOSURE SUBSTANCES – ALL AGES

The chart below shows the most common substances involved in poisonings and overdoses reported to the GPC in 2025.

**61%** of cases managed by the GPC involved a drug.



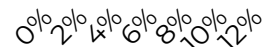
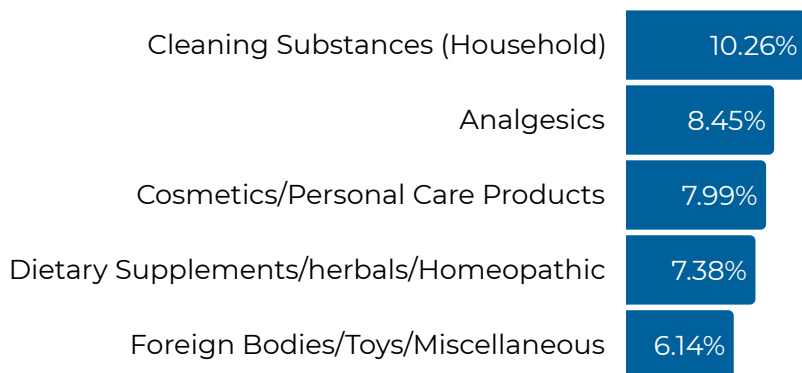
### Exposure Substances For All Ages



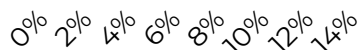
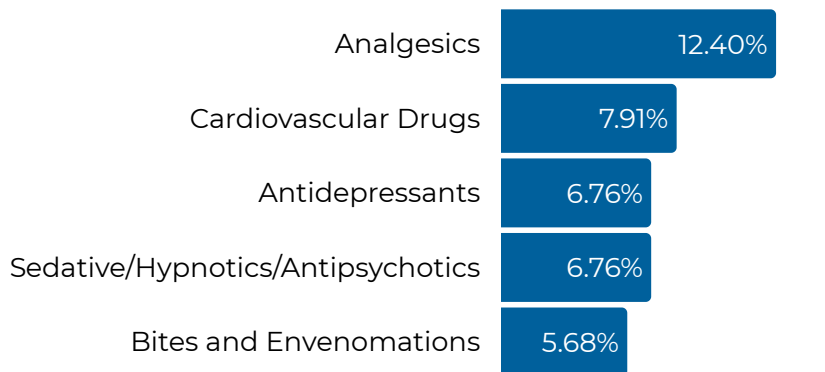
# EXPOSURE SUBSTANCES - BY AGE



## Exposure Substance ≤ 5 Years Old



## Exposure Substances ≥ 20 Years Old

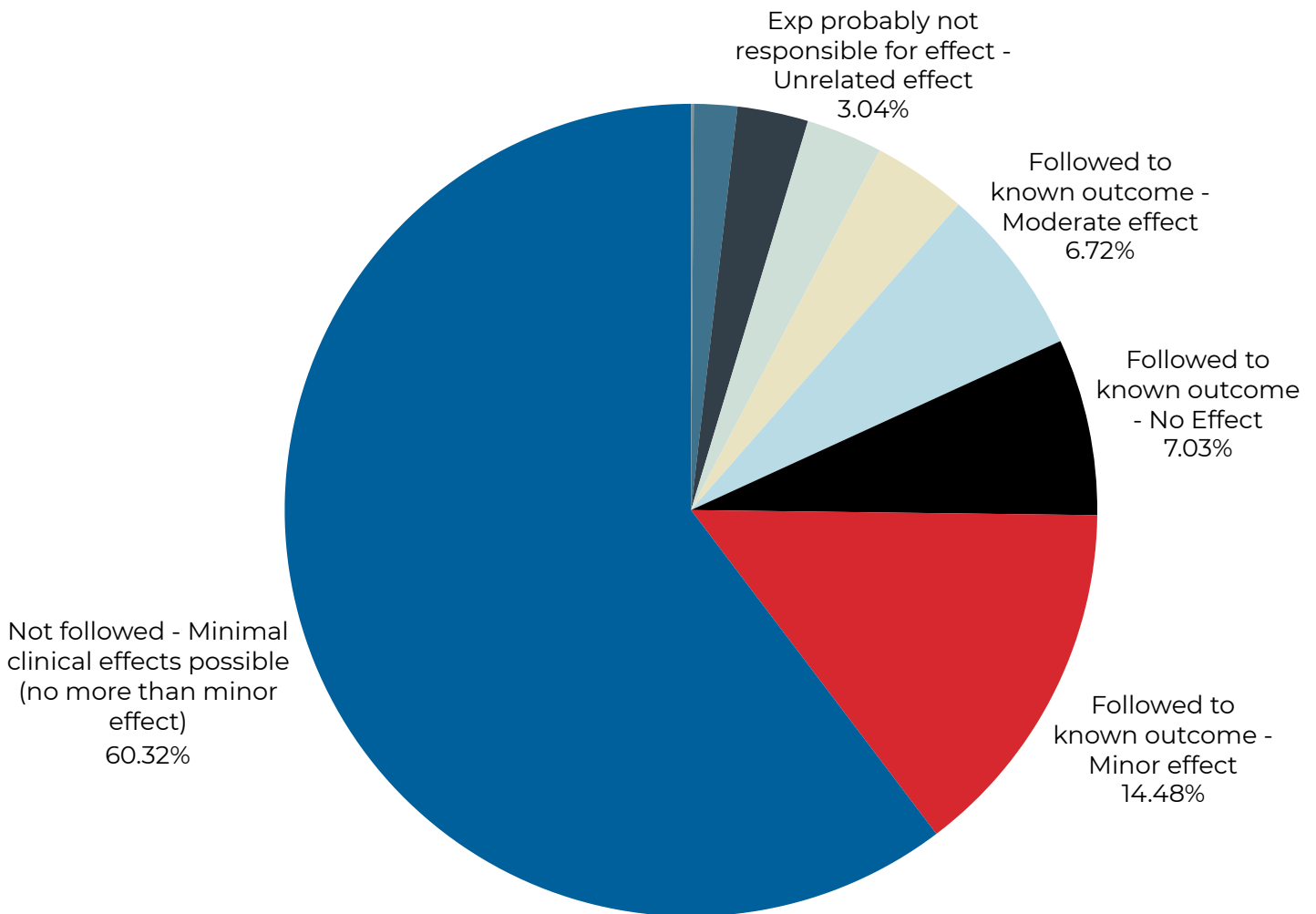


# PATIENT OUTCOME

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.

Patient Medical Outcome



# RABIES CASES MANAGED BY THE GPC

The Georgia Poison Center provides rabies consultations for health care providers, veterinarians, and the general public 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

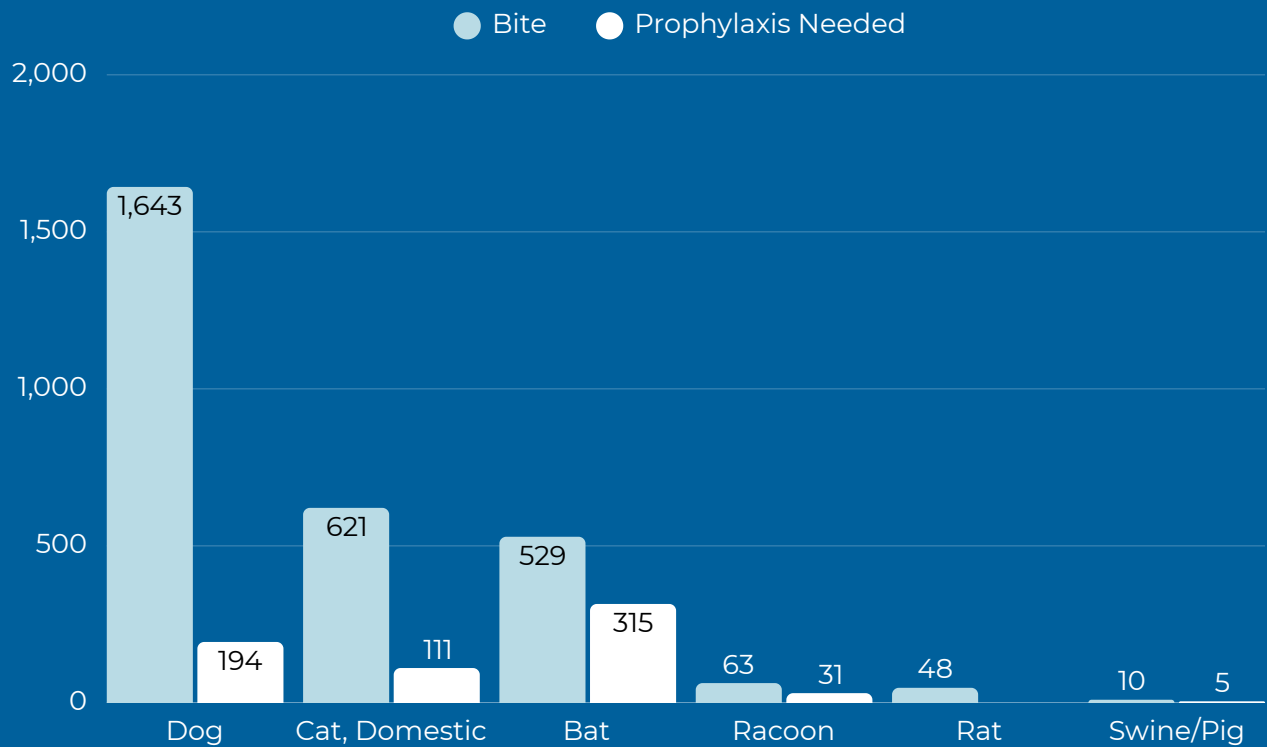
**3,182** Total rabies cases

**21%**  
of rabies cases received prophylaxis

### Top 5 Injury Sites

INJURY SITE	Count
Hand	988
Head/Neck	548
Unknown	461
Arm	420
Leg	401

### Animal Bites



Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis consists of immediate, thorough wound cleansing with soap and water, followed by a series of injections to prevent the nearly 100% fatal virus.

# 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 2025, the GPC and partners participated in

# 105

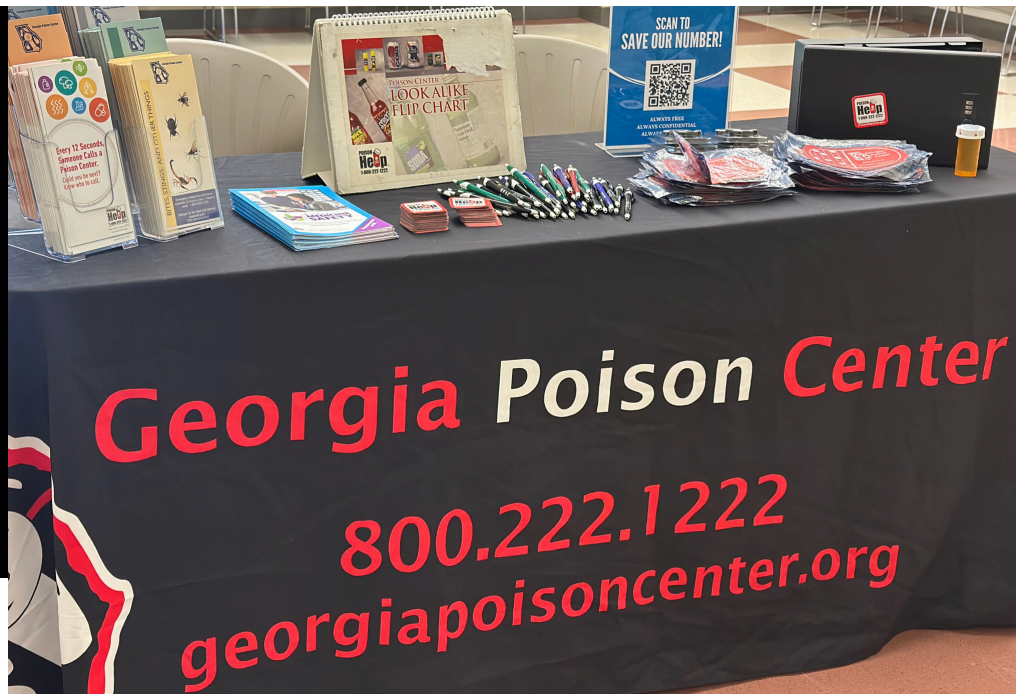
events, programs, and/or presentations, reaching over

# 16,000

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



# PUBLIC EDUCATION MEDIA 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

263 posts on Facebook, reaching more than 9,200 people.



## X

204 tweets, leading to more than 7,400 impressions.



## INSTAGRAM

227 posts on Instagram, reaching more than 5,800 people.



## LINKEDIN

177 posts on LinkedIn, leading to more than 2,700 impressions.



## YOUTUBE

2,166 views, 6,503 impressions, and a total watch time of 125 hours.



## MEDIA

The GPC staff appeared in the media throughout the year.



## WEBSITE

More than 55,000 users visited the GPC website, yielding approximately 70,732 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

North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) 2025. (2025). Clinical Toxicology, 63(sup3), 1–191. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2024.2370671>

- Andrew Yetka and Patrick Filksin. Implications of potassium in salicylism treated with urinary alkalization.
- Christina Hash and Stephanie Hon. The majority has the right to be wrong: variability in NPDS coding practices among poison center specialists.
- Eun Kim, Mohan Punja, Richard Kleiman, Ziad Kazzi and Tori Ehrhardt. Prolonged lung injury requiring extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy from an unregistered organophosphate.
- Jessica Sheno, Matthew Sheridan, Joseph Carpenter, Alaina Steck and Brian Patrick Murray. Persistent musculoskeletal and neurological complications after snakebite.
- Myriam Nadeau, Alyssa Ragan, Andrew King, Carol Iddins, Emily Kiernan, Joseph Ebersole, Tyler Lopachin, E Michael Beuhler, Rebecca Rembert, Varun Vohra, Nelson Chao, Amelia Langston, Kathryn Leung, Emily Austin, Stephanie Hon, Al yaqhdhan Al Atbi, Curt Mueller and Ziad Kazzi. Lessons learned from a multi-agency radiological emergency communication exercise.
- Tori Ehrhardt, Joseph Carpenter and Ziad Kazzi. Mixed phenibut and kratom withdrawal.
- Travis Mok, Nora Loughry, Carlos del Rio, Ayako Wendy Fujita, Alaina Steck and Joseph Carpenter. Cavitary lung disease: an atypical presentation of excipient lung disease (talcosis).
- Travis Mok, Rajavee Panchal, Amirtha Chinnadurai, Jonathan de Olano and Ziad Kazzi. Tacrolimus toxicity associated with nicardipine leading to acute kidney injury following pediatric liver transplantation.
- Tyler Lopachin and Christy Hallet. Missing the point: unintentional 10-fold hydroxyurea overdose.

# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

---

## JOURNALS

- Al-Balushi H; Guzman-Soto A; Suen K; Al Atbi AY; Kazzi Z; de Olano J; Taylor T. Unusual Complications in Cocaine Stuffers: A Case Report. Clin Pract Cases Emerg Med Volume: 9 Page(s): 193 - 195
- Al-Balushi H; Guzman-Soto A; Suen K; Al Atbi AY; Kazzi Z; de Olano J; Taylor T. Unusual Complications in Cocaine Stuffers: A Case Report. Clin Pract Cases Emerg Med Volume: 9 Page(s): 193 - 195
- Aldy K; Krotulski A; Brent J; Campleman S; Culbreth R; Logan B; Wax P; Amaducci A; Judge B; Levine M. Emergency Department Patients with Para-Fluorofentanyl Overdose. J Emerg Med Volume: 72 Page(s): 56 - 69
- Dernbach MR; Hon S; Lopez G; Kaslow NJ; Carpenter JE; Tanner K; Rucker-Wright A; Peel D; Corley A; Solis RD. Managing Mental Health Crisis Calls Received by a US Poison Center: A Statewide Collaboration Between the Georgia Poison Center, 911, and 988. Am J Public Health Volume: 115 Page(s): 1814 - 1817
- Dernbach MR; Kiernan EA; Kazzi Z. Commentary on Paradichlorobenzene Toxicity by Clark et al.: A Hypothetical Interaction Between Iron Deficiency Anemia, Pica, and Substance Use Disorder. J Acad Consult Liaison Psychiatry Volume: 66 Page(s): 560 - 561
- Dernbach MR; Smith RN; Carpenter JE. A Framework for Suicide Risk Screening After Overdose: The Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Trauma Survey Framework. JAMA Psychiatry Volume: 82 Page(s): 105 - 106
- Dernbach MR; Steck AR; Carpenter JE. Utilizing a Medical Humanities-Driven Curriculum to Teach Substance Use Disorder Core Content: A Pilot Course. Acad Psychiatry
- Giordano NA; Seilern Und Aspang J; Baker J; Holder C; Cantu N; Checo G; Rice CW; Barrell B; Wallace M; Steck AR. Erratum to: Can Patient-centered Education and Pain Management Delivered by Coaches Improve Pain Outcomes After Orthopaedic Trauma? A Randomized Trial. Clin Orthop Relat Res Volume: 483 Page(s): 964

# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

---

## JOURNALS CONTINUED

- Goldfine CE; Carpenter JE; Mazer-Amirshahi M; Dunavin A; Abston S. Welcome to the 2025 ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting. J Med Toxicol Volume: 21 Page(s): 112 - 113
- Ibragimov U; Giordano NA; Amaresh S; Getz T; Matuszewski T; Steck AR; Li Y; Blum EH; Tuttle J; Pipalia H. Implementation outcomes and strategies of a peer recovery coach program: findings from a qualitative assessment in the U.S. South, 2024-2025. Addict Sci Clin Pract Volume: 20 Page(s): 95
- Kakutia N; Caudle WM; Kazzi ZN; Sturua L; Davit Zarnadze S; Mebonia N. Prevalence and Predictors of Overweight and Obesity Among School-Aged Children in the Country of Georgia: A Cross-Sectional Study, 2022. BMC Nutr Volume: 11 Page(s): 9
- Kakutia N; Caudle WM; Kazzi ZN; Sturua L; Zarnadze SD; Uberi E; Mebonia N. Assessing trans fat levels in street foods of Tbilisi: a public health concern (2021). BMC Nutr Volume: 11 Page(s): 212
- Kharel R; Prasad P; Ghimire R; Sharma R; Whitley JD; Bloom J; Kazzi Z; Hovda KE. Bridging Gaps in Medical Toxicology Expertise Via Instant-Messaging Technology: The Experience of Nepal's First Institution-based Poison Information Center. R I Med J (2013) Volume: 108 Page(s): 48 - 51
- Kristensen K; Alhatali B; Zahran TE; Kazzi Z. Assessment of Clinical Toxicological Resources in Countries Belonging to the World Health Organization's Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean. Volume: 21 Page(s): 42 - 50
- Li C; Kenbayeva Z; Dainiak N; Yepes-Nuñez JJ; Zeeb H; Gill S; Akashi M; Alves A; Chang A; DiCarlo A. Development of Evidence-based Guidelines on Assessment and Management of Internal Contamination with Transuranic Actinides. Disaster Med Public Health Prep Volume: 19 Page(s): e156
- Maciulewicz T; Kazzi Z; Navis I; Blomquist K; Cieslak TJ; West DJ; Newton C; Lin A; Nelsen G; Walter FG. Adult Medical Countermeasures: Antidotes and Cytokines for Radiological and Nuclear Incidents and Terrorism. Disaster Med Public Health Prep Volume: 19 Page(s): e278

# RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

---

## JOURNALS CONTINUED

- Pizon AF; Kazzi Z; Wax P; Stolbach AI. Foreword: The American College of Medical Toxicology: Our fourth decade of advancing the toxicological care of patients and populations. Dis Mon Volume: 71 Page(s): 101942
- Shastry S; Carpenter J; Krotulski A; Brent J; Wax P; Aldy K; Campleman S; Culbreth R; Falise A; Hughes A. Disparities in Treatment and Referral After an Opioid Overdose Among Emergency Department Patients. JAMA Netw Open Volume: 8 Page(s): e2518569
- Wang VL; Derenoncourt M; Brokus C; Stevens J; Carpenter J; Steck A; Kuo I; Catalanotti JS; Akselrod H; Burgan K. Major barriers and facilitators of care for patients with infectious complications of opioid use disorder: A multi-site, qualitative analysis of expert stakeholders from the CHOICE protocol. J Subst Use Addict Treat Volume: 178 Page(s): 209778

# GEORGIA POISON CENTER STAFF

## Executive Director

Gaylord P. Lopez, PharmD, DABAT

## Medical Director

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

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

## Director

Stephanie L. Hon, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT

## Assistant Medical Directors

Alaina Steck, MD

Melissa Gittinger, DO, FACMT

Ziad N. Kazzi, MD, FAAEM, FACEP,

FACMT, FAACT

## Operations Manager

Patrick Filkins, PharmD, DABAT

## Education Manager

Britni Overall, MS, CHES

## Medical Toxicologists

Emily Kiernan, DO

Christy Hallet, MD

Jonathan De Olano, MD

Joseph Carpenter, MD

Joseph Ebersole, MD

## Data Manager

Alison Jones, MSHA, MBA

## Specialists in Poison Information (SPIs)

## Clinical Toxicologists

Sara Miller, PharmD, DABAT

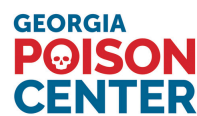
## Public Health Professionals

## Information Technology Support

## Toxicology Residents

## Administration Support

## PharmD Fellows





---

# GEORGIA POISON CENTER



**PHONE :**  
1-800-222-1222



**ADDRESS :**  
80 Jesse Hill Jr Dr SE  
PO Box 26066  
Atlanta, GA 30303



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